

BC BOSTON COURT PASADENA

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Boston Court Pasadena presents

David Hare's
The Judas Kiss

Directed by Michael Michetti

February 15 – March 24

Press Opening: February 23

2019 Theatre Season Sponsored by the S. Mark Taper Foundation

PASADENA, CA (January 17, 2019) — Boston Court Pasadena commences the 2019 theatre season with a rare production of David Hare's ***The Judas Kiss*** (February 15 – March 24), which tells the story of Oscar Wilde's love for Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas – and tracking his downfall as he endures a brutal trial and life in exile.

Helmed by Artistic Director Michael Michetti, the play examines a literary icon who continues to hold onto his passionate ideals of love and beauty as his life crumbles around him. Sir David Hare, the British playwright behind *Plenty*, *Skylight*, and *Stuff Happens* creates "an emotionally rich drama illuminated by Hare's customary insight and humanity." (*The Globe and Mail*).

The Judas Kiss features **Rob Nagle** (Oscar Wilde), **Colin Bates** (Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas), **Darius De La Cruz** (Robert Ross), **Will Dixon** (Sandy Moffatt), **Matthew Campbell Dowling** (Arthur Wellesley), **Mara Klein** (Phoebe Cane) and **Kurt Kanazawa** (Galileo Masconi).

In spring of 1895, Oscar Wilde was larger than life. His masterpiece, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, was a hit in the West End and he was the toast of London. Yet by summer he was serving two years in prison for gross indecency. Punished for "the love that dare not speak its name," Wilde remained devoted to his beloved, Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas.

The Judas Kiss revolves around two pivotal moments in his life: the day when, cajoled by Bosie into an ill-fated trial, he decides to stay in England and face imprisonment, and a night when, after his release two years later, the lover for whom he risked everything betrays him again.

Flexible subscriptions, as well as a theatre-only subscription, are now available for the 2019 season and range from \$54 - \$130. Also available is the Full Court Pass, which allows unlimited access to tickets to any Boston Court Pasadena season performances for \$25/month. Single tickets range from \$20 - \$39 and are available beginning January 8, 2019. Visit BostonCourtPasadena.org or call 626.683.6801 to subscribe or purchase single tickets.

Artistic Director Michael Michetti said, , “Oscar Wilde is such a master of literature, and in his work he was able to express himself so fully. But his personal life was quite the opposite. David Hare has found an authentic voice for Oscar; here he’s not the aphorism-spouting dandy we’ve come to expect, but a deeply complex man who worships beauty and lives for love, even if it means his downfall.”

The Judas Kiss debuted on Broadway in 1998, starring Liam Neeson as Oscar Wilde. It was revived in London in 2012, starring Rupert Everett, and played Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in 2016. *The Guardian* said of the revival, “The Wilde that emerges is a multifaceted character: one who can either be admired for his uncompromising moral integrity, or pitied for his wilful capacity for self-destruction. This is the most convincing dramatic portrait of Wilde that I have come across.”

In an interview with BAM in 2016, playwright David Hare explained his original inspiration for the play: “I’d admired Wilde since I was 10 years old. I tried to study him at university, but I was told by my Cambridge English literature supervisor that Wilde was not serious. I ignored the advice. I never wanted to write biographical plays but I had always been fascinated by the question of why Wilde turned down the opportunity to run away and avoid prosecution. But I also loved the period of his life after prison when, in exile and with apparent perversity, he returned to the lover who had precipitated his downfall. I decided that making a play out of these two separate, apparently incomprehensible actions would be exciting.

“I was drawn to Wilde by his insistence that morality does not consist of telling others what to do, it’s what you do yourself. This is my own view. If you think of all the greatest women and men in history, they illuminate by example, not by instruction. They keep their noses out of other peoples’ business. They don’t judge others, they judge themselves.”

About Boston Court Pasadena

Located in Pasadena, California, Boston Court Pasadena is nonprofit arts center primarily dedicated to new and original work by living artists. Founded in 2003 by philanthropist Z. Clark Branson, Boston Court features a state-of-the-art, intimate facility designed to bring audiences and artists closer together. The 80-seat Marjorie Branson Performance Space and the 99-seat Main Stage serve as homes for Boston Court's season of bold, risky theatre and its eclectic, diverse music series. Boston Court is also the home of an annual new play reading festival, an Emerging Artists Series, as well as Art Upfront, a rotating visual arts program. Boston Court is led by an 14-member Board of Directors, Executive Director Kyle Clausen, and Artistic Directors Jessica Kubzansky and Michael Michetti (Theatre), and Mark Saltzman (Music).

Key funding is provided by Los Angeles County Arts Commission, The Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Shubert Foundation, The Colburn Foundation, Lazy L Foundation, Pasadena Arts & Cultural Commission and the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division, The Amphion Foundation, and the Z. Clark Branson Foundation. The 2019 theatre season is sponsored by the S. Mark Taper Foundation.

more

Cast & Creative Team

The Judas Kiss

Written by **David Hare**

Directed by **Michael Michetti**

With

Oscar Wilde: **Rob Nagle**

Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas: **Colin Bates**

Robert Ross: **Darius De La Cruz**

Sandy Moffatt: **Will Dixon**

Arthur Wellesley: **Matthew Campbell Dowling**

Phoebe Cane: **Mara Klein**

Galileo Masconi: **Kurt Kanazawa**

Scenic Design: **Se Hyun Oh**

Costume Design: **Dianne K. Graebner**

Lighting Design: **David Hernandez**

Sound Design: **Peter Bayne**

Properties Design: **Courtney Dusenberry**

Production Stage Manager: **Karen Osborne**

Casting Director: **Victoria Hoffman**

Performance Schedule:

The Judas Kiss

Written by **David Hare**

Directed by **Michael Michetti**

February 15 – March 24

Previews: February 15 - 22

Press Opening: Saturday, February 23 at 8:00pm

Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00pm; Sundays at 2:00pm; Monday, March 18 at 8:00pm

Community Matinee: Saturday, March 2 (all tickets for the 2pm performance are \$5)

Running Time:

Closing: Sunday, March 24 at 2:00pm

Tickets and Information:

Boston Court Pasadena

70 N Mentor Ave. Pasadena, CA 91106

Website: BostonCourtPasadena.org

Phone: 626.683.6801

Prices: \$20 - \$39

Cast & Crew Biographies

Sir David Hare (Playwright) was born in Bexhill, East Sussex, England on 5 June 1947, and was educated at Lancing College and Jesus College, Cambridge.

He co-founded Portable Theatre Company, acting, directing and writing plays. *Slag* was first produced in London in 1970 at the Hampstead Theatre Club. He was Resident Dramatist at the Royal Court Theatre in London in 1970-1 and Resident Dramatist at the Nottingham Playhouse in 1973. He co-founded Joint Stock Theatre Group with David Aukin and Max Stafford-Clark in 1975, and held a US/UK Bicentennial

Fellowship in 1977. He has been Associate Director of the National Theatre since 1984. He was knighted in 1998 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

His plays include *Knuckle* (1974), winner of the *Mail on Sunday*/John Llewellyn Rhys Prize; *Fanshen* (1975), based on the book by William Hinton; *Plenty* (1978), a portrait of disillusionment in post-war Britain, first staged at the National Theatre in London; *Pravda: A Fleet Street Comedy* (1985), an attack on the English press written with Howard Brenton; *The Secret Rapture* (1988); the trilogy *Racing Demon* (1990), *Murmuring Judges* (1991) and *The Absence of War* (1993), about three British institutions: the Anglican church, the legal system and the Labour party; *Skylight* (1995); *Amy's View* (1997); and *The Judas Kiss* (1998).

He has also adapted Chekhov's *Platonov and Ivanov*, Schnitzler's *La Ronde* (The Blue Room) and Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* for the theatre. In 1998 (and again in 2002) he performed his own play, *Via Dolorosa*, a monologue about a visit he made to Israel and the Palestinian Territories for the Royal Court Theatre. His experiences of acting and writing the play are further explored in a diary, *Acting Up: A Diary*, published in 1999.

More recent plays by David Hare include *My Zinc Bed*, first staged at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in September 2000, and *The Breath of Life* (2002). *The Permanent Way* (2003), the story of a political dream turned sour, explores the privatisation of British Rail, and opened at the Royal National Theatre in January 2004. His play *Stuff Happens* (2005), was premiered at the same theatre in 2005, and is about the invasion of Iraq. His most recent plays include *The Power of Yes* (2009), *South Downs* (2011) and *The Moderate Soprano* (2015).

His film work includes the screenplay for the screen adaptation of *Plenty* in 1985, and he wrote and directed the films *Wetherby* (1985), *Paris by Night* (1988) and *Strapless* (1989). He also wrote the screenplay for the film of *The Corrections*, based on the novel by Jonathan Franzen, which was released in 2007. His latest films are *Page Eight* (2011), *Turks and Caicos* (2014) and *Salting the Battlefield* (2014), all of which is both wrote and directed.

His book, *Obedience, Struggle and Revolt* (2005), is a collection of lectures about politics and art. His memoir *The Blue Touch Paper* was published by Faber & Faber in 2015.

Sir David Hare lives in London. His papers were acquired by the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at The University of Texas at Austin in 1993.

Michael Michetti (Director) Artistic Director of Boston Court Pasadena, where directing credits include: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Stupid F**king Bird*, *Paradise Lost: Shadows & Wings*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *The Twentieth-Century Way*, which went on to have an acclaimed run at New York's Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre. Other directing credits include: *King Charles III* and *A Life In The Theatre*, Pasadena Playhouse; *A Picture of Dorian Gray* at A Noise Within; *Building the Wall*, Fountain Theatre; *District Merchants*, South Coast Rep; *Brecht's Edward II*, Circle X; *Noises Off*, PlayMakers; *Kiss Me*, *Kate*, *Carousel*, and *Man of La Mancha*, Reprise.