

# CENTERSTAGE

SMARTBOLDALIVE

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## CENTERSTAGE COMPLETES NOËL COWARD HAT-TRICK WITH WILL FREARS-HELMED *HAY FEVER*

BALTIMORE—CENTERSTAGE continues its 43<sup>rd</sup> season with a revival of Noël Coward's hilarious romantic roundelay, *Hay Fever*, following recent productions of *Private Lives* and *Blithe Spirit*. Director Will Frears, who made his CENTERSTAGE debut last season with his rueful take on Arthur Miller's *The Price*, returns to bring Coward's fanciful farce to The Pearlstone Theater, November 3<sup>rd</sup>–December 4<sup>th</sup>.

### About the Play

An out-of-work actress, a shut-in novelist, and their two adult children are all suffering from the same affliction: each other. The remedy? Four fresh faces to brighten up their dull days and heat up their steamy summer nights. However, the symptoms just get worse when they all switch partners faster than you can say "do-se-do." The comic confrontations that follow pit mother against daughter, wife against husband, and father against son—while the not-so-innocent bystanders scratch their heads. Can the unsuspecting guests escape this fevered family, or will the madness be contagious?

Artistic Director Irene Lewis characterizes *Hay Fever*'s Bliss family ethos as "what used to be known as bohemian...now I don't know *what* they call it...sinful, probably. Because anything goes [in this play], there are no parameters in this. Which makes it tricky for the children—how can you do anything that's going to be unusual when your parents are total loose cannons?"

Will Frears says part of the joy of directing *Hay Fever* is that it is, in fact, a play "that is manifestly about nothing. So wonderfully trivial, in the way that *Seinfeld* was a TV show about nothing. To make that gripping and compelling for two hours...there's something fun about getting to do that."

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## About the Cast

Heading the cast as Judith Bliss, the retired *grand dame* of the theater, is Pamela Payton-Wright. Her memorable CENTERSTAGE performances include Amanda Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*, Mrs. Fisher in *The Show-Off*, and Mrs. Alving in *Ghosts*. Her distinguished body of work has garnered two Obie Awards, a Drama Desk Award, a Joseph Jefferson Award, and an Emmy nomination. Her recent credits include acclaimed revivals of *Long Day's Journey into Night* on Broadway, *Fifth of July* Off Broadway (Lucille Lortel nomination), and *Seascape* at Hartford Stage.

Also returning to CENTERSTAGE, as Judith's potential boy-toy, the affable sportsman Sandy Tyrell, is Charles Daniel Sandoval. He made his CENTERSTAGE debut two seasons ago as foppish son Cléante in *The Miser*. His other credits include the independent films, *West Bank Brooklyn* and the upcoming *Man Push Cart*, as well as *Julius Caesar* in Central Park, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* on Broadway, and *Sleuth* at Portland Stage Company.

Making their CENTERSTAGE debuts as the rest of the Bliss family are Nicholas Hormann as father David, Cheryl Lynn Bowers as daughter Sorel, and Harry Barandes as son Simon. Mr. Hormann's extensive credits include *The Visit*, *Holiday*, *The Member of the Wedding*, *Execution of Justice*, and the infamous *Moose Murders*—all on Broadway—as well as *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *The Incredible Shrinking Woman*, and *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*. Ms. Bowers' recent credits include *Travesties* with Sam Waterston at Long Wharf Theatre, *The Rivals* at Huntington Theatre Company, the New York premiere of Steve Martin's adaptation of *The Underpants*, and the films *Auto Focus* and *Bamboozled*. Mr. Barandes has appeared in *Richard III* with Peter Dinklage at The Public Theater, *The Loman Family Picnic* with Christine Baranski at Manhattan Theatre Club, and on Broadway in *The Grapes of Wrath* at age 11.

The harried houseguests are all also newcomers to CENTERSTAGE: Anna Camp as flighty flapper Jackie Coryton, Brad Heberlee as stifled diplomat Richard Greatham, and Sara Surrey as vampish sophisticate Myra Arundel. Ms. Camp, a recent graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts, has appeared in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Dallas Theater Center, the original workshop of *columbinus*, and, most recently, *God Hates the Irish: The Ballad of Armless Johnny* Off Broadway, also directed by Mr. Frears. Mr. Heberlee's credits include *The Last Sunday in June* and Brecht's *Man Is Man* Off Broadway, *36 Views* at Huntington Theatre Company, *Serious Money* at Yale Repertory Theatre, and *Amadeus* at Syracuse Stage and Virginia Stage Company. Ms. Surrey was recently seen at Arena Stage in the title role of *Anna Christie*. Her other credits include *Where We're Born* Off Broadway, also directed by Mr. Frears, as well as *Arcadia* at Portland Stage Company and *Antony and Cleopatra* at The Old Globe. Rounding out the cast as beleaguered domestic Clara is Lisa Altomare, also making her CENTERSTAGE debut. Her credits include *God Hates the Irish...*, with co-star Anna Camp and director Frears, *The Underpants* for Human Race Theatre Company, the world premiere of *Baltimore Star* at Hudson Stage Company, and the award-winning films *You Can Count on Me* and *Hysterical Blindness*.

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## About the Artistic Team

Will Frears returns to CENTERSTAGE, where he previously directed *The Price*. He directed Pulitzer Prize-finalist *Omnium Gatherum* Off Broadway and its world premiere at the Humana Festival of New American Plays. His other New York credits include the American premiere of *Terrorism* for The New Group, the world premiere of *God Hates the Irish...* and *Where We're Born* at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, *Get What You Need* at Atlantic Theater Company, *Kid Simple* at the inaugural Summer Play Festival, and *Big Trouble in Little Hazzard* at The New York International Fringe Festival. His regional credits include *Bus Stop*, *The Water's Edge* and *A Servant of Two Masters* at Williamstown Theatre Festival, *Sleuth* at Bay Street Theatre, and *Our Lady of 121<sup>st</sup> Street* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company. He served as Artistic Director of the Yale Cabaret for the 1999–2000 Season. Mr. Frears is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

Lewis chose the 31-year-old Frears to direct the play because "I thought this would be a good match between a young sensibility and a play that deals with family," not to mention the fact that Coward himself was only 25 when he penned the enduring comedy. To be asked back two seasons running is "very flattering" for Frears, "to be asked on a second date. Particularly to CENTERSTAGE which is such a lovely place to work and such a good example of what an American regional theater should be."

Also returning is the bulk of the production design team for *Hay Fever*, including Alexander Dodge and Matthew Richards, who designed scenery and lighting, respectively, for Frear's production of *The Price*, and Vincent Olivieri, who designed sound for last season's *Permanent Collection*. Making her CENTERSTAGE design debut is Linda Cho, whose costumes can currently be seen in Arena Stage's world premiere production of *Passion Play*. The rest of the artistic team includes veterans Gillian Lane-Plescia (*Speech Consultant*), J. Allen Suddeth (*Fight Director*), James Magruder (*Production Dramaturg*), Judy Dennis (*Casting Director*), and Mike Schleifer (*Stage Manager*), and newcomer Kate Pines-Schwartz (*Assistant Director*).

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# Hay FEVER

Written by Noël Coward  
Directed by Will Frears  
The Pearlstone Theater  
November 3–December 4, 2005

*Sponsored in part by Kramon & Graham*

## THE CAST

Lisa Altomare*	<i>Clara</i>
Harry Barandes*	<i>Simon Bliss</i>
Cheryl Lynn Bowers*	<i>Sorel Bliss</i>
Anna Camp*	<i>Jackie Coryton</i>
Brad Heberlee*	<i>Richard Greatham</i>
Nicholas Hormann*	<i>David Bliss</i>
Pamela Payton-Wright*	<i>Judith Bliss</i>
Charles Daniel Sandoval*	<i>Sandy Tyrell</i>
Sara Surrey*	<i>Myra Arundel</i>

## THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Will Frears	<i>Director</i>
Alexander Dodge	<i>Scenic Designer</i>
Linda Cho	<i>Costume Designer</i>
Matthew Richards	<i>Lighting Designer</i>
Vincent Olivieri	<i>Sound Designer</i>
Gillian Lane-Plescia	<i>Speech Consultant</i>
J. Allen Suddeth	<i>Fight Director</i>
James Magruder	<i>Production Dramaturg</i>
Judy Dennis	<i>Casting Director</i>
Mike Schleifer*	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Kate Pines-Schwartz	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Debra Acquavella*	<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>

*\* Member of Actors' Equity Association*

Tickets to *Hay Fever* are \$10–\$60 and are on sale now. Tickets may be purchased in person at the CENTERSTAGE Box Office, by phone at 410.332.0033, or online at [www.centerstage.org](http://www.centerstage.org).

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## Schedule & Ticket Information

### *HAY FEVER*

By Noël Coward  
Directed by Will Frears

*A weekend in the country turns into a madcap exercise in misguided passions as only Noël Coward could devise. Each member of the eccentric Bliss family has invited a guest—and potential partner—to while away the hours. But every plan is rousinglly foiled and every hope daringly dashed in the comic confusion that follows.*

#### *Where*

The Pearlstone Theater at CENTERSTAGE

#### *Dates*

November 3–December 4, 2005

#### *Performance Times*

Tuesday through Saturday: 8 pm

Sunday: 7:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday Matinee: 2 pm

Wednesday Matinee: November 16<sup>th</sup>,  
1 pm

#### *Tickets*

\$10—\$60

#### *Student and Senior Discount Tickets*

Half-price on the day of show

#### *Box Office*

Call 410.332.0033 for tickets and information. Tickets are also available online at [www.centerstage.org](http://www.centerstage.org).

#### *Group Tickets*

Special discounts are available for groups of 15+ by contacting Group Sales at 410.986.4008, or by e-mail to [groups@centerstage.org](mailto:groups@centerstage.org).

### *Information*

E-mail [info@centerstage.org](mailto:info@centerstage.org) or visit our website at [www.centerstage.org](http://www.centerstage.org).

## Performance Extras

### AfterThoughts

Join members of CENTERSTAGE's Dramaturgy staff for a deeper look into the production with these post-show discussions.

Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm

Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm

### Child's Play

On-site theater-related "play care" led by Child's Play Coordinator Moira Sweeney, for children aged four to ten during select Saturday matinees. \$12 per child; pre-registration is required.

Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 pm

### College Night

Exclusively for college students and their guests—a lively pre-show gathering with free food and soda, discounted beer and wine, and free raffle prizes from area restaurants, bars, art venues, and sporting events.

Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>; reception starts at 6:30 pm

### LIVE! @ CENTERSTAGE

Keep it LIVE! after your 9–5. *The Baltimore Sun's* LIVE! sponsors a pre-show party for young professionals (35 and under).

\$5 cover; free for subscribers.

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>; reception starts at 6:30 pm

### Meet the Actors

Join Public Relations Director Aaron Heinsman for a post-show Q&A with the cast of *Hay Fever*.

Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm

### Night Out

Theater-loving members of Baltimore's GLBT communities enjoy a pre-show cocktail hour sponsored by Neo Viccino Bar & Grille.

\$5 cover; free for subscribers.

Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>; reception starts at 6:30 pm

### Twilight Thursday

There's no need to make a late night of a night at the theater with this performance that begins one hour earlier than most evening shows.

*AfterThoughts* discussion follows the performance.

Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm

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## Accessibility Options

CENTERSTAGE welcomes patrons with disabilities and is fully ADA-compliant, offering a number of ongoing services for patrons who request audio, visual, and mobility accommodations. Please contact the Box Office at 410.332.0033 to request any accommodations, utilizing Maryland Relay (711) as appropriate.

### *Wheelchair Access*

CENTERSTAGE is ADA compliant, with a gently sloping entry ramp, and a wheelchair-accessible box office window and bathrooms. Utilizing universal design, both The Pearlstone and Head Theaters have at least four pairs of removable seats for patrons in wheelchairs. We also have an on-site wheelchair for patron use as requested.

### *Assisted Listening System*

An infrared listening system is available at all performances for patrons with hearing impairments. Wireless headsets are available free of charge at the Intermission Express counter; we may request to retain a driver's license or other form of ID while the headset is in use.

### *Sign Interpretation*

Warren "Wawa" Snipe, our Resident Sign Master, works with the artistic staff and interpreters to provide a cohesive American Sign Language interpretation, incorporating the style and artistic characteristics of the performance. Please request the sign interpreted performance when purchasing your tickets or subscription. Advance copies of the script may be requested by e-mailing [access@centerstage.org](mailto:access@centerstage.org).

*Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8 pm*

### *Production Programs & Brochures*

Large print and abridged Braille production programs are available at our first-floor Intermission Express counter to patrons who are blind or have low-vision. Large print season brochures are also available upon request by e-mailing [access@centerstage.org](mailto:access@centerstage.org).

### *Live Audio Description*

Audio describers from Maryland Arts Access provide a live description of the unspoken action on stage, which is transmitted to a small, hand-size receiver. Please request audio description when purchasing your tickets or subscription for one of these scheduled performances.

*Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm*

*Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm*

*Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm*

## Related Events

### *Food for Thought*

Join CENTERSTAGE Resident Dramaturg Gavin Witt for an informal lunchtime chat about the themes and issues raised by Noël Coward's hilarious romantic roundelay, *Hay Fever*. Sponsored and hosted by Clayton Fine Books & Café, located at 317 North Charles Street. Visit [www.centerstage.org](http://www.centerstage.org) to review Clayton's lunch menu and e-mail them your advance food order.

*Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12:30 pm*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PUBLIC RELATIONS AT 410.986.4017,  
OR VISIT [WWW.CENTERSTAGE.ORG](http://WWW.CENTERSTAGE.ORG).

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