



# CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY

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## **REHEARSALS UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO PREMIERE OF** **TRACY LETTS' *MAN FROM NEBRASKA!***

*San Diego Cast of Letts' Veterans Takes on his Darkly Comedic Look at Faith and Love.*

SAN DIEGO, CA – **Cygnet Theatre** presents the **San Diego premiere of *Man from Nebraska* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Tracy Letts.** Directed by Cygnet Associate Artistic Director Francis Gercke, the cast (many of whom have starred in other San Diego Letts' premieres) will include Robin Christ, John DeCarlo, Cygnet Resident Artist Sandra Ellis-Troy, Monique Gaffney, Jeffrey Jones, Linda Libby, Jack Missett, Mike Sears and Amanda Sitton. *Man from Nebraska* runs **September 24<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009** at Cygnet's Old Town Theatre. **Press Opening is October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm.**

A luxury sedan, a church pew, a cafeteria table, a favorite TV show, and visits to a nursing home form the comfortable cycles of the dull daily life of middle-aged insurance salesman Ken Carpenter. Then one night, he awakens to discover that he no longer believes in God. To the surprise of his family, who think he has lost his mind, Ken decides to find himself and his faith by flying to London. He navigates through the unfamiliar and somewhat dangerous realm of British counter-culture and ultimately finds his way back home. Tracy Letts' moving, funny, and spiritually complex play dares to ask the big questions, and by doing so, reveals the hidden yearning and emotion that spur the eccentric behavior of seemingly ordinary people.

An ensemble member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Tracy Letts is an actor, a director and a playwright who, in addition to his stage credits, has appeared in several motion pictures and television shows. Tracy's work includes *Killer Joe*, *Bug* and ***Man from Nebraska* (which**

**premiered at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago, Illinois – opening on November 20, 2003 – and was named a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Drama).** Letts was awarded the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play for *August: Osage County*. His most recent play, *Superior Donuts*, opens on Broadway this October. He was also named one of *Time's* "Best of 2003."

**Cygnets' *Man from Nebraska* is directed by Associate Artistic Director Francis Gercke.** Gercke previously directed *Curse of the Starving Class* and *Mauritius* at Cygnet Theatre. He also co-directed the most recent production of *Fully Committed* currently playing at Cygnet's Rolando Theatre through September 20<sup>th</sup>. He is a graduate of the Actors' Studio School of Drama in New York and is the recipient of multiple San Diego Critic Circle and Patte Awards for both directing and acting at numerous San Diego theaters. Gercke's Cygnet acting credits include *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *A Number* and *Love Song*.

**The cast for *Man from Nebraska* include several members from Cygnet's San Diego Premiere of another of Tracy Letts' works – *Bug*.** **Robin Christ** (Cygnet's *Las Meninas*), **John DeCarlo** (Cygnet's *Mauritius*) and **Monique Gaffney** (Cygnet's *Las Meninas* and *Yellowman*) all brought Letts' provocative story to life on Cygnet's Rolando stage in October of 2006. Cast member **Mike Sears**, making his Cygnet debut in *Man from Nebraska*, recently starred in Compass Theatre's *Killer Joe* – another Tracy Letts' work. Other cast members from *Man from Nebraska* include **Linda Libby** (Cygnet's original production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*), Cygnet Resident Artist **Sandra Ellis-Troy** (Cygnet's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Matchmaker*, *A Little Night Music*), **Jeffrey Jones** (Cygnet's *Burn This* and *Atwater: Fixin' to Die*) **Jack Missett** (Cygnet's *Curse of the Starving Class* and *Mauritius*) and **Amanda Sitton** (Cygnet's *Las Meninas*).

Performances of ***Man from Nebraska*** are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 pm, Friday at 8pm, Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm on Cygnet's Old Town Stage located at 4040 Twigg's St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Tickets are \$17 - \$46. Discounts are available for seniors, students and military.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting Cygnet's website at [www.cygnetheatre.com](http://www.cygnetheatre.com) or calling the box office at **619-337-1525**. Tickets can also be purchased in person by visiting Cygnet's

main box office located at the Old Town Theatre, 4040 Twiggs St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

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*Cygnnet Theatre Company is a 501(k) non-profit organization founded in 2002 by Artistic Director Sean Murray and Executive Director Bill Schmidt. In 2003, Cygnnet renovated a storefront at 6663 El Cajon Blvd in the Rolando area into a 157-seat theatre. Cygnnet has received over 40 awards and grown to one of the most highly regarded theatre companies in the San Diego area. In December 2007, Cygnnet was awarded a 10-year lease by State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Concessions and Reservations Division of the Old Town Theatre. Located in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, the 248-seat venue was renovated during the summer and fall of 2008 and re-opened in November.*

# CYGNET THEATRE FACT SHEET

## *MAN FROM NEBRASKA*

**WHAT:** Cygnet Theatre Company presents *Man from Nebraska*.

**WHERE:** Cygnet Theatre – The Old Town Stage  
4040 Twigg's St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

**WHO:** Written by Tracy Letts

Director: Francis Gercke<sup>o</sup>  
Costume Design: Jessica John<sup>o</sup>  
Sound Design: George Ye  
Original Music: Jason Connors

Stage Manager: Heather Brose\*  
Lighting Design: Eric Lotze<sup>o</sup>  
Properties Design: Bonnie Durben<sup>o</sup>  
Scenic Design: Brian Redfern

**CAST:** Robin Christ (*Nancy Carpenter*)  
John DeCarlo (*Reverend Todd*)  
Sandra Ellis-Troy<sup>o</sup> (*Cammie Carpenter*)  
Monique Gaffney\* (*Tamyra*)  
Jeffrey Jones (*Harry Brown*)  
Linda Libby\* (*Pat Monday*)  
Jack Missett (*Bud Todd*)  
Mike Sears\* (*Ken Carpenter*)  
Amanda Sitton (*Ashley Kohl*)

*\* Member of Actors Equity Association, <sup>o</sup>Resident Artist*

**DATES:** Previews begin: Thursday, September 24, 2009  
Press Opening: Saturday, October 3, 2009  
Closes: Sunday, November 1, 2009

### PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday & Thursday at 7:30pm.  
Friday at 8:00pm  
Saturday at 2:00pm and 8:00pm  
Sunday at 2:00pm and 7:00pm.

**PRICES:** Range from \$17-\$46  
Previews: \$27(Section A) / \$17(Section B)  
Wednesday and Sunday Evenings: \$38(Section A) / \$28(Section B)  
Thursday, Friday Evenings and Sunday Matinees: \$40(Section A) / \$30(Section B)  
Saturday Evenings: \$42(Section A) / \$32(Section B)  
Opening Night: \$46(Section A) / \$36(Section B)  
*Discounts are available for children, seniors, students, active-duty military and groups*

**HOW:** Phone: (619) 337-1525  
Online: [www.cygnettheatre.com](http://www.cygnettheatre.com)  
In Person: Old Town Theatre - 4040 Twigg's St., San Diego, CA 92110

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