



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **KC Rep Announces Local Cast for Season Opener, *August: Osage County***

***Rosen to direct Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning story about  
Midwestern family's challenges and heartbreaks***

**TICKETS ON SALE AUGUST 26. 816-235-2700 or [KCRep.org](http://KCRep.org)**

Kansas City, MO (June 20, 2011) – **Eric Rosen**, Artistic Director of Kansas City Repertory Theatre, has cast thirteen Kansas City actors in the Rep's 2011-12 season opening production of Tracy Letts' ***August: Osage County***, which Rosen will direct. The Rep's Associate Artistic Director Kyle Hatley will serve as Associate Director of ***August: Osage County***. The show runs September 16-October 9 at the Rep's Spencer Theatre.

**"The most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years." – *The New York Times***

"When I first saw ***August: Osage County*** during its Chicago world premiere at Steppenwolf Theatre, months before I took this job at Kansas City Rep, I was struck by the universality of the story – a family reunited by a crisis – and by its uniquely Midwestern sensibility and humor," said Rosen. "As I was putting together the Rep's 2011-12 season, I knew ***August: Osage County*** would be part of it. I wanted to direct an accomplished ensemble of actors who had the depth and breadth of talent needed for this brilliant play, and I knew I could find that cast in Kansas City."

Set on the plains of modern-day Oklahoma, ***August: Osage County*** examines multiple generations of the Weston family, who return home after the disappearance of their patriarch. What follows is a savagely funny and wildly entertaining roller-coaster ride through the family's dysfunction, as they simultaneously support and square off against one another.

**"Bold undertaking with dramatic momentum and acid-drenched wit." – *Variety***

The cast for **August: Osage County** includes:

**Craig Benton** as *Bill Fordham* – *A Christmas Carol*, *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* (KC Rep); *A View from the Bridge* (Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre); *Bee Luther Hatchee* (Unicorn Theatre); *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Moonlight and Magnolias* (American Heartland Theatre); *Out of Order*, *The Foreigner*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Proposals*, *Moon Over Buffalo* (New Theatre).

**David Fritts** as *Steve Heidebrecht* – *A Christmas Carol*, *The Foreigner*, *The Deputy*, *Death of a Salesman* (KC Rep); *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Talley's Folly*, *Talley and Son* (Actors Theatre of Kansas City); *Angels in America I & II*, *The Exonerated*, *Art* (Unicorn Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Julius Caesar* (Heart of America Shakespeare Festival).

**Katie Hall** as *Jean Fordham* – *A Christmas Carol* (KC Rep); *Tommy* (Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre); *Little House on the Prairie*, *Night of the Living Dead*, *The Giver* (Coterie Theatre); *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Annie* (Starlight Theatre).

**Manon Halliburton** as *Ivy Weston* – Teaching Artist for KC Rep; *And Then They Came for Me* (Coterie Theatre); *Universal Language*, *Words, Words, Words*, *The Death of Trotsky* (Unicorn Theatre); *The Flying Doctor*, *The Proposal*, *Plaza Suite* (The Rep's Shorts Festival); *Our Town*, *The Adventures of Huck Finn* (Indiana Repertory Theatre).

**Gary Neal Johnson** as *Charlie Aiken* – Artistic Associate at KC Rep where he has appeared in 90 productions including: *Cabaret*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Give 'Em Hell*, *Harry*, *Bus Stop*, *Winesburg, Ohio*, *The Voyage Inheritance* (co-production with American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, Dean Goodman Award for Best Supporting Actor); Starlight Theatre; American Heartland Theatre; New Theatre Restaurant; Heart of America Shakespeare Festival; Unicorn Theatre; *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Merchant of Venice* (Utah Shakespeare Festival); *King Lear* (Goodman Theatre, Chicago and Shakespeare Theatre Company, Washington, D.C., performing the title role as standby for Stacy Keach).

**Jennifer Mays** as *Karen Weston* – *A Christmas Carol*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor*, *Guys and Dolls* (KC Rep); *All Shook Up*, *Leading Ladies*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Proposals*, *Gypsy* (New Theatre); *The Dixie Swim Club*, *Moonlight and Magnolias* (American Heartland Theatre); *Seussical*, *Rocky and Bullwinkle* (Coterie Theatre).

**Merle Moores** as *Violet Weston* – *Machinal*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Man and Superman*, *The Seagull* (KC Rep); *Faith Healer*, *The Memory of Water*, *Angels in America I & II*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *The Exonerated* (Unicorn Theatre); *Absurd Person Singular* (Actors Theatre of Kansas City); *Over the Tavern*, *Blithe Spirit* (American Heartland Theatre); *Steel Magnolias* (New Theatre).

**Kip Niven** as *Beverly Weston* – *Into the Woods*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical!*, *Later Lives*, *Blithe Spirit* (KC Rep); *Anything Goes* (Starlight); *Big River* (Musical Theater Heritage); *Cactus Flower* (New Theatre Restaurant); *Lucky Duck* (Coterie Theatre); *Nick and Nora*, *Chess*, *Company* (New York).

**Jon Redmond** as *Sherriff Deon Gilbeau* – *The Drawer Boy* (KC Rep understudy); *The Lady's Not for Burning*, *The Grapes of Wrath* (Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre).

**Rusty Sneary** as *Little Charles Aiken* – *A Christmas Carol*, *Liliom* (KC Rep); Kyle Hatley's *Carousel*, *Love Song* (The Living Room); *Sci-Fi Triple Feature* (Coterie Theatre); *The Pillowman*, *Frozen*, *Take Me Out* (Unicorn Theatre); *Much Ado about Nothing*, *King Henry V* (Heart of America Shakespeare Festival).

**Kathleen Warfel** as *Mattie Fae Aiken – A Christmas Carol, To Kill a Mockingbird, Major Barbara, The Seagull, Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (KC Rep); *Gray Gardens, Speech and Debate, The Rabbit Hole, Omnium Gatherum, Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Unicorn Theatre); *Richard III, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth* (Heart of American Shakespeare Festival).

**Cheryl Weaver** as *Barbara Fordham – A Christmas Carol, Bus Stop, The Trip to Bountiful, Living Out* (KC Rep); *The Voyage Inheritance* (KC Rep/American Conservatory of Theater co-production); *9 Parts of Desire, Nickel and Dimed, Frozen, the Mineola Twins, The Memory of Water* (Unicorn Theatre); *Love’s Labours Lost* (Heart of America Shakespeare Festival); *Macbeth, Three Musketeers, Henry IV, Pt. I* (Utah Shakespeare Festival).

**Vanessa Severo** as *Johnna Monevata – Cabaret, A Christmas Carol, A Christmas Story, The Musical!* (KC Rep); Unicorn Theatre; Heart Of America Shakespeare Festival; Kansas City Actors Theatre; American Heartland Theatre; New Theatre; Musical Theater Heritage.

**August: Osage County** had celebrated runs on Broadway and at London’s National Theatre; in 2008 it won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play. Tracy Letts has been an ensemble member of Steppenwolf Theatre since 2002 and has performed there in many productions. His additional playwriting credits include *Man from Nebraska*, which was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, *Bug* and *Killer Joe*.

**Eric Rosen**, who will direct **August: Osage County**, also directed the Rep’s celebrated productions of *Cabaret; Venice* (“Year’s Best Musical” – TIME magazine); *Clay; Winesburg, Ohio; A Christmas Story, The Musical!; Metamorphoses* and *The Trip to Bountiful*.

**August: Osage County** runs September 16-October 9, 2011 at Spencer Theatre in the James C. Olson Performing Arts Center at 4949 Cherry Street, Kansas City, Missouri. Single tickets go on sale at 10 a.m., August 26 and cost \$20-\$75; youth tickets for 18 years or younger with student ID are \$20.

2011-12 Season Subscriptions and 6-Play Flex Passes are now on sale. Please contact the Rep Box Office at 816-235-2700 or visit [www.KCRep.org](http://www.KCRep.org) for information about performance times and ticket options.



Production Sponsor of **August: Osage County**

#### ABOUT KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE

Now in its 47<sup>th</sup> season, Kansas City Repertory Theatre is its region’s only member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and serves as the professional theatre in residence at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). The Rep produces mainstage plays and special events at Spencer Theatre on the UMKC campus and Copaken Stage located in downtown Kansas City. Kansas City Rep employs more than 250 professional artists, technicians and administrators, and serves more than 100,000 patrons and 10,000 school children annually. Kansas City Repertory Theatre is led by Artistic Director Eric Rosen, Managing Director Cynthia Rider and Producing Director Jerry Genochio.

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