



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The United States Premiere of *Maurice*
By Roger Parsley and Andy Graham. Based on the Novel by E.M. Forster**

San Francisco, December 1, 2011, — **New Conservatory Theatre Center** is proud to present *Maurice* by Roger Parsley and Andy Graham, from the novel by E.M. Forster. The show will be running from February 24, 2012 through March 25, 2012: Wednesday through Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm. All performances will take place at the New Conservatory Theatre Center (Decker Theatre), located at 25 Van Ness Avenue near Market Street in San Francisco, 94102. Tickets are \$25-\$45 each, and are available at the New Conservatory Theatre Center Box Office (415) 861-8972, or online at www.nctcsf.org.

Based on the repressed novel by E.M. Forster, *Maurice* is the story of young lovers, Clive and Maurice. They meet during their studies at Cambridge in the United Kingdom **before World War I**. Clive is a young aristocrat from a life of privilege. Maurice is from a working class family struggling to get ahead in British Society. During their studies at Cambridge the two young men find themselves becoming close friends. Clive shocks Maurice by declaring his **love** for him while the two play hookie from class and a **romance** explodes. Maurice is shocked and confused by Clive's outcry and when they return to school Maurice finds himself suspiciously expelled. Separated by class, the two men embark on a **romantic** relationship but struggle to keep their feelings hidden from their families and the law. The biggest surprise comes when Clive returns from a trip abroad and announces that **he intends to marry** a woman. Maurice must choose whether to continue **living a lie** with Clive, to seek a **cure** for what British society deems an illness, or to **honor** his true nature and **desires**.

Roger Parsley (playwright) earned a teaching degree at Exeter University, and after serving as the Head of the Drama Department and Head of the English Department for a few years at the Secondary level, he began training at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Parsley then became a Drama Adviser in Essex, being based at The Playhouse Theatre in Harlow, where his theatre writing became an important part of his life. He has worked as a director and writer in both Theatre-In-Education and Youth Theatre, including being closely associated with the nationally-touring **SNAP Theatre Company**, as a writer and director, for more than 20 years. His many classic adaptations include *Brideshead Revisited* and *Sense and Sensibility*. These as well as two of his musical plays (*All for Your Delight* and *The End of the Pier Show*) are published by Samuel French Ltd. For Starshine Music he has written the very popular school musical nativity *Jesus' Christmas Party* and two

versions, one for schools and one full-length, of an original musical based on classic pantomime characters entitled *Panto Pandemonium*. Parsley's adaptation with Andy Graham of E.M. Forster's *Maurice* recently had two very successful runs at the Above The Stag Theatre in Victoria, London. His version of Hanif Kureishi's *My Beautiful Launderette*, also written with Andy Graham, ran at the Above The Stag in March and April of 2011. Parsley regularly directs with the Norwich-based touring company Transaction Theatre and has written for and directed with the Sewell Barn and the Maddermarket theatres in his home city of Norwich.

Andy Graham (playwright) has collaborated with Roger Parsley on adaptations of *Sense and Sensibility* and *My Beautiful Launderette*. He is the founder of SNAP Theatre Company in England and served as artistic director there for twenty-six years. While at SNAP, Graham focused on bringing theatre to as many young people in the U.K. as possible. While with the company, SNAP was able to reach an estimated three million youth through plays, workshops, and community projects. His cross-disciplinary art project *The Longest Story in the World* which encourages children from all over the globe to create stories about how the world began, how it is today, and what it could be in the future is his most recent and popular work.

Director George Maguire has directed six productions at New Conservatory Theatre Center including *The New Century*. Previous credits include an award-winning production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*. Maguire is a 48 year member of Actors Equity Association and a proud directing member of Playground. His film credits include *Pursuit of Happiness*, *Fight Club*, *The Game*, and *Hercules Saves Christmas*, being released in 2012 for Animal Planet/Lionsgate Films.

Maurice features an **ensemble of six** accomplished actors. **John Hurst** (Mr. Ducie) has recently been seen in *Blythe Spirit* and *Antigone* at Berkeley Actors Ensemble, *In the Midst of Them* at the East Bay Theatre Company, and *Bird Catcher* at the African American Theatre Company. **Hilary Hyatt** (Ada/Anne) has performed in productions at the University of California Berkeley, including *Our Town*, *I Dream of Chang and Eng*, and *One Flea to Spare*. **Alex Kirschner** (Clive) is gracing the stage at New Conservatory for the third time. NCTC audiences may recognize him from *In Gabriel's Kitchen* and *Wilde Boys*. Most recently Kirschner has been seen in *Big River* at Contra Costa Civic Theatre and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at Altarena Playhouse. **Lindsey Murray** (Mrs. Hall) has performed professionally both in the United States and abroad in the United Kingdom. Her most recent U.S. credits include *The Busy World is Hushed* at New Conservatory, *Heartbreak House* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and *Sergeant Musgrave's Dance* at Theatre First. **Andrew Nolan** (Risley/Scudder) has recently performed in the Bay Area. **Soren Santos** (Maurice) is a recent graduate of University of California Irvine and has been seen on stage in *Little Thefts* at Movement Research, *The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone* at Rogue Artists Ensemble, and *365 Days/365 Plays* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has recruited **four talented designers** for this United States Premiere. **Kuo-Hao Lo's** (scenic design) previous designs include *Waiting for Giovanni*, *Regrets Only*, *Treefall*, *A Perfect Ganesh*, *Anita Bryant Died for Your Sins*, *Master Class*, *The Little Dog Laughed*, *Some Men*, and *Zanna, Don't!*. Lo also received San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Outstanding Achievement Awards for his design of *Dames at Sea* in 2009 and *Sugar Witch* in 2010. **Jeff Hamby** (costume design) is currently a Master of Fine Arts candidate at San Francisco State University. Hamby's recent projects include *Xanadu* at New Conservatory, *Marry Me a Little* with Theatre Rhinoceros, and *Passion Play* with the Actor's Ensemble of Berkeley. In North Carolina Hamby worked with Children's Theatre of Charlotte, the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, and Tony Award Winning designer William Ivey Long. **Christian Mejia** (lighting design) is a graduate of Tisch School of the Arts. New Conservatory Theatre Center audiences will remember his designs for *Waiting for Giovanni*, *A Perfect Ganesh*, and *Treefall*. Mejia has also designed for PunkkiCo Dance Company in San Francisco and just finished their production of *Pick Cells* at Dance Mission Theatre in San Francisco. **Tom Orr** (properties) is a performer and technician for multiple venues around the United States. Audiences may recognize him from his award-winning production *Dirty Little Showtunes* at New Conservatory Theatre Center. The stage manager for the production is **Samantha Young**, who recently worked with New Conservatory on *The Stops* and *Waiting for Giovanni*.

During the run of the show, theatre lovers can enjoy a plethora of **special events**:

- *Low-cost Previews* take place on Friday, February 24; Saturday February 25; Sunday February 26; Wednesday February 29; Thursday March 1; Friday March 2.
- *Opening Night* will take place on Saturday, March 3 at 8pm.
- *Onstage Insight* discussion with the actors and director will take place after the Sunday Matinee performance on March 11.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has been in operation for thirty years in San Francisco. Under founding Artistic Director Ed Decker, the theatre has grown to become the only theatre in the nation offering a full season centered on theatrical work for youth and the **Queer and Allied community**. The theatre's **mission** is to champion innovative, high quality productions and educational theatre experiences for youth, artists, and the queer and allied communities to affect personal and societal growth, enlightenment, and change. New Conservatory Theatre Center is known for its gay-positive productions, its foundational **anti-bullying** work with youth, and its welcoming environment for new and emerging local artists.

Maurice

FACT SHEET

WHO: Book by E.M. Forster

Written by Roger Parsley and Andy Graham

Directed by George Maguire

Designed by Kuo-Hao Lo (scenic design), Jeff Hamby (costumes), Christian Mejia (lights), Tom Orr (properties), Stage Management by Samantha Young

Starring John Hurst (Mr. Ducie), Hilary Hyatt (Ada/Anne), Alex Kirschner (Clive), Lindsey Murray (Mrs. Hall), Andrew Nolan (Risley/Scudder), and Soren Santos (Maurice)

WHAT: *Maurice*, the United States Premiere

WHERE: New Conservatory Theatre Center (Decker Theatre)
25 Van Ness Avenue @ Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

WHEN: February 24, 2012 – March 25, 2012
Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8pm
Sundays at 2pm

SPECIAL EVENTS: Opening Night: Saturday 3/3 @8pm
OnStage Insight: Following the 2pm matinee performance on Sunday March 11, 2012.

COST: \$25-\$45 (subject to change)
Discounts: Groups of 10 or more, contact 415-861-8972 or boxoffice@nctcsf.org
Half-price tickets are available 10 minutes prior to the show for students with current I.D.

PHOTOS: http://www.nctcsf.org/press_room/maurice.htm

TICKETS: Box Office (415) 861 8972, or online at www.nctcsf.org.