



Professional, contemporary plays in an intimate setting!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Circle Theatre Presents *Mass Appeal*

What: *Mass Appeal*

Where: Circle Theatre
230 W. 4th Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
Sundance Square Entertainment District

When: June 18 – July 18, 2015

Shows: **Previews:**
Thursday, June 18, 7:30 pm (\$10)
Friday, June 19, 8:00 pm (\$15)
Saturday, June 20, 3:00 pm (\$10)

Opening Night:
Saturday, June 20, 8:00 pm (\$35)

School Night:
Friday, June 26, 8:00 pm (\$5 students - \$10 faculty & staff)

Regular Shows:
Thursday at 7:30 pm (\$20 - \$30)
Friday at 8:00 pm (\$25 - \$35)
Saturday at 3:00 pm (\$20 - \$30)
Saturday at 8:00 pm (\$25 - \$35)

Tickets: Reservations can be made online at, <http://www.circletheatre.com>, by calling **817.877.3040**, or at the Circle Theatre Box Office, 230 West Fourth Street between Houston and Throckmorton, in downtown Fort Worth. Senior, Student, Military, KERA, Press Pass, S.T.A.G.E., and Group discounts are available. Half-price tickets for students are sold 30 minutes before show time, subject to availability. Circle Theatre offers complimentary valet parking. Patrons with special needs should contact our box office.

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About the Play

Father Tim Farley is comfortably ensconced as priest of a prosperous Catholic congregation. His well-ordered world is disrupted by the arrival of Mark Dolson, an intense and idealistic young seminarian whom Father Farley reluctantly agrees to take under his wing. There is immediate conflict between the two, as the older man is reminded of the firebrand he once was, and the younger comes to realize that tolerance is as vital to the Christian ethic as righteousness.

The Manhattan Theatre Club in New York City originally presented ***Mass Appeal*** on May 11, 1980. The play transferred to Broadway in November 1981 to the Booth Theatre featuring Milo O'Shea as Father Tim and Michael O'Keefe as Mark Dolson. A feature film adaptation starring Jack Lemmon was released in 1984.

Executive Director, Rose Pearson, states, "Circle Theatre focuses primarily on premiering new plays for Fort Worth audiences. However, we do like to revisit classics and in this case a modern show that has not been done very often, since the 80's when it was a popular entry in many a theatre season. It is interesting to note that the issues in this play are still a relevant part of our conversation about religion today."

Circle's production is directed by Alan Shorter and features Jackie Cabe* (Father Tim Farley) and Justin Lemieux* (Mark Dolson). Circle Theatre's production team members include Sarahi Salazar* (Stage Manager), Clare Floyd DeVries (Set Design), John Leach (Lighting Design), David H.M. Lambert (Sound Design), Sarah Tonemah (Costumes) and Hannah Law (Props).

Photos are available upon request. ***Mass Appeal*** runs approximately 120 minutes with a 15-minute intermission. Visit http://circletheatre.com/shows/mass_appeal for more information.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

About the Playwright



Bill C. Davis (Playwright) is the author of ***Mass Appeal*** for which he received an Outer Critic's Circle Award. Mr. Davis directed ***Mass Appeal*** in Detroit and New York, and performed in productions opposite Milo O'Shea, Brian Keith, and Charles Durning. As a playwright, Mr. Davis' award-winning plays and musicals include: *Dancing in the End Zone*; *Wrestlers*; *Avow*; *Spine*; *Off-Key*; and *Body-Snatchers*. Many of his plays were adapted into screenplays, such as ***Mass Appeal*** (starring Jack Lemmon), *Avow* and *Spine*. He also adapted *The Secret Path* starring Ossie Davis for CBS television. For more information, visit his website: www.billcdavis.com.

About the Director



Alan Shorter (Director) is a member of the TCU Department of Theatre's performance faculty and has served as director for TCU productions of *The Elephant Man*, *Doubt*, *The Laramie Project*, *Closer Than Ever*, and *And the World Goes 'Round*, and *Anything Goes*. Alan is also a recipient of TCU's prestigious Deans' Research and Creativity Award. He directed Circle Theatre's production of *Opus* (which received a Dallas/Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum Award for Outstanding Direction and two Fort Worth Weekly Best of 2010 awards: Best Production Staged by a Local Theatre and Best Director). He has also served as director for Circle Theatre's High School Playwriting Projects for the past five years. Alan appeared as Father Stanley in Circle's production of *Hail Mary!* and in five separate productions of his play, *The Best of Intentions*, most recently for the Tarrant County Academy of Medicine's "Speak for Yourself" event. Other directing credits include *Wings*; *The Good Doctor*; *Tartuffe*; *Sylvia Plath: A Memoir*; *Antigone*; *The Diviners*; *Lonely Planet*; *A Night in November*; *And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson*; *Nancy Drew: Girl Detective*; *Sherlock Holmes*; *Baker Street Irregulars*; *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Cabaret*; *Children of Eden*; and *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*. He attended Moorhead State University, received his BA in Theatre & Drama from Indiana University at Bloomington, and holds an M.F.A. in Directing from Minnesota State University.

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About Circle Theatre

Founded in 1981 by Rose Pearson and Bill Newberry, Circle Theatre is currently producing its 34th season of live theatre in Fort Worth. Circle Theatre's mission is the advocacy of contemporary plays rarely seen in this community. Circle is committed to presenting professional, innovative theatre in an intimate setting. The Theatre is partially supported by the City of Fort Worth; the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County; the Texas Commission on the Arts; and the National Endowment for the Arts. Further support comes from the Amon G. Carter Foundation; Communities Foundation of Texas; Fifth Avenue Foundation; Ann L. and Carol Green Rhodes Charitable Trust - Bank of America, NA; the Sid W. Richardson Foundation; Shubert Foundation; Crystelle Waggoner Charitable Trust - Bank of America, NA; and WGG Foundation.

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