G O O D M A N
THEATRE
90 YEARS

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VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE, CHRISTOPHER DURANG’S TONY AWARD-WINNING BROADWAY SENSATION, MAKES A SUMMER SPLASH AT GOODMAN THEATRE

***AN ALL-STAR CAST BRINGS THE PLAY TO LIFE IN ITS CHICAGO PREMIERE DIRECTED BY STEVE SCOTT, RUNNING JUNE 20 – JULY 26 IN THE ALBERT THEATRE***

(Chicago, IL) Goodman Theatre produces its first Christopher Durang play with the Chicago premiere of Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike—the “deliriously funny” (The New York Times), “hugely entertaining” (USA Today) and “brainy and witty and clever and cute” (Variety) Broadway smash. Artistic Associate Steve Scott, who has overseen more than 200 Goodman productions over 33 years, directs the comedy that follows two sullen siblings and the wild weekend that unfolds when their famous sister returns home with her hunky young boy toy. As previously announced, the cast includes Jordan Brown as Spike; Rebecca Buller as Nina; E. Faye Butler as Cassandra; Mary Beth Fisher as Masha; Ross Lehman as Vanya; and Janet Ulrich Brooks as Sonia. Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike appears June 20 – July 26 (Opening night is June 29) in the Albert Theatre. Tickets ($25-$86; subject to change) are on sale now at GoodmanTheatre.org/Vanya, by phone at 312.443.3800 or at the box office (170 North Dearborn). Headshots and bio information can be found in the Goodman Theatre Press Room. The Northridge Group and Ogletree Deakins are the Opening Night Sponsors of Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.

“Our 90th anniversary season concludes on a high note with Chris Durang’s uproarious, smart, huge-hearted new play that has delighted Broadway and audiences across the nation,” said Artistic Director Robert Falls. “I’m thrilled for my longtime associate Steve Scott to direct the Chicago premiere—and the Goodman’s very first production of a Durang play—with a truly dynamite cast of Chicago favorites.”

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike earned unanimous acclaim in its 2013 Broadway debut; awards included the Tony Award for Best Play, the Outer Circle Critics Award for Best Play, the Drama League Award for Best Production of a Play, the Drama Desk Award for Best Play, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Production and the Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Play. Critics called it “a comic tour de force” (Village Voice), “the funniest play in town” (Bloomberg News), an “utterly refreshing...sweet, witty play with a huge pop culture appetite” (Associated Press) and “terrifically kooky” (Entertainment Weekly).

Siblings Vanya and Sonia have spent their adult years trapped in mundane lives at their family’s cottage, caring for their ailing parents. Meanwhile, their self-involved sister Masha, a glamorous movie star, has traveled the world in decadent style. After their soothsayer/cleaning woman Cassandra warns Vanya and Sonia of impending doom, Masha arrives unannounced, accompanied by her hunky young lover Spike, who sparks a friendship with the beautiful girl next door Nina much to Masha’s dismay. When Masha reveals plans that will upend the family, long-repressed resentments bubble over in a weekend full of wild costume parties, voodoo dolls and surprise romance. The creative team includes Charlie Corcoran (sets), Amy Clark (costumes), Robert Perry (lights) and Richard Woodbury (sound). Alden Vasquez is the production stage manager and Neena Arndt is the dramaturg.

Christopher Durang’s (Playwright) works include A History of the American Film (Tony nomination, Best Book of a Musical); The Actor’s Nightmare; Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You (Obie Award); Beyond Therapy, Baby with the Bathwater; The Marriage of Bette and Boo (Obie Award and Dramatists Guild Hull Warriner Award); Laughing Wild; Durang/Durang; Sex

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Christopher Durang’s *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* Makes a Summer Splash
Artistic Associate Steve Scott to Direct the Tony Award-Winning Play, June 20 – July 26

and Longing; Betty’s Summer Vacation (Obie Award); Mrs. Bob Cratchit’s *Wild Christmas Binge; Adrift in Macao* (a musical written with composer Peter Melnick); Miss Witherspoon (Pulitzer Prize finalist) and *Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Loved Them*. Durang has a BA from Harvard University and an MFA in playwriting from Yale School of Drama. Since 1994, he and Marsha Norman have been co-chairs of the Playwriting Program at the Juilliard School. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild’s council and lives in Pennsylvania.

**Steve Scott** (director) is the Producer at Goodman Theatre and a member of the Goodman’s Artistic Collective; his directing credits include Horton Foote’s *Blind Date, Rabbit Hole, Dinner with Friends, Wit* and the 2011 and 2012 productions of *A Christmas Carol*. He has also directed for a wide variety of Chicago theaters including Northlight, Silk Road Rising, Next Theatre Company, Shattered Globe, Redtwist, Porchlight, Theatre Wit, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Eclipse and the Lyric Opera Center. He is a faculty member at the Theatre Conservatory of the College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, a board member of Season of Concern and a member of the Jeff Committee’s Artist and Technical Team. He has also served on advisory panels for Theatre Communications Group, United States Artists, the O’Neill Center, National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council and the Chicago Office of Fine Arts. He is the recipient of six Jeff nominations, an After Dark Award, the Illinois Theatre Association’s Award of Honor, and the Eclipse Theatre’s Corona Award.

### VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE

**by** CHRISTOPHER DURANG
**directed by** STEVE SCOTT

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**GoodmanTheatre.org 312.443.3800**

**In the Albert**
**JUNE/JULY 2015**

Siblings Vanya and Sonia have spent their adult years caring for their aging parents while their glamorous movie star sister Masha traveled the world. When Masha arrives home unannounced, and accompanied by her handsome young lover Spike, she reveals plans that will upheave the family, resulting in a weekend full of wild costume parties, wood-chips and surprise romance.

**Tickets ($25 - $86) and Discounts**

**Tickets** – GoodmanTheatre.org/Vanya or call 312.443.3800. Fax: 312.443.3825; TTY/TDD: 312.443.3829. Box Office Hours – 12noon - 5pm; on performance days, the office remains open until 30 minutes past curtain.

**MezzTix** – Half-price day-of-performance mezzanine tickets available at 10am online (promo code MEZZTIX)

**$10Tix** – Student $10 tickets for any performance; limit four, with valid student ID (promo code 10TIX)

**Group Sales** – Discounted tickets for parties of 10+ – 312.443.3820

**Gift Certificates** – Available in any amount (GoodmanTheatre.org/GiftCertificates)

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EVENTS AND SPECIAL PERFORMANCES (Contact the Goodman Theatre Box Office for tickets/reservations)

June 28, Artist Encounter, 5pm discussion ($5; FREE for Subs/Donors/students)
July 1, Sign Interpreted Performance – 7:30pm; a professional ASL interpreter signs the action/text as performed
July 8, Audio Described Performance – 7:30pm; the action/text is audibly enhanced via a special headset
July 28, Open-Captioned Performance – 2pm; an LED sign presents dialogue in sync with the performance
Every Wednesday and Thursday evening, PlayBacks – Discussions with actors immediately following the show

About Goodman Theatre

The Goodman’s 2014/2015 Season features nine productions on its two stages—six in the 856-seat Albert Theatre and three in the 400-seat flexible Owen Theatre, plus the annual New Stages Festival that includes additional developmental productions, and partner productions with The Second City, Albany Park Theater Project and Chicago Dramatists. Still to come: The Little Foxes by Lillian Hellman, directed by Henry Wishcamper (May 2 – June 7, 2015 in the Albert); stop. reset. written and directed by Regina Taylor, a Chicago premiere (May 23 – June 21, 2015 in the Owen); A Work of Art by Elaine Romero, directed by Henry Godinez (June 11 – July 19 at Chicago Dramatists); Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike by Christopher Durang, directed by Steve Scott, a Chicago premiere (June 20 – July 26, 2015 in the Albert), and Albany Park Theater Project’s Feast (July 24 – August 16, 2015).

Now celebrating its 90th year as Chicago’s flagship theater, Goodman Theatre is an artistic and community institution dedicated to the art of theater and to civic engagement in the issues of the contemporary world. The Goodman has transformed over the past 35 years into a world class theater and premier Chicago cultural institution distinguished by the quality and scope of its programming and its culturally and aesthetically diverse creative leadership; artistic priorities include new plays, reimagined classics, culturally specific works, musical theater and international collaborations. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Falls and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, achievements include the Goodman’s state-of-the-art two-theater complex in the heart of the downtown Theatre District. Over the past three decades, the Goodman has generated more than 150 world or American premieres, and nearly 30 new-work commissions.

Joan Clifford is Chair of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, Swati Mehta is Women’s Board President and Gordon C.C. Liao is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals. American Airlines is the Exclusive Airline of Goodman Theatre.

“A mainstay of Chicago and beyond” (Chicago Sun-Times), the Goodman is internationally acclaimed for its “fresh work of magnitude and ambition (and) bold, risky theatrical choices” (Chicago Tribune). From new plays to “first-class revivals” (The New York Times), the Goodman has earned numerous awards for its productions: two Pulitzer Prizes; 22 Tony Awards, including Outstanding Regional Theatre (1992), and nearly 160 Joseph Jefferson Awards. The 90th Anniversary “Season to Celebrate” programming is rooted in the same spirit that launched the Goodman in 1925—an array of dramatic fare, from classics to noteworthy contemporary works, innovative and often controversial, embracing genres from farces to searing social dramas—honoring the theater’s past and envisioning its future.

Visit the special anniversary website, GoodmanTheatre.org/90, to see famous faces who’ve worked at the theater, browse photos of classic productions and read interviews with noted artists.