



CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY

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CYGNET THEATRE ANNOUNCES THE CAST OF *PRIVATE LIVES!*

SAN DIEGO, CA – While Artistic Director Sean Murray's *Sweeney Todd* is currently slashing up the Cygnet Theatre stage, final casting has been completed for the upcoming production of **Noel Coward's *Private Lives***. Co-Directed by Cygnet Artistic Director Sean Murray and Associate Artistic Director Francis Gercke, the cast includes Manny Fernandes, Annie Hinton Jessica John, Sean Murray and Shana Wride. *Private Lives* will run **May 27th through July 3rd, 2010** at Cygnet's Old Town Theatre. **Press Opening is June 5th at 8pm.** The production is sponsored in part by Dr. Ronald and Susan Heller.

Considered one of the enduring successes of modern comedic theatre, Noel Coward's *Private Lives* introduces its audience to divorced couple Elyot and Amanda who meet on then-respective honeymoons to second spouses. Realizing they are still in love with one another, they abandon their new spouses and run off together, only to find themselves plagued with the same violent arguments that originally ended their first stormy marriage. As their new spouses join forces to track them down, Coward's sharp wit, absurd irreverence and dark comedy play out in high style.

The cast of ***Private Lives* includes** Cygnet Theatre Resident Artists **Manny Fernandes** (*Mauritius, A Christmas Carol, Communicating Doors*) as Victor and **Jessica John** (*Noises Off, Mauritius, Love Song*) as Sibyl. **Annie Hinton** (*A Christmas Carol, The Book of Liz*) plays French maid, Louise. Portraying the dueling on-again, off-again lovers, Cygnet Theatre's Artistic Director **Sean Murray** takes to the stage **as Elyot Chase** and is delighted to play opposite former San Diego Rep *Christmas Carol* alum, **Shana Wride as Amanda Prynne**. Ms. Wride returns to San Diego where she began her acting career more than 20 years ago. Most recently Shana directed the highly-lauded *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe* at Compass Theatre and could be heard on the *Kathy and Mo Show* with LA based actor/writer Mo Gaffney.

Coward's *Private Lives* received its Broadway debut in 1930 with Coward, himself, playing the contemptuous Elyot Chase. The production, which dealt with the conventions and social rituals by

which a person presents their "public" self to the world—and with the "private" passions and motivations that lie beneath the veneer of etiquette and respectability, remains one of Coward's best-loved comedies. Subsequent revivals on Broadway and the West End have earned nominations and major theatre awards including Drama Desk Awards, World Theatre Awards and Tony Awards. Indeed, the topic remains biting relevant today in a world filled with tabloid scandals and celebrity journalism.

The production team includes the co-direction of **Artistic Director Sean Murray** and **Associate Artistic Director Francis Gercke**; Set Design by **Andrew Hull**; Lighting Design by Resident Artist **Eric Lotze**; Sound Design by Resident Artist **Matt Lescault-Wood**; Properties Design by Resident Artist **Bonnie L. Durben** Costume Design by Resident Artist **Shirley Pierson**; Wig and Makeup Design by Resident Artist **Peter Herman**; and Stage Manager, **Heather Brose**.

Performances of **Private Lives** 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 Twiggs St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Tickets are \$17 - \$42. Discounts are available for seniors, students and military.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting Cygnet's website at **www.cygnettheatre.com** or calling the box office at **619-337-1525**. Tickets can also be purchased in person by visiting Cygnet's box office located at the Old Town Theatre.

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Cygnet Theatre Company is a 501(k) non-profit organization founded in 2002 by Artistic Director Sean Murray and Executive Director Bill Schmidt. In 2003, Cygnet renovated a storefront at 6663 El Cajon Blvd in the Rolando area into a 157-seat theatre. Cygnet has received over 50 awards and grown to one of the most highly regarded theatre companies in the San Diego area. In December 2007, Cygnet 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

PRIVATE LIVES

WHAT: Cygnet Theatre Company presents *Private Lives*.

WHERE: Cygnet Theatre – The Old Town Stage
4040 Twiggs St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

WHO: Written by **Noel Coward**

Co-Director: **Sean Murray**
Set Design: **Andrew Hull**
Lighting Design: **Eric Lotze**^o
Properties Design: **Bonnie Durben**^o
Stage Manager: **Heather Brose***^o

Co-Director: **Francis Gercke**^o
Costume Design: **Shirley Pierson**^o
Sound Design: **Matt Lescault-Wood**^o
Wig and Makeup Design: **Peter Herman**^o
Asst. Stage Manager: **Jennifer Kozumplik**

CAST: **Manny Fernandes**^o (*Victor Prynne*)
Annie Hinton* (*Louise*)
Jessica John^o (*Sibyl Chase*)
Sean Murray (*Elyot Chase*)
Shana Wride* (*Amanda Prynne*)
** Member of Actors Equity Association, ^oResident Artist*

DATES: Previews begin: Thursday, May 27, 2010
Press Opening: Saturday, June 5, 2010
Closes: Saturday, July 3, 2010

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

HOW: Phone: (619) 337-1525
Online: www.cygnettheatre.com
In Person: Old Town Theatre - 4040 Twiggs St., San Diego, CA 92110

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