



TEN CHIMNEYS

LUNT-FONTANNE FELLOWSHIP PRESS RELEASE

LYNN REDGRAVE TO RETURN AS MASTER TEACHER FOR 2010 LUNT-FONTANNE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In July of 2009, ten of the most respected and talented actors in America, representing ten of the nation's premier regional theaters, joined revered actress and master teacher Lynn Redgrave for an intensive weeklong master class and retreat at Ten Chimneys, the National Historic Landmark estate of Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. It has just been confirmed that, following the astounding success of the inaugural year of the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program, Ms. Redgrave will return to Ten Chimneys in 2010 as the Master Teacher for a new class of the country's top regional theatre actors.

"I am honored to return to Ten Chimneys in 2010," said Lynn Redgrave. "What Ten Chimneys Foundation is accomplishing with this program is just wonderful. This kind of opportunity simply hasn't existed before, anywhere. And it's so important; it's so meaningful. I am proud and excited to be a part of the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program."

This fall, Ten Chimneys Foundation will select and invite ten of the most prestigious and accomplished regional theatres in the country to serve as Partner Theatres for the second year of this groundbreaking national program to serve regional theatre actors and the future of American theatre. This winter, each Partner Theatre will be invited to nominate the "master actors" of their communities, to be considered for recognition as Lunt-Fontanne Fellows. (The same process was undertaken for the highly successful inaugural year of the program.) Defining what it takes to become a Lunt-Fontanne Fellow developed out of the question: Where do the mentors go to be mentored? "There are actors in great theatre cities across the country who are the master actors of their communities," explained Sean Malone, President of Ten Chimneys Foundation. "They have over twenty years of experience as professional actors and are widely respected by audiences, directors, and fellow actors for their talent, dedication to craft, and passionate pursuit of excellence - the qualities for which Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne were so revered. These remarkable artists have few, if any, opportunities to be protégé rather than mentor. They are the best of the best, their communities' theatre mentors. These are the actors who will be named Lunt-Fontanne Fellows every year." The selected 2010 Lunt-Fontanne Fellows will be announced in the spring of 2010. The nine-day retreat and master class with Lynn Redgrave will take place July 10-18, 2010 - and will focus on Shakespeare. (The program has been lengthened from the inaugural year, to give Ms. Redgrave and the Lunt-Fontanne Fellows even more time to retreat and to delve into their work together.)

“Lynn Redgrave was an extraordinary teacher and leader,” said Mr. Malone. “Her talent, and generosity, and intellect, and intuition created an experience that is already having a ripple effect on American theatre. I am thrilled beyond words that the 2010 Partner Theatres will have the opportunity to send their communities’ top actors to have the same experience this inaugural class of Fellows has had.”

“Lynn Redgrave is astounding. She is completely open, utterly gracious, and un-judgmental about the work that she sees. She has given some of the most insightful notes that I have ever experienced in my life. She can say to an actor in one line something that will completely and utterly change their point of view, and completely and utterly change their performance.” - Mary Beth Fisher, 2009 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow, nominated by Chicago’s Goodman Theatre, Chicago

“This week has been more than inspirational; it’s been transformational. Honestly, I look at my career, and - really - my life, now, as ‘before Ten Chimneys’ and ‘after Ten Chimneys.’” - Naomi Jacobson, 2009 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow, nominated by Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

Following two years as the inaugural Master Teacher (2009-2010), Lynn Redgrave will serve as a bridge to the third year of the program by working with the next Master Teacher and guiding the 2011 process. The Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program has been created by Ten Chimneys Foundation, with a generous lead grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

ABOUT TEN CHIMNEYS

Ten Chimneys is the estate lovingly created by Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, widely considered the greatest acting couple in the history of American theatre. With no ropes and nothing under glass, modern-day guests at Ten Chimneys are treated to a VIP guided tour of a National Historic Landmark replete with original furnishings and overflowing with the romance of the 1930s and ’40s. For much of the 20th century, Ten Chimneys was “the center of the theatrical universe” – an important place for the luckiest of artists to retreat, rejuvenate, and collaborate. Luminaries such as Helen Hayes, Noël Coward, Alexander Woollcott, and Katharine Hepburn were all frequent and devoted Ten Chimneys guests. In addition, the Lunts were known for their dedication to the next generation; they reveled in mentoring young actors. Legends such as Laurence Olivier, Uta Hagen, Montgomery Clift, and Julie Harris proudly considered themselves protégés of the Lunts. The Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program continues that tradition of mentorship.

2009 LUNT-FONTANNE FELLOWS AND PARTNER THEATRES

Following are the ten remarkable actors who were selected as the inaugural Lunt-Fontanne Fellows, along with their nominating Partner Theatres:

- Suzanne Bouchard: [Seattle Repertory Theatre](#) (Seattle)
- Dan Donohue: [Oregon Shakespeare Festival](#) (Ashland)
- Lee Ernst: [Milwaukee Repertory Theater](#) (Milwaukee)
- Mary Beth Fisher: [Goodman Theatre](#) (Chicago)
- Jon Gentry: [Arizona Theatre Company](#) (Phoenix and Tucson)
- Donald Griffin: [Alliance Theatre](#) (Atlanta)
- Francis Guinan: [Steppenwolf Theatre Company](#) (Chicago)
- Naomi Jacobson: [Arena Stage](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- Kim Staunton: [Denver Center Theatre Company](#) (Denver)
- Jack Willis: [American Conservatory Theater](#) (San Francisco)

2009 VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

View “video highlight reels” of Lynn Redgrave and the inaugural Lunt-Fontanne Fellows, including reflections on their experiences and excerpts from the *Concluding Presentation*, when Lynn and the Fellows treated a live audience to a behind-the-scenes look at the master class process. The videos are available at <http://www.tenchimneys.org/videos> or <http://www.youtube.com/user/tenchimneys>.

2009 DAY-BY-DAY DESCRIPTIONS

Click on the headlines below to see the daily updates and photos that were posted throughout the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program week.

1. [Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program Off To Perfect Start](#)
2. [Fellows Begin Powerful Theatrical Work During Day Two of the Lunt Fontanne Fellowship Program](#)
3. [LFFP Day Three: Lynn Redgrave Welcomes Milwaukee Actors and Fellows Explore the Estate](#)
4. [Day Four of Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program Inspires and Surprises](#)
5. [Lynn Redgrave Delights Public Audience on Day Five of Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program](#)
6. [Sixth Day of Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program Inspires Public](#)
7. [Inaugural Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program Week Concludes](#)

MORE ABOUT LYNN REDGRAVE – INAUGURAL MASTER TEACHER

“It is particularly meaningful for Ten Chimneys Foundation to have Lynn Redgrave as the inaugural Master Teacher for the first two years of this program,” said Sean Malone, President of Ten Chimneys Foundation, “since Ms. Redgrave

was named after Lynn Fontanne.” When World War II broke out, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne reached out to their friends, Michael and Rachel Redgrave. Lynn and Alfred offered to give their children – Vanessa and Corin – a safe haven at Ten Chimneys, in case the whole family wasn’t planning to leave London. Since the Redgraves were expecting their third child, they did choose to leave London during the height of the war. However, Michael and Rachel were so touched by the Lunts’ generosity and thoughtfulness, they decided to name their new daughter, Lynn, in honor of Lynn Fontanne. “So it is with great pleasure,” said Mr. Malone, “that Ten Chimneys Foundation welcomes Lynn Redgrave home, once again, to the retreat created by her namesake.”

Lynn Redgrave is a respected actor and teacher, with a prolific, award-winning career on Broadway, in London, and in film and on television. On October 15th, at Manhattan Theatre Club, Ms. Redgrave will start performances of NIGHTINGALE, a fictional meditation on the life of her maternal grandmother, Beatrice Kempson (Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Solo Performance).

Ms. Redgrave’s film highlights include *Georgy Girl* (Oscar nomination, Golden Globe, New York Film Critics awards), *Gods and Monsters* (1999 Golden Globe, Independent Spirit Award, Oscar nomination), *Shine* (BAFTA and SAG nominations) and *Kinsey*. She was a founding member of The Royal National Theatre and is the author of four plays, including: *Shakespeare For My Father* (which examines her relationship with Sir Michael Redgrave), *The Mandrake Root* (loosely based on her mother, the actress Rachel Kempson) and, *Nightingale* (see above). She recently performed her newest work, *Rachel and Juliet*, at Washington, D.C.’s Folger Theatre and appeared Off Broadway in MCC Theater’s *Grace*, under the direction of Joseph Hardy. She has also written the text for *Journal, A Mother and Daughter’s Recovery From Breast Cancer*, featuring photographs by her daughter, Annabel Clark, currently in its third printing from Umbrage Editions. Recent film credits include *The Jane Austen Book Club* and the final Merchant / Ivory production, *The White Countess*, acting alongside sister Vanessa and her niece, the late Natasha Richardson. Recent television credits include ABC’s “Desperate Housewives,” “Law & Order: Criminal Intent” and this fall appeared with America Ferrera in the season premiere of “Ugly Betty.” She can also be heard as the voice of Nanny in the animated film series of *Me, Eloise* and in the animated feature *My Dog Tulip*, which is premiering in September at the Toronto International Film Festival. Ms. Redgrave is a prolific “voice on tape” and her latest audio book release is *Roald Dahl’s The Witches* (Grammy nomination).

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