

PRESS KIT: Mauritius

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 21, 2009

***Mauritius* opens at Centre Stage October 15, 2009**

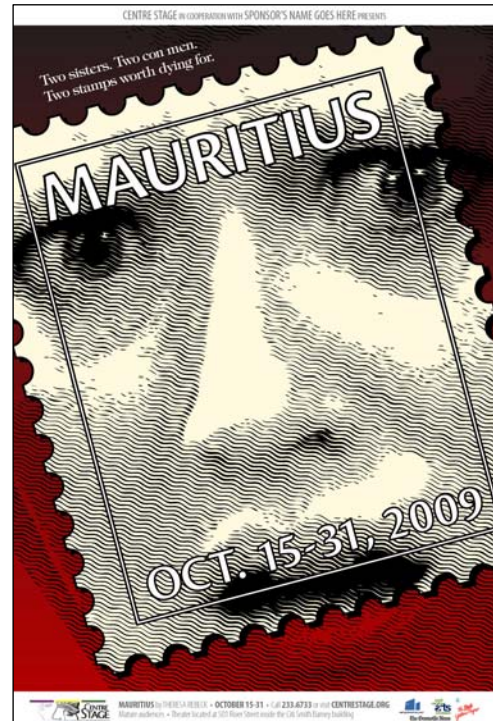
Two sisters. Two con men. Two stamps worth dying for.

Theresa Rebeck's *Mauritius* shines a harsh and frightening light into the criminal underground where stamp collecting is a blood sport. Shortly after two women inherit a book of extraordinarily valuable stamps, two dangerous collectors enter the picture, quickly turning what begins as a simple monetary transaction into a matter of life or death.

Playwright Rebeck honed her craft writing for TV police procedurals like "NYPD Blue" and "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" and that craft is well represented in *Mauritius*. One of Rebeck's strengths, according to *Variety*, is "stitching tension into every exchange." *The Hollywood Reporter* noted that "one wouldn't think that the subject of rare stamps would make for gripping, entertaining theater, but Theresa Rebeck's *Mauritius* proves otherwise."

The Centre Stage production of *Mauritius*, directed by Chip Egan, stars Greenville favorites Debra Capps, J. Michael Craig, Brock Koonce, Neil Shurley and Anne Tromsness. Egan's Centre Stage directing credits include *Greetings!* and *Bus Stop*. Craig last appeared at Centre Stage in the popular thriller *Wait Until Dark* and Capps and Koonce were last seen together at Centre Stage in *Crimes of the Heart*. Neil Shurley's last Centre Stage appearance was in *The Shape of Things*. Tromsness is making her Centre Stage regular season debut in this production.

Mauritius will run October 15-31 with 8 p.m. performances Oct. 15-17, 22-24, and 29-31 and 3 p.m. performances Oct. 18 and 25. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults, with discounts for students and seniors. All seats reserved. The box office can be reached at 864.233.6733 from 2-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 2 hours before performances. The theater is located at 501 River Street inside the Citi Smith Barney building just one block off Main Street in downtown Greenville. For more information, visit the web site at CentreStage.org.



NOTE: This production contains language that some patrons may find offensive.

MEDIA ONLY: FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tim Brosnan, Marketing
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Production details

Play title: *Mauritius* by Theresa Rebeck

Play type: Suspense thriller

Dates/times: **October 15-31, 2009**

Evening shows: October 15-17, 22-24, and 29-31 at 8 p.m.

Matinees: October 18 and 25 at 3 p.m.

Location: **Centre Stage**

501 River Street (first floor of the Citi-Smith Barney building, one block behind the Westin Poinsett Hotel)
Greenville, SC 29601



Tickets/box office: Tickets go on sale to the public September 28th. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors (65+) and \$18 for students. Prices vary depending on seat location. Box office hours are 2-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 2 hours before curtain.

Student rush tickets \$10 cash at the door 30 minutes prior to curtain (with ID)

Media contact: **Tim Brosnan, Marketing**

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Web site: www.CentreStage.org

Production staff

Chip Egan, *Director*

David Hartmann, *Scenic Designer*

Tony Penna, *Lighting Designer*

Richard Beveridge, *Sound Designer*

Elyse Middlebrook, *Costume Designer*

Paul Feraldi, *Props Master/Set Dresser*

David Sims, *Fight Choreographer*

Wofford Jones, *Stage Manager*

Cast

Debra Capps (Jackie)

J. Michael Craig (Philip)

Brock Koonce (Sterling)

Neil Shurley (Dennis)

Anne Tromsness (Mary)

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Cast biographies

Debra Capps (Jackie) is well-known to Centre Stage audiences, having appeared in *Country Queens: Nashville's Leading Ladies*, *Tomfoolery!*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Sylvia*, *Beehive*, *Professional*



Skepticism, *1957 Diva Heaven*, *Hollywood Arms*, *Noises Off*, *Communicating Doors*, and *The Guys*. Other theatrical credits include: *Almost, Maine*, *Sight Unseen*, *Turn of the Screw*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *Summer and Smoke*, *Cabaret*, *Blood Brothers*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *Blue Room*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Debra's training includes musical theater and Meisner technique study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NYC) and her commercial, industrial and film credits include projects produced by NBC News – Charlotte, NC College Foundation, Milliken, Inc and Hubbell Lighting.

J. Michael Craig (Philip) last appeared at Centre Stage as villain Mike Talman in the suspense thriller *Wait Until Dark*. Other roles include Victor Fleming in *Moonlight and Magnolias*,



Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd*, Dr. Kelekian in *W;t*, Sam Peliczowski in the 40 character, 1 person show *Fully Committed* and the recent 35 character, 1 person show *I Am My Own Wife*. Something of a Greenville institution, Craig has also appeared in 14 shows at The Warehouse Theatre including Mitch in *Four Beers* and Scapino in *Scapino* and 18 shows at Greenville

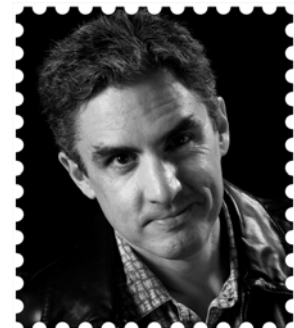
Little Theatre including John Adams in *1776* and Thurston Wheelis in *Greater Tuna*. Michael performs regularly with the South Carolina Repertory Company on Hilton Head and the Shuler Theatre in Raton, New Mexico. His video credits include "Unexpected Bill" in Advance America's regional ad campaign and his voiceover credits are too numerous to list.

Brock Koonce (Sterling) marks his seventh production at Centre Stage since returning to theatre in 2004. His credits include roles at The Warehouse Theatre (*Sight Unseen* and *The Turn of the*



Screw) The Greenville Little Theatre, South Carolina Children's Theatre and Greer Children's Theatre. At Centre Stage, Brock has appeared in *Sylvia*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Mama Mamie's Departure*, *Professional Skepticism* and *The Exonerated*. By day, Brock is the Program Director for Greenville Forward.

Neil Shurley (Dennis) was born in Massachusetts, grew up in Iowa, earned a B.A. in Texas, co-founded theatre troupes in Houston and Birmingham, worked for theatre and film festivals in



Chicago, got scarred onstage in a typewriter fight during a production of *True West*, taught drama at a Houston elementary school, acted and taught for Birmingham Children's Theatre, married in Greenville, wrote an award-winning documentary about South Carolina's Upcountry, fathered two cute children,

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appeared in play at Centre Stage ... and that pretty much gets you up to date.

Anne Kelly

Tromsness (Mary) is making her mainstage debut at Centre Stage, having previously participated in New Play Festival readings. Locally, Anne has appeared



on the Warehouse Theatre mainstage in *The Italian-American Reconciliation*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Almost Maine*, *The Seagull*, *Bad Dates* (also by Teresa Rebeck!), *The Winter's Tale*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *An Empty Plate at the Café du Grand Boeuf*, and *Betrayal*. A founding member and co-Artistic Director of The Distracted Globe Theatre Company, Anne performs comedy improvisation and has appeared in productions of *Barefoot in the Park*, *Hayfever*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She has also appeared on the SCCT and Café and Then Some stages. Anne is employed as the Community Service and Service Learning Coordinator at the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and is involved with educational outreach programs and as an instructor in the conservatory at the SC Children's Theatre.

Production Staff

Chip Egan (Director) is a director, actor and retired Clemson University theatre professor who is currently serving at the Dean of the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities. He received his BA from Hanover College and his MFA from Northwestern University. He has a wide variety of college and professional credits as a director, designer, and actor for such theatres as the Idaho Repertory Theatre;

Highlands Playhouse in Highlands, NC; Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, VA; The Historic Shuler Theater in Raton, NM; South Carolina Repertory Company in Hilton Head; and the Warehouse and Centre Stage theatres in Greenville. His recent Centre Stage credits include directing *Bus Stop* and *Tomfoolery* in 2008 as well as *Greetings!* and *Professional Skepticism*. Chip served as chair of the performing arts department at Clemson University from 1989-1998 during which time the Robert Howell Brooks Center for the Performing Arts was planned and constructed. He is a past president of both the South Carolina Theatre Association (SCTA) and the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC). He is married to Diane Egan.

David Hartmann (Scenic Design) Originally from Chicago, David is currently a Professor of Theatre in the Department of Performing Arts at Clemson University, where he teaches a variety of design and technical theatre courses. His professional credits began with work in various Theme Parks such as Opryland USA in Nashville, and the Great America Parks in Chicago and Santa Clara, CA. After attending the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where he received a BFA in Theatre Design, David worked on the Dinner Theatre circuit with stops at The Fireside Dinner Theatre in WI, Circa'21 Dinner Theatre in IL, and Tiffany's Attic and Waldorf Astoria Dinner Theatres in Kansas City, MO. After a brief three-year stop to receive an MFA in design from the University of Minnesota, David began teaching at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, MO, where he taught for four years before coming to Clemson. Besides designing shows at Clemson, David still enjoys working professionally with groups like Centre Stage, SC Rep., and The Warehouse Theatre.

Matthew Leckenbusch (Technical Director) has been the technical director/production

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manager at the Governor's School since the Spring of 2004. He has worked with numerous companies around Greenville, including The Warehouse Theater, McCallister Theater (Furman University), International Ballet and Greenville Ballet. He also spent five summers at Seaside Music Theater in Daytona Beach Florida in various positions. His production credits include *Miss Saigon*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and many more.

Tony Penna (Lighting Design) previously designed *Tomfoolery* at Centre Stage. Regional theatre credits include Actors Theatre of Louisville (four seasons as Resident Lighting Designer), SC Repertory Company, Warehouse Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Huntington Theatre Co., Cincinnati Playhouse, Center Stage Baltimore, Buffalo Studio Arena, Pittsburgh Public Theatre. In New York his designs have been seen at La Mama, Medicine Show, Culture Project, and HERE. Mr. Penna is a member of United Scenic Artists, the theatre faculty at Clemson University, and the resident design staffs of SC Repertory Company, The Warehouse Theatre, and Eleventh Hour Theatre Company in New York.

Paul Feraldi (Props Master) is a native Western New Yorker but now resides in Western North Carolina where he has worked as the full-time properties master and set decorator at Flat Rock Playhouse for the past eight years.

Wofford Jones (Stage Manager) last appeared at Centre Stage as Barnette Lloyd in *Crimes of the Heart*. He has studied acting in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Los Angeles. His credits include *Mercutio (Romeo and Juliet)*, Tony Kirby (*You Can't Take It With You*), Trotter (*The Mousetrap*), File (*The Rainmaker*), Rev. David Marshall Lee (*The Foreigner*) and Frank Lubey (*All My Sons*). His film credits include everything from comic book villain to attorney

and from detective to zombie. Wofford also writes screenplays and hopes to publish his novel, *Soul Dreams*, later this year. In January, he'll direct a one-act he co-wrote with Jason Underwood entitled *Stealing the Show* at Greenville Little Theatre.

Our current gallery artists

NOTE: Centre Stage partners with the Metropolitan Arts Council (MAC) to present the works of Upstate visual artists in our public areas during the run of each production. The two featured artists during Mauritius are Steven Chapp and Catherine Labbe. The exhibit opens with a reception on October 9 and will be on display until November 21. The exhibition is free and open to the public 2-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Catherine Labbé is a native of Greenville. An active printmaker and painter, her works are popular with private collectors and shown at a variety of invitational, solo, and juried exhibitions across the Southeast. She received her formal education at the Greenville County Museum School of Art and the University of South Carolina. She employs a wide spectrum of media to communicate her vision of the world we share. Catherine was chosen to collaborate with King Snake Press to produce monotypes for the *See How We Are* exhibition and one of her monotype works, *Timber Veil*, was purchased by the Greenville Museum of Art for its permanent collection.

Artist statement: Steven Chapp

"I think my images are narrative and speak to the viewer. Some speak about personal concerns seen through various figurative subjects. Others may purely be a compositional interest. As a print maker, I love the moments when all the pieces fall together. Most of my compositions derive from my imagination but are still a result of some observation that

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caught my attention. From there, I make sketches. Some are quick and direct to the plate as in my monotypes and others involve more consideration in the number of plate versus color and how I will use certain mark making techniques. Regardless, I will find a way to bring it to life through the transferring of ink to paper.”

Promotional photos available

Mauritius promo 01.jpg



Brock Koonce (left) and J. Michael Craig in the Centre Stage production of Theresa Rebeck’s *Mauritius*. (Photo courtesy Centre Stage)

Mauritius promo 06.jpg



Anne Tromsness (left) and Debra Capps in the Centre Stage production of Theresa Rebeck’s *Mauritius*. (Photo courtesy Centre Stage)

Mauritius promo 02.jpg



Debra Capps (left) and J. Michael Craig in the Centre Stage production of Theresa Rebeck’s *Mauritius*. (Photo courtesy Centre Stage)

Mauritius promo 03.jpg



(from left) Neil Shurley, Brock Koonce and Debra Capps in the Centre Stage production of Theresa Rebeck’s *Mauritius*. (Photo courtesy Centre Stage)