



DEMAND PR

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MEDIA ALERT FOR THEATER EDITORS AND CALENDAR LISTINGS

INDEPENDENT SHAKESPEARE CO. presents

ISC's iambic lab

A month-long celebration of theater making!

*January 28 – February 25
at Independent Studio in the
Atwater Crossing Arts + Innovation Complex*

January 17, 2017...Los Angeles...Independent Shakespeare Co. (ISC), presenters of the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival announce a month long series of unique events and workshops to celebrate the art of theater making. **ISC's iambic lab** begins on Saturday, January 28, with a reading of a new version by Charles Edward Pogue of Henrik Ibsen's **THE PRETENDERS**, and will end on Saturday, February 25 with a preview of ISC's upcoming West Coast premiere production of Sharr White's **THE SNOW GEESE**. All events are at Independent Studio in the Atwater Crossing Arts + Innovation Complex, 3191 Casitas Ave., #168 in Atwater Village.

From classes to readings to conversations with playwrights, **ISC's iambic lab** is an inspiring and thought-provoking series.

In this new version by award-winning playwright Charles Edward Pogue, Henrik Ibsen's **THE PRETENDERS** is Shakespearean in scope. This historical chronicle about the quest for the throne in medieval Norway has rarely been performed in English. Pogue has adapted Ibsen's epic into a swift-paced version that captures both the poetic imagination and psychological intensity of the original. The Pretenders explores the nature of power and personal ambition, the obligation of leadership, and the search for national unity.

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An evening of **THE SNOW GEESE** is a preview of the upcoming West Coast premiere of Sharr White's extraordinary play. In an informal atmosphere with drinks and light snacks, scenes will be previewed and the audience will meet the cast and the artistic team, see the design, and have the opportunity to ask questions.

The participatory events of **ISC's iambic lab** include: **SPEAK THE SPEECH** (and Sip Cocktails) with ISC Co-Founder David Melville on Saturday, February 4. In a convivial atmosphere, Melville takes you through the history of English verse speaking, Chaucer through Shakespeare. It's a fascinating evening full of anecdotes and acting. **OPEN STUDIO: SHAKESPEARE SCENE STUDY** with ISC Artistic Director Melissa Chalsma takes place on Sunday, February 5 and is an evening to explore Shakespearean acting in the ISC style. Chalsma, assisted by actors from the company, will lead a series of exercises on specific scenes. This is open to all experience levels, and space is very limited.

ISC's iambic lab will also feature an evening delving into the creative process with ISC Company Members Kolean Ung (Ariel in *The Tempest*, Margaret in *Richard III*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Faqir Hassan (*Bottom* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) who are each in the process of creating one-person pieces.

Comments Artistic Director Melissa Chalsma, "All of us at ISC are really grateful that we have such a close relationship with our audience, and we want them to feel welcome at all points in the process of making theater! **ISC's iambic lab** is a time when writers can explore new works, and audiences can share that exploration. We also want to share with them the way we approach theater—so we're offering classes and opportunities to interact with to writers and other members of our artistic team. For us, it's a celebration not just of theater making, but of our relationship with our audience."

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

CHARLES EDWARD POGUE (Playwright, new version of Henrik Ibsen's *The Pretenders*) Screenwriter Charles Edward Pogue began his career with a pair of scary classics, *PSYCHO III* and *THE FLY*. Both *THE FLY* and his fantasy swashbuckler, *DRAGONHEART*, starring Sean Connery as the voice of Draco won Best Picture Awards from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror. Mr. Pogue's novel of *DRAGONHEART* has been published worldwide. He has also written *DOA* starring Dennis Quaid and Meg Ryan, *KULL THE CONQUEROR*, the mini-series *HERCULES* for Hallmark and NBC, and three Sherlock Holmes films. *THE SIGN OF FOUR* and *HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* featured Ian Richardson as the master sleuth. Mr. Pogue has also adapted Sherlock Holmes to the stage with his play, *THE EBONY APE*. His prize-winning comedy, *WHODUNNIT, DARLING?*, was written with Emmy-winning actor Larry Drake. He spent many years as a stage actor, performing lead roles in such plays as *HAY FEVER*, *CYRANO DE BERGERAC*, *DUCHESS OF MALFI*, *THE RAINMAKER*, *ANGEL STREET* and *THE CRUCIFER OF BLOOD* (a Sherlock Holmes play) which starred Charlton Heston and Jeremy Brett as Holmes and Watson. Recent work includes film scripts of two Rider Haggard novels, *SHE* and *THE WORLD'S DESIRE*, and his new version of Feydeau's farce, *A FLEA IN HER EAR*, premiered at Centre Stage in Greenville, SC.

SHARR WHITE (Playwright, *The Snow Geese*) Plays by Sharr White have been developed or produced at theatres across the country and Europe, including Manhattan Theatre Club, MCC Theatre, Nationaltheater Mannheim, Melbourne Theatre Company, The Magic Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and more. White's *The Other Place* received its world premiere Off-Broadway with MCC Theatre, featuring Laurie Metcalf (Lucille Lortel and Obie awards) and directed by Joe Mantello (Lucille Lortel nom).

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The Other Place subsequently received its Broadway premiere at Manhattan Theatre Club with Joe Mantello again directing Laurie Metcalf (Tony nom). *The Other Place* was also a recipient of the 2010 Playwrights First Award; the 2011 Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation's Theatre Visions Fund Award; and was an Outer Critics Circle Award nominee for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play. White's *Annapurna* premiered at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco and was a finalist for the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award. The Los Angeles premiere of Annapurna was directed at the Odyssey Theatre by Bart DeLorenzo, and starred Megan Mullally and Nick Offerman—a production that The New Group moved Off-Broadway in the spring of 2014. White's *The Snow Geese* premiered on Broadway at the Samuel J. Friedman theatre in October 2013, starring Mary Louise Parker, Victoria Clark and Danny Burstein, and directed by Daniel Sullivan, as a co-production between Manhattan Theatre Club and MCC Theatre.

SCHEDULE AND PRICING

All events take place at Independent Studio. Space is limited, reservations recommended.

3191 Casitas Ave., #168 (between Fletcher Drive and Glendale Blvd.) at the Atwater Crossing Arts + Innovation Complex, Los Angeles, CA 90039.

Free, ample lot and street parking.

Saturday, January 28 at 7:30pm

Play Reading: *The Pretenders*

By Henrik Ibsen, in a new version by Charles Edward Pogue

Directed by Joseph Culliton

Saturday, February 4 at 7pm

Speak the Speech (and Sip Cocktails) with David Melville

Sunday, February 5 at 2pm-5pm

Open Studio: Shakespearean scene study with Melissa Chalsma

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Saturday, February 11 at 7:30pm

Works in Progress with Kalean Ung & Faqir Hassan

Saturday, February 25 at 6:30pm

Preview scenes and meet the cast of *The Snow Geese*, by Sharr White

TICKETING:

All events are pay what you can, to support the creation of new works of theater.

For information and reservations, please call (818) 710-6306 or go online at

www.iscla.org

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For more information, photos, press interviews or for press comps please contact

David Elzer/DEMAND PR at 818-508-1754 or at davidelzer@me.com

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INDEPENDENT SHAKESPEARE CO. (ISC) produces accessible, imaginative performances of classical plays. We are the 2015 recipients of the LA Drama Critics Circle's highest honor, the Margaret Harford Award for sustained excellence in theater, a 2016 recipient of an NEA ArtWorks grant and a grantee recipient of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Arts Innovation and Management Program. Since 2010 we have produced the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival in partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks at the iconic Old Zoo in Griffith Park, the second largest city park in California. The growth in attendance is extraordinary: at our first season (at Barnsdall Park in 2004), we played to fewer than 1,000 people; our audience now numbers nearly 50,000. Through classical theater we have attracted a community that is young (69% age 18 and under), diverse (45% identify as non-Caucasian and 75% are middle and lower income), and from all corners of Los Angeles. In 2012, we expanded our offerings with our indoor performance space, Independent Studio, where we present original work, re-imagined stagings of classics, readings and classes. Beginning in 2016 ISC is implementing a growth plan that will see a dramatic increase in audience served, scope of programming and budget while maintaining our profound focus on our community. The plans include two structures: the Griffith Park Performing Arts Stage (a project of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation & Parks) and a new performing arts space (re-invented to better serve our community of artists and audience). For more information call 818-710-6306 or visit www.iscla.org.

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Calendar Listing:

ISC's iambic lab

Independent Shakespeare Co's month-long celebration of theater making!

Play readings, workshops, conversations with playwrights and more!

Saturday, January 28 – Saturday, February 25

INDEPENDENT SHAKESPEARE CO. STUDIO

3191 Casitas Ave. #168

(between Fletcher Drive and Glendale Blvd.)

at the Atwater Crossing Arts + Innovation Complex

Los Angeles, CA 90039

Free, ample lot and street parking.

Tickets are pay-what-you-can to support the creation of new works.

For tickets & information, please call (818) 710-6306 or go online at www.iscla.org