



**A.C.T.**  
AMERICAN  
CONSERVATORY  
THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press photos and kits: [act-sf.org/press](http://act-sf.org/press)

## AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER KICKS OFF ITS 2017–18 SEASON WITH WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S TRAGIC MASTERPIECE, *HAMLET*

Starring Obie Award winner and 2017 Tony Award nominee John Douglas Thompson, *Hamlet* is A.C.T.’s first Shakespeare production since *The Tempest* reopened The Geary Theater in 1996.

A.C.T.’s Geary Theater  
September 20–October 15, 2017

SAN FRANCISCO (August 14, 2017)—**American Conservatory Theater** (A.C.T.) kicks off its 2017–18 season with William Shakespeare’s tragic masterpiece, *Hamlet* (**September 20–October 15, 2017**). Obie Award winner and 2017 Tony Award nominee (Best Featured Actor in a Play, *Jitney*; *Satchmo at the Waldorf*, A.C.T.) **John Douglas Thompson** leads a stellar cast of beloved Bay Area actors in Shakespeare’s ghostly tale of revenge, palace intrigue, and madness. Shattered by the mysterious death of his father, the king, and shamed by the unnatural acts of his mother, Hamlet’s despair has left him a devastated prince. When visited by the ghost of his father, who tells of the treasonous acts by Hamlet’s uncle, Hamlet vows to avenge the death that has brought a cloud of darkness over the castle. A classic tale of a family haunted by grief, power, and despair, *Hamlet* marks A.C.T.’s first production of Shakespeare in nearly two decades, and a thrilling start to the 2017–18 season. Press night for *Hamlet* will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. **Single tickets** (ranging from \$15–\$105) are available at the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228** or online at [www.act-sf.org](http://www.act-sf.org). *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

Joining Thompson onstage are (*in alphabetical order*): **Graham Beckel, Rivka Borek, Teagle F. Bougere, Peter Fanone, Anthony Fusco, Dan Hiatt, Steven Anthony Jones, Dominique Lozano, Adrianna Mitchell, Vincent J. Randazzo, Teddy Spencer, and Jomar Tagatac.**

Helmed by A.C.T. Artistic Director **Carey Perloff**, the creative team for *Hamlet* includes **James F. Ingalls** (Lighting Designer), **David Israel Reynoso** (Scenic and Costume Designer), and **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Designer). Original

music will be written by composer **David Coulter**, who recently composed and performed the music for A.C.T.'s acclaimed world-premiere theatrical adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's international best-selling novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

"Directing *Hamlet* with an actor as extraordinary as John Douglas Thompson is an incredibly invigorating challenge and a lifelong dream of mine," says **Perloff**. "The combination of long-term A.C.T. collaborators like Anthony Fusco, Domenique Lozano, Jomar Tagatac, and Steven Anthony Jones, as well as new talents including Teagle Bougere and designer David Israel Reynoso, have given me great inspiration as we explore one of the most complex plays in Shakespeare's canon. I am particularly moved by Hamlet's deep psychic journey as he navigates an uncertain world upended by duplicity, power struggles, and deception. This will be A.C.T.'s first production of *Hamlet* in over 20 years and I can't think of a better venue than the Geary Theater—home to some of the nation's most distinguished classical actors of the 20th and 21st century—to present it in. I am honored that it will launch my final season as artistic director of A.C.T."

In connection with *Hamlet*, A.C.T. will offer numerous **InterACT events**—many of which are presented free of charge—that will give patrons opportunities to get closer to the action while having an entire night out at the theater. Visit [act-sf.org/interact](http://act-sf.org/interact) to learn more about subscribing to these events throughout the season:

- **Bike to the Theater Night:**  
***Wednesday, September 20, 7 p.m.***  
Providing a greener alternative to theater transportation, A.C.T. and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition offer free valet bike parking, as well as a special discount on tickets, for these select performances.
- **Tech Night:**  
***Thursday, September 21, 6 p.m.***  
Join us at a neighborhood bar for a happy hour with hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and mingling with industry contacts and theatergoers before walking over to A.C.T.'s Geary Theater for the 8 p.m. performance.
- **Prologue:**  
***Tuesday, September 26, 5:30 p.m.***  
Before the curtain goes up, get a sneak peek at the artistic process at this fascinating preshow conversation with the director and artistic staff, sponsored by KDFC Radio.
- **Theater on the Couch:**  
***Friday, September 29, following the 8 p.m. performance***  
Led by Dr. Mason Turner, chief of psychiatry at San Francisco's Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, this exciting postshow discussion series addresses audience questions and explores the minds, motives, and behavior of the characters.
- **Audience Exchanges:**  
***Tuesday, October 3, 7 p.m. | Sunday, October 8, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, October 11, 2 p.m.***  
After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A session with the actors and artists who create the work onstage.
- **OUT with A.C.T.:**  
***Wednesday, October 4, following the 8 p.m. performance***  
The best LGBT night in town! Mingle with the cast and enjoy free drinks and treats at this popular after-party.

- **Wente Vineyards Wine Series:**  
*Tuesday, October 10, 7 p.m.*  
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area's hottest local winery.
- **PlayTime:**  
*Saturday, October 14, 12:45 p.m.*  
Before this matinee performance, get hands-on with the artists who make it happen at this interactive theater workshop.

A.C.T.'s production of *Hamlet* is made possible by company sponsors **Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson** and **Barry Williams and Lalita Tademy**; executive producers **Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck** and **Jo S. Hurley**; and associate producers **Arnie and Shelly Glassberg** and **Marjorie Perloff**.

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2017–18 season presenters **Frannie Fleishhacker; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; Arthur Rock and Toni Rembe; Mary and Steven L. Swig; Jeffrey W. and Laurie Ubben**; season partner **PG&E**, lead education partner **Wells Fargo**, 50th-anniversary Airline Sponsor **United Airlines**; and Official Hotel Sponsor **Hotel G**.

Up next, A.C.T. presents Bess Wohl's fresh, perceptive comedy ***Small Mouth Sounds* (October 11–December 10, 2017)**, followed the West Coast premiere of William Kentridge's acclaimed multimedia chamber opera, ***Refuse the Hour* (November 10–11, 2017)**. The holiday season marks the return of the Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition, ***A Christmas Carol* (December 1–24, 2017)**. Ringing in 2018, A.C.T. returns to the world of Harold Pinter for its first staging of his classic drama ***The Birthday Party* (January 10–February 4, 2018)**. Next, A.C.T. will present Qui Nguyen's irreverent road-trip comedy ***Vietgone* (February 21–April 22, 2018)**. In spring 2018, A.C.T. will present Simon Stephens's hit play ***Heisenberg* (March 14–April 8, 2018)**. Hailed as a "masterpiece," by *New York* magazine, A.C.T. will next present ***Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)* (April 25–May 20, 2018)**, Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks's explosively powerful and lyrical new play set against the backdrop of the Civil War. Closing out the 2017–18 season, A.C.T. will present the world-premiere musical ***A Walk on the Moon* (June 5–July 1, 2018)**, based on the 1999 movie of the same name.

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## FACT SHEET FOR HAMLET

### **WHAT:**

In the story of a man who wakes up to find his world upended and his closest friends unworthy of trust, Shakespeare shows us how quickly change can happen—how an orderly kingdom ruled by a loving king can, in one stroke, become unrecognizable.

### **WHO:**

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by Carey Perloff

### **CAST (in alphabetical order):**

**Graham Beckel, Rivka Borek, Teagle F. Bougere, Peter Fanone, Anthony Fusco, Dan Hiatt, Steven Anthony Jones, Dominique Lozano, Adrianna Mitchell, Vincent J. Randazzo, Teddy Spencer, Jomar Tagatac, and John Douglas Thompson**

### **CREATIVE TEAM:**

**James F. Ingalls** (Lighting Designer), **David Israel Reynoso** (Scenic and Costume Designer), **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Designer), **David Coulter** (Original Music)

### **WHERE:**

**A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco)**

### **WHEN:**

**September 20–October 15, 2017**

Press Night: Wednesday, September 27, 2017

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:**

Tuesdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m.

#### **InterACT Events**

Bike to the Theater Night: September 20 (7 p.m.)

Tech Night: September 21 (6 p.m.)

Prologue: September 26 (5:30 p.m.)

Theater on the Couch: September 29 (8 p.m.)

Audience Exchanges: October 3 (7 p.m.), October 8 (2 p.m.), October 11 (2 p.m.)

OUT with A.C.T.: October 4 (8 p.m.)

Wine Series: October 10 (7 p.m.)

PlayTime: October 14 (12:45 p.m.)

### **TICKETS:**

\$15–\$105

*Ticket prices are subject to change without notice*

### **PHOTOS:**

[www.act-sf.org/press](http://www.act-sf.org/press)

### **TIX & INFO:**

415.749.2228 | [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org)

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