

For Further Ticket Information:  
PTC Box Office  
215-985-0420  
[PhiladelphiaTheatreCompany.org](http://PhiladelphiaTheatreCompany.org)

For Further Press Information:  
Deborah Fleischman  
215-735-7356  
dfleischman@philadelphiatheatrecompany.org

**LYNN NOTTAGE'S PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAY *RUINED* CONCLUDES  
PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY'S 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON  
MAY 20-JUNE 12**

Philadelphia Theatre Company concludes its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary mainstage Season with the Philadelphia premiere of *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage, running May 20 through June 12, 2011 at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre (Broad and Lombard Streets). Directed by **Maria Mileaf**, the production features the ensemble cast of **Oberon K.A. Adjepong, Sean-Michael Bowles, Khris Davis, James Ijames, Kes Khemnu, Jamil A.C. Mangan, Paul Meshejian, Erika Rose, Heather Alicia Simms, Chandra Thomas and Keona Welsh.**

Previews begin Friday, May 20 with opening night on Wednesday, May 25. Performances run Tuesday through Sunday until June 12. Tickets are \$46 - \$59, with discounts for students, seniors and groups. Tickets are available by calling the PTC Box Office at 215-985-0420 or visiting [PhiladelphiaTheatreCompany.org](http://PhiladelphiaTheatreCompany.org).

In war-torn Congo, Mama Nadi keeps the peace between customers on both sides of the civil war by serving up cold beers and warm beds. Inspired by interviews conducted in Africa, this probing and courageous work celebrates human strength and dignity with humor and song in the face of immeasurable loss. *Ruined* is an engrossing and powerful story and a life-affirming triumph.

*Ruined* premiered in Chicago at The Goodman Theatre in fall 2008 and then moved to Manhattan Theatre Club in 2009 where it enjoyed a long run. *Ruined* was the most acclaimed new play of 2009, having received the following awards: the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play, Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Play and Outstanding Music for a Play, the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Play, two Lucille Lortel Awards including Outstanding Play, four OBIE awards including Best New American Play and awards for the New York cast members. A film version is in the works.

**Lynn Nottage** (*Playwright*) is the author of *Intimate Apparel* (produced by PTC in 2006), *Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, and *Las Meninas*. They have been produced and developed at theatres both nationally and internationally, including the Manhattan Theatre Club, the Goodman Theatre, the Roundabout Theatre Company, Playwrights Horizons, Center Stage, South Coast Rep., Second Stage, Sundance Institute Theatre Lab, Intiman, Steppenwolf, Yale Rep., The Vineyard Theatre, The Women's Project, The Tricycle Theatre in London and others. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2007 "Genius" Award, an OBIE Award for playwriting, NY Drama Critics Circle Award, Best play and John Gassner Outer Critics Circle awards, American Theatre Critics/Steinberg 2004 New Play Award, 2004 Francesca Primus Award, and 2 AUDELCO awards. She was awarded a 2007 Lucille Lortel Foundation Fellowship, 2005 Guggenheim Fellowship, The National Black Theatre Festival's August Wilson Playwriting Award and the 2004 PEN/Laura Pels Award for Drama. Her latest play, *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*, is currently running at New York's Second Stage Theatre.

**Maria Mileaf** (*Director*) returns to PTC where she directed *The Story*, winning a Barrymore Award, *Nickel & Dimed*, *Wit*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *How I Learned to Drive*. Recent credits include *A Body of Water* and *Going to St. Ives* at Primary Stages, *The Argument* at The Vineyard, *Lobster Alice* at Playwright's Horizons, *Third* at The Geffen Playhouse with Christine Lahti and *Under the Lintel* at The Dutchess Theatre in London's West End.

**Oberon K.A. Adjepong** (*Christian*) recreates the role he played at La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, and Huntington Theatre. He appeared in *The Piano Lesson* and *Our Town*, both at Arden Theatre Company; *Sango*, earning an Audelco Award nomination, and *OYA*, both at the National Black Theatre; and *Like I Say* and *Cellophane*, at The Flea Theatre; and *Timon of Athens* and *Coriolanus* at The Shakespeare Theatre.

**Sean-Michael Bowles** (*Simon*) has appeared in *The American Corner* and *The Blue Demon*, both at Huntington Theatre, and *A Behanding in Spokane* at Alley Theatre. Other regional appearances were at LaMama Etc. Cherry Lane Theatre, Ohio Theatre, and Boston Playwrights Theatre.

**Khris Davis** (*Rebel Soldier*) has performed at Walnut Street Theatre in *Go Green*, Theatre Horizon in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Quintessence Theatre Group. A frequent guest at Dudley Theatre, he has also been featured at Camden Repertory Theatre and Theatre Double.

**James Ijames** (*Fortune*) was a finalist for the F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Artist as well as an Independent Reviewers of New England Award nominee for Best Supporting Actor in *Ponies* at Gloucester Stage Company. In addition to his appearance at PTC in *Grey Gardens*, he starred recently in

*Superior Donuts* at Arden Theatre Company where he has also appeared in *Romeo and Juliet*, *An Empty Plate at the Café du Grand Boeuf* and *James and the Giant Peach*. Other regional credits include several productions at People's Light & Theatre Company, Delaware Theatre Company, Mauckingbird Theatre Company and BCKSEET Productions.

**Kes Khemnu** (*Kisembe*) appeared in PTC's production of *Wit* directed by Maria Mileaf. He is a two-time Barrymore Award nominee for *The Piano Lesson* and *Blue Door* at Arden Theatre Company. He has been featured on *Law & Order*, *Hack*, and *Third Watch*, and performed numerous Shakespeare roles including Othello, Macduff and Puck at various regional theatres.

**Jamil A. C. Mangan** (*Osembenga*) is the recipient of Audelco Awards for Best Supporting Actor in *What Would Jesus Do* and Outstanding Ensemble for *August Wilson's Women*. He has appeared at Premiere Stages, Bleeker Street Theatre, and Manhattan Ensemble Theatre. In addition to regional performances at Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Connecticut Free Shakespeare and Kumble Theatre, he has been seen locally at Arden Theatre Company in *My Lord*, *What A Morning*.

**Paul Meshejian** (*Mr. Harari*) is the founder and artistic director of PlayPenn. A nine-time Barrymore Award nominee, he has been a company member of People's Light & Theatre Company since 1989. He has appeared at PTC in *Nickel & Dimed*, *Wit*, *Broken Glass* and *I Am A Man*.

**Erika Rose** (*Salina*) received Helen Hayes nominations for Outstanding Ensemble for *The Bluest Eye* at Theatre Alliance and for Outstanding Leading Actress for *Pretty Fire* at African Continuum Theatre. In addition to appearances in *Lenny and Lou* and *The Mineola Twins* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, she has been a frequent guest at The Shakespeare Theatre, The Kennedy Center, and Imagination Stage.

**Heather Alicia Simms** (*Mama*) is currently appearing at Soho Rep in their hit production of *Burnt Bad*. She has performed on Broadway in *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. She has appeared often at McCarter Theatre (*In the Red and Brown Water* and *Marcus, or the Secret of Sweet*) and The Public Theatre (Tarell McCraney's *The Brother/Sisters Plays* and *Insurrection*). Other regional appearances include Yale Repertory Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse and SoHo Rep. She has co-starred on TV in *The Good Wife* and *Ugly Betty*.

**Chandra Thomas** (*Josephine*) has starred in productions at Classical Theatre of Harlem, Foundry Theatre, and Cherry Lane Theatre. Her regional credits include productions of *Crowns* at both Guthrie Theatre and Arkansas Rep, *The Crucible* at Cincinnati Playhouse, and *No Child* at Delaware Theatre Company.

**Keona Welch** (*Sophie*) received a 2002 Cappie nomination for Best Featured Actress in a Musical and a 2004 Cappie Award for Best Female Actor in a Play. In New York she has appeared with Negro Ensemble Company in *Savannah Black and Blue*, *Subway Love and Other Train Tales*, and *Edna the Otter*. She has also performed at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London in *The Winter's Tale* and *An Eve of Shakespeare Scenes*.

*Ruined* features the return to PTC of designers **Russell Champa** (lights), **Janus Stefanowicz** (costumes), and sound designer **Bart Fاسبender** as well as the local debut of set designer **Antje Ellerman**.

Founded in 1974, Philadelphia Theatre Company is a leading regional theater company whose mission is to produce, develop and present entertaining and imaginative contemporary theater focused on the American experience that both ignites the intellect and touches the soul. By developing new work through commissions, readings and workshops PTC generates projects that have a national impact and reach broad regional audiences. Under the leadership of Sara Garonzik as PTC's Producing Artistic Director since 1982, PTC supports the work of a growing body of diverse dramatists and takes pride in being a home to scores of nationally recognized artists who have participated in more than 130 world and Philadelphia premieres. PTC has received 45 Barrymore Awards and 147 nominations. In October 2007, PTC moved into a home of its own, the Suzanne Roberts Theatre on Center City Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts, solidifying the Company's status as a major player on the American theater scene. In October 2010, Kathleen Nolan joined PTC as its Interim Managing Director.

For further information, please call 215-735-7356.

## PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY'S PRODUCTION OF *RUINED* FACT SHEET

PREVIEWS: Friday, May 20 at 8:00 PM  
Saturday, May 21 at 8:00 PM  
Sunday, May 22 at 3:00 PM  
Tuesday, May 24 at 6:30 PM

OPENING: Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 PM

PERFORMANCES: Thursday-Saturday at 8:00 PM  
All Tuesday performances at 6:30 PM  
All Wednesday performances at 7:00 PM  
Wednesday matinee at 1:00 PM on June 1 and 8  
Saturday matinee at 2:00 PM on May 28, June 4, 11  
Sunday matinee at 3:00 PM on May 29, June 5, 12

CLOSING PERFORMANCE: Sunday, June 12 at 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Philadelphia Theatre Company's Suzanne Roberts Theatre  
Broad and Lombard Streets

### TICKET PRICES:

Tuesday and Friday previews, Tuesday evenings, Wednesday matinees and evenings:  
*All seats \$46*  
Sunday preview, Thursday and Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday matinees:  
*All seats \$52*  
Saturday preview and Saturday evenings: *All seats \$59*  
Student, Senior Citizen and Group Discounts available

### PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:

Onsite parking is available at the Symphony House InterPark lot, as well as many other parking facilities on Broad Street.  
The theater is also accessible by taxi, SEPTA buses and trains, and the PATCO Highspeed line.

### ACCESSIBILITY:

PTC provides large print, Braille and audio cassette programs upon request.  
Open-captioned performance on Saturday, February 12 at 2:00 PM

### TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

PTC's Suzanne Roberts Theatre, Broad & Lombard Streets  
Monday-Friday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
215/985-0420 or online at [PhiladelphiaTheatreCompany.org](http://PhiladelphiaTheatreCompany.org)

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

**Meet-the-Artists Talk Backs** on **Thursday, May 26**, **Tuesday, May 31**, and **Thursday, June 9** following the evening performance – Join members of the cast and creative team for a post-show discussion

**American Playwrights in Context** on **Sunday, May 29** following the 3:00 PM matinee  
– A free in-depth post-show discussion with the show’s creators

**Night OUT!** pre-show LGBT-friendly reception on **Thursday, June 2** at 6:45 PM before  
8:00 PM performance – for theater lovers who enjoy cocktails, light fare, and great  
company

**Book Club** on **Thursday, May 26** at 6:30 PM – Meet before the show with Literary  
Manager Jackie Goldfinger and discuss *Say You’re One of Them* by Uwem Akpan

**Special Topics Panel Discussion** on **Wednesday, June 1** – “The World Behind  
RUINED: Facing the Truth of Congo,” a discussion about the national advocacy to end  
the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo from The Enough Project

**Backstage Tour** on **Saturday, June 4** – Join PTC’s Technical Director and Literary  
Manager for a post-matinee tour of the set

WRITTEN BY: Lynn Nottage

DIRECTED BY: Maria Mileaf

CAST: Paul Meshejian - Mr. Harari  
Jamil A.C. Mangan - Osembenga  
Khris Davis - As Cast  
Kes Khemnu - Kisembe  
James Ijames - Fortune  
Oberon K.A. Adjepong - Christian  
Heather Alicia Simms - Mama  
Erika Rose – Salima  
Keona Welsh - Sophie  
Chandra Thomas - Josephine  
Sean-Michael Bowles - Simon

DESIGNERS: Set Designer– Antje Ellerman  
Light Designer– Russell Champa  
Sound Technician – Bart Fasbender  
Costume Designer – Janus Stefanowicz

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## SYNOPSIS

In war-torn Congo, Mama Nadi keeps the peace between customers on both sides of the civil war by serving up cold beers and warm beds. Inspired by interviews conducted in Africa, this probing and courageous work celebrates human strength and dignity with humor and song in the face of immeasurable loss. Ruined is an engrossing and powerful story and a life-affirming triumph.