

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 14, 2009

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**MARIN THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS THE BAY AREA PREMIERE
OF THE DAZZLING NEW PLAY *EQUIVOCATION***

By Bill Cain | Directed by Jasson Minadakis

March 25 through April 18, 2010 | Opening Night March 30

e•quiv•o•ca•tion [i-kwi-və-kā-shən]: the use of equivocal or ambiguous expressions esp. in order to mislead or confuse.

MILL VALLEY, CA—Marin Theatre Company is proud to present the high-stakes political thriller *Equivocation* by Bill Cain, which runs March 25 through April 18, 2010. This Bay Area premiere follows its smash world premiere at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and productions in Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York.

Equivocation goes behind the scenes at the legendary Globe Theatre as King James commissions William Shakespeare to write a play about a thwarted attempt on his life—the infamous Gunpowder Plot. Shakespeare and his company play a high-stakes political game as they struggle to stage the truth, stay true to their convictions, and keep their heads. Discover the story about the creation of *Macbeth* and *King Lear* in the play hailed as one of the most intelligent American plays in a decade.

Majestic in scope, playwright **Bill Cain** calls *Equivocation* “the story of how to tell the truth in difficult times, based on real events and real people of almost 400 years ago living in times very similar to our own.” *Equivocation* is a recipient of the Edgerton Foundation 2008 New American Play Award for its world premiere at Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

“MTC is delighted produce the Bay Area premiere of this amazing and insightful new play in the prestigious company of such theaters as Oregon Shakespeare, Seattle Rep, Geffen Playhouse, and the Manhattan Theatre Club,” says MTC Artistic Director Jasson Minadakis. “We are pleased to welcome stellar Bay Area stage veterans to our powerhouse cast—Anna Bullard, Andy Murray, Andrew Hurteau, Lance Gardner, Craig Marker, and Charles Shaw Robinson as Shag (aka William Shakespeare). This

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wonderful ensemble will portray 38 roles over the course of the evening, with Mr. Gardner accounting for 12 roles including Lady Macbeth. We promise a remarkable evening of theater.”

Playwright **Bill Cain** is also Father Bill Cain, a Jesuit priest and teacher. His widely produced play *Stand-Up Tragedy* earned six LA Critics Awards in its premiere at the Mark Taper Forum, four Helen Hayes Awards at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, and the Joe A. Callaway Playwriting Award for its 1990 Broadway engagement. He has won many awards for his film and television work. Cain is the founder of the Boston Shakespeare Company, where he was Artistic Director for seven seasons.

MTC Artistic Director **Jasson Minadakis** directs the world premiere of Sharr White’s *Sunlight* in addition to *Equivocation* this season. He directed *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *The Seafarer*, and *Lydia* last season at MTC, as well as *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Georgia Shakespeare Festival.

Pre-production photos are now available at http://marintheatre.org/media_photos.php#6

FACTS & CALENDAR INFORMATION

For more information visit www.marintheatre.org or call 415.388.5208. Marin Theatre Company is located at 397 Miller Ave, Mill Valley CA 94941.

Previews— Thursday, March 25 through Sunday, March 28, 2010

Opening Night Gala — Tuesday, March 30 at 8:00 pm

Performance Schedule Mar 25–Apr 18

Tues, Thu, Fri & Sat 8:00 pm

Wed 7:30 pm

Sun 7:00 pm

Matinees: Thu Apr 8, 1:00 pm | Sat Apr 3 and 17, 2 pm | Every Sun 2:00 pm

Please check www.marintheatre.org or call box office at 415.388.5208 for exact performance dates and times.

Ticket Prices

Previews: Thu through Sun: \$31

Regular Performances:

Tues: \$31 in advance, or Pay-What-You-Can (excludes Opening)

Wed, Thu, & Sun Evenings: \$34 & \$41

Fri: \$39 & \$46

Sat Evenings: \$44 & \$51

Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun Matinees: \$34 & \$41

Opening Night (Tues) with Cast Reception: \$44 & \$51

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Discounts available:

Student tickets: \$20, all performances

Senior discounts, varies by performance, please call

RUSH tickets \$10, available one-half hour prior to show, based on availability

Pay-What-You-Can Tuesdays (excludes Opening)

For group sales, contact Julie Knight, 415-388-5200 x3302

ABOUT MTC. Marin Theatre Company is the Bay Area's premiere mid-sized theater and the leading professional theater in the North Bay. We produce a five- to six-show season of provocative plays by passionate playwrights from the 20th century and today in two intimate theaters—a 231-seat proscenium and a 99-seat thrust. We are committed to the development and production of new plays by American playwrights, with a comprehensive New Play Program that includes at least one world premiere each season, two nationally recognized annual playwriting awards, numerous new play readings and workshops by the nation's best emerging playwrights, and a leadership position in the National New Play Network. Our numerous educational programs serve more than 6,000 students each year.

ARTIST BIOS

Bill Cain (Playwright) Cain's widely-produced play *Stand-Up Tragedy* earned six LA Critics Awards in its premiere at the Mark Taper Forum, four Helen Hayes Awards at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, and the Joe A. Callaway Playwriting Award for its 1990 Broadway engagement. Recent plays include *The Laying on of Hands*, developed at the Ojai Playwrights Conference and NYU's HotInk Series, and *9 Circles*, developed at Ojai and South Coast Rep's Pacific Playwrights Festival. He returned to Ojai this summer with his new play *How to Write a New Book for the Bible: a Play for an Older Actress*. Known for his extensive television writing career, Cain wrote the television adaptation of *Stand-Up Tragedy* for TNT, under the title *Thicker Than Blood* (Writers' Guild nomination). He is the recipient of a George Foster Peabody Award for Outstanding Achievement in Television for the series *Nothing Sacred*, which he co-created, wrote and produced for ABC. He wrote the critically acclaimed screen adaptation of *Nightjohn* for Hallmark/Touchstone, which was named best American film of the year by *The New Yorker* and given a special citation for excellence by the National Society of Film Critics. His work for television has won Writers Guild, Humanitas, Christopher and Alma awards, among others. He is the founder of the Boston Shakespeare Company, where he was Artistic Director for seven seasons, directing most of the Shakespeare canon.

Jasson Minadakis (Director) is in his fourth season as Artistic Director of MTC. In addition to *Equivocation*, he will direct Sharr White's *Sunlight* this season. In past seasons, he has directed *Lydia*, *The Seafarer*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *said Saïd*, *Love Song*, and *The Subject Tonight is Love*. He directed *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Georgia Shakespeare Festival this past summer. As Artistic Director at Actor's Express Theatre Company, he directed *The Pillowman*, *Bug*, *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, *Echoes of Another Man*, *Killer Joe*, *Burn This*, *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?*, *Blue/Orange*, and *Bel Canto*. As Producing Artistic Director of Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival, he directed *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, *Chagrin Falls*, *The Beard of Avon*, *Arcadia*, *Nocturne*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Lovers & Executioners*, *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, *Betrayal*, *The Weir*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The Misanthrope*, *A Chance of Lightning*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Dracula*, *The Color Wheel*,

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and 19 productions of Shakespeare. Regional credits include *Hamlet* at Georgia Shakespeare, *Copenhagen* at Playhouse on the Square, and *Bedroom Farce* at Wayside Theatre. The Atlanta Journal Constitution, Creative Loafing, and Southern Voice named him Best Director of 2004. He has won “Production of the Year” awards for *The Pillowman* and *Bug* (Actor’s Express), *Copenhagen* (Playhouse on the Square), and *Chagrin Falls* (Cincinnati).

Anna Bullard (Judith) has appeared at MTC in *Magic Forest Farm* and *Killer Joe*. Bay Area credits include Rosalind in *As You Like It* at San Jose Rep, *Goldfish* at Magic Theatre, *Collected Stories* with Carol Mayo Jenkins at Cinnabar Theatre, and productions with A.C.T., TheatreWorks, and Porchlight Theatre. Regional credits include *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* at Arizona Theatre Company, *Around the World in 80 Days* at Laguna Playhouse, and *Playground*, NYC Fringe Festival, and Dorset Theatre Festival. She appeared as Ophelia in the film *This is Hamlet*. Anna received her BA from Whitman College and trained at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Lance Gardner (Armin) appeared at MTC as Don Lope in *Lovers & Executioners*, Steve in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and Albert in the school tour of *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. He has performed at Berkeley Rep, Cal Shakes, Magic Theatre, Encore Theatre, Climate Theatre, and more. Lance is a member of San Jose Repertory Theatre’s social outreach division, Red Ladder Theatre Company. He is also the drummer for the San Jose-based band Vie Victus.

Andrew Hurteau (Nate) appeared at MTC in *The Seafarer* and *Misalliance*. Most recently, he was seen in the A.C.T.’s production of David Mamet’s *November*, in which he understudied and performed the roles of President Charles Smith, Chief Dwight Grackle, and the Turkey Guy. Also at A.C.T., he understudied and performed the role of Jorgen Tesman in *Hedda Gabler*. Additional Bay Area credits include Max Pollack in *The Floating Lightbulb* at The Jewish Theater; the Duke of Albany in *King Lear*, Lord Stanley in *Richard III*, and Charles Cheeryble in *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* at Cal Shakes; Mike Hogan in *A Moon for the Misbegotten* and Dudard in *Rhinoceros* at Berkeley Rep; *Bronte*, *Summertime*, *Shrodinger’s Girlfriend*, *The Rules of Charity*, and *Nero: Another Golden Rome* at Magic Theatre; and Richard Nixon in *Nixon’s Nixon* and Max Prince in Neil Simon’s *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* at Center REPeritory Theatre. Andrew has also appeared at Aurora Theatre Company, Word for Word, and SF Playhouse.

Craig Marker (Sharpe) appeared at MTC as Bo Decker in *Bus Stop*. Bay Area theater credits include *As You Like It*, *The Foreigner*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* at San Jose Repertory Company; *Romeo and Juliet* at Cal Shakes; *Macbeth* at Shotgun Players; *Third*, *Theophilus North*, *Brooklyn Boy*, *Dolly West’s Kitchen*, and *Shakespeare in Hollywood* at TheatreWorks; *First Person Shooter* and *The Story* at SF Playhouse; *The Circle* and *Curse of the Starving Class* at A.C.T.; *The Mousetrap* and *The Marriage of Figaro* at Center REPeritory Company; *Love’s Labour’s Lost* at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival; *The Shape of Things* and *The Persians* at Aurora Theatre; and David Edgar’s *Continental Divide* at Berkeley Rep, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Barbican Theatre (UK), and La Jolla Playhouse.

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Andy Murray (Richard Burbage) has appeared at MTC in *What the Butler Saw*, *The Seafarer*, and *The Hairy Ape*. He has also worked at A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Cal Shakes, Magic Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, McCarter, Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC, Seattle Repertory Theater, Centerstage, and Kansas City Repertory Theatre, among others. He teaches at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre and Cal Shakes.

Charles Shaw Robinson (Will Shagspeare a.k.a. William Shakespeare) appeared last season as Dr. Prentice in *What the Butler Saw*. Bay area credits include A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, Cal Shakes, and Magic Theatre. He has played the roles of Romeo (The Acting Company), Hamlet (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), Mercutio (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), Petruchio (Watery Star Theatre, NYC), Pericles (Center Stage, Baltimore), Iago, Brutus, and Benedick (Cal Shakes), and most recently Claudius in the forthcoming film *This is Hamlet*. This season he performed the role of Pasha Selim in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* with the San Francisco Opera. He trained at Juilliard.

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