



-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

The Porters of Hellsgate present...

William Shakespeare's

Troilus & Cressida

Directed by Charles Pasternak

Produced by The Porters of Hellsgate

The most recent edition of *Arden Shakespeare*, beautifully introduced and edited by David Bevington, states that Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* is "hard to fit into the usual Shakespearean categories – comedy, history, tragedy, romance – 'because it has so many elements of all four' ... an experimental play, characterized throughout by an intermingling of mode, tone, genre and style." The Porters of Hellsgate have chosen this rarely produced and beautifully diverse "problem" play as the opener of their sixth season (their 13th Shakespearean outing, to date), running a full six weeks in the winter of 2012, directed by Artistic Director Charles Pasternak.

Troilus and Cressida is the story of the romance between a young, Trojan prince and a high-born girl at the height of the Trojan War. It is also the story of that war; The Greeks, in a quest to regain what they believe is rightfully theirs (the beautiful Helen, "a pearl, whose price hath launched above a thousand ships") have been encamped on the beach of Troy for seven years with no exit strategy, and no plan to form one. Amongst their camp discontent and disunity rages, while Hector, eldest prince of Troy and commander of its armies, continues to defeat them in the field and hold them to the beach. Tragedy and romance set amidst the seemingly endless warscape, The Porters focus on the cyclical nature of possession and lust, centering on an exploration of value, the endeavor for honor and eternal canonization, and the furious discussion that rages within even the warring nations of today—what is worth fighting for? What is worth dying for? In the war for answers, the question remains: "What's aught but as 'tis valued?"

STARRING

ALEX PARKER

TAYLOR FISHER

NAPOLEON TAVALE
JESSE JAMES THOMAS
TIMOTHY PORTNOY
SEAN FAYE
DANA DERUYCK
KATE O'TOOLE

ANDREW HERRERA
EDDIE CASTUERA
MATTHEW CALLOWAY
DYLAN VIGUS
ADAM SCHROEDER

THOMAS BIGLEY
GUS KRIEGER
JOHN MOSKAL
FREDERICK HAMEL
ELIZA KISS
CHRISTINA MACKINNON

WITH JACQUES FREYDONT AS PANDARUS

Hailed as "a promising, young theatre company" by *The Los Angeles Times*, The Porters of Hellsgate Theatre Company was founded in 2006 by Edward Castuera, Jack Leahy and Charles Pasternak. Their inaugural production of William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* opened at the end of that year. Since then The Porters have produced eleven more of Shakespeare's plays: *Twelfth Night* ('07), *King Richard III* ('07), *Titus Andronicus* ('07), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* ('07/'08), *Much Ado About Nothing* ('08), *Macbeth* ('08), *Love's Labour's Lost* ('08), *King Richard II* ('09), *Hamlet* ('10), *The Comedy of Errors* ('10), and *The Merchant of Venice* ('11), as well as Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* ('10, in rep. with *Hamlet*), an original work, *Deity Clutch* (originally produced in '10, then remounted for the 2011 Hollywood Fringe Festival), penned by Associate Artistic Director Gus Krieger, and last season, the world premiere of a new translation of *Oedipus the Tyrant* ('11), translated by resident artist Jamey Hecht, Ph.D.

In 2010, Artistic Director Charles Pasternak was awarded "Shakespeare Performance of the Year" by *StageSceneLA* for his performance in the title role of *Hamlet* in The Porters' production of The Bard's timeless tragedy (which also received a "GO!" from the *LA Weekly*). Also awarded, Founding Managing Director Edward Castuera, in the role of Horatio, earning "Best Performance by a Featured Actor/Drama," and Associate Artistic Director Thomas Bigley, earning "Outstanding Direction of a Drama." In 2011, Associate Artistic Director Gus Krieger and resident artist Liza de Weerd were both honored with "Best Leading Actor in a Comedy/Drama" awards by *StageSceneLA* for their work as Shylock and Portia in The Porters' production of *The Merchant of Venice*. Also, The Porters had the honor of being Steven Leigh Morris' full-page feature in the *LA Weekly* twice in 2010, where their *Oedipus* was raved as "remarkable," and The Porters were said to have "commanding articulation of the poetical prose."

It is The Porters' continuing intent to bring powerful productions of classical work to the Los Angeles community.

Praise for The Porters' previous production, Shakespeare's ***The Merchant of Venice***:

"*The Merchant of Venice* gives Artistic Director Charles Pasternak and his crackerjack team of young Shakespeareans yet another finely cut notch on their belt."

– Steven Stanley, *StageSceneLA*

StageSceneLA Awards

WINNER – Gus Krieger as Shylock, Best Actor in a Com/Dra

WINNER – Liza de Weerd as Portia, Best Actress in a Com/Dra

"This company has created a very inventive and truly entertaining interpretation of a problematic play; the stereotypes never brought us down – they actually made us laugh. And that is quite a feat."

– Tony Frankel, *Stage & Cinema*

"The Porters, who have never shied from a challenge, take the Bard's text head-on without flinching.

Thomas Bigley has helmed a brave production and possibly The Porters' best to date."

– Susan Burns, *Melpomene*

"The acting is uniformly good, from leads Liza de Weerd as Portia and Gus Krieger as Shylock down to the minor players, a tribute to the meticulous direction of Thomas Bigley. In fact, the entire production's attention to detail is noteworthy."

– Joel Elkins, *LA Theatre Review*

Praise for The Porters' **2011 Season**:

"Absorbing" "GO!" – *LA Weekly/Oedipus*

"Vibrant" – *The Toluca Times/Oedipus*

"Inspired" – *Melpomene/Oedipus*

"Flawless" – *LAist/Deity Clutch*

"Wonderful... Sadistic" – *Melpomene/Deity Clutch*

"Truly Entertaining" – *Stage & Cinema/Merchant*

"Imaginative" – *StageSceneLA/Merchant*

"Momentous" – *LA Theatre Review/Oedipus*

"Inventive" – *Stage & Cinema/Oedipus*

"Striking" – *LA Stage Watch/Oedipus*

"Intense" – *ACTS/Deity Clutch*

"Eloquent" – *LA Theatre Review/Deity Clutch*

"Mesmerizing" – *Melpomene/Merchant*

"Outstanding" – *Advice to the Players/Merchant*

Troilus & Cressida opens Friday, January 13th, 2012, at 8pm. The production will run Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm, through Sunday, February 19th, 2012, closing the six-week run. Presented at:

The Whitmore Theatre
11006 Magnolia Blvd
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students/seniors 60+/AEA.
Reservations are available online via Brown Paper Tickets.
(Designated URL at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/216520>).

Reservations can also be made via our e-mail or voice mail.

Information line/voice mail: 818-325-2055

E-mail questions/comments/reservation requests to:

PortersOfHellsgate@gmail.com

This press release is available online at www.PortersOfHellsgate.com

PRESS CONTACT: ALEX PARKER, 818-606-1149,

PortersOfHellsgate@gmail.com

Press Night: Press is welcome at any performance (plus one available by request), but the preferred press night is Saturday, January 14th, at 8pm.

Thank you for your consideration! We hope to see you soon.

All the Best,
Alex Parker
Managing Director / Press Secretary
The Porters of Hellsgate Theatre Co.

“Here's a knocking indeed! If a man were a porter of hellsgate, he should have old turning the key... Anon, anon! I pray you, remember the porter.”

- The Scottish Play, Act 2, scene 3