The Old Vic, Nica Burns and Max Weitzenhoffer present

SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Directed by Marianne Elliott

Previews from 1 June 2013
Press night: 12 June 2013

SETH NUMRICH TO JOIN KIM CATTRALL IN SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH

Acclaimed Broadway actor Seth Numrich joins Kim Cattrall in Sweet Bird of Youth, directed by Marianne Elliott. Tennessee Williams’s powerful and poetic play will open at The Old Vic on 12 June 2013 with previews from 1 June. Numrich most recently starred in the celebrated Broadway production of Golden Boy and the original Broadway cast of War Horse, directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris. Also joining them are Owen Roe and Brid Brennan. Further cast includes Charles Aitken, Michael Begley, Daniel Betts, Ruari Cannon, Emily De Cosimo, Louise Dylan, Kurt Kansley, Sean McConaghy, Katie Meekison, Bryonie Pritchard, Lucy Robinson, Violet Ryder, Ryan Saunders, Alistair Scott, Anthony Taylor, Joe Townley, John Trindle and David Webber.

Fading Hollywood legend Alexandra Del Lago (Kim Cattrall) flees the disastrous premiere of her comeback film. Travelling incognito, she seeks refuge in drink and drugs and the arms of Chance Wayne (Seth Numrich), an idealistic young dreamer turned gigolo, hellbent on achieving his own movie stardom. A trip to Chance’s hometown in a bid to win back his childhood sweetheart sees their relationship of convenience unravel in Williams’s vivid and haunting portrait of the destruction of dreams.

Kim Cattrall plays The Princess Kosmonopolis. Cattrall has had an extensive acting career that spans film, stage and television. The British born actress recently starred in Janet Suzman’s production of Antony and Cleopatra at the Liverpool Playhouse and The Chichester Festival Theatre. Other West End/Broadway theatre credits include Richard Eyre’s Private Lives (Theatre Royal Bath, Vaudeville and on Broadway), David Mamet’s The Cryptogram (Donmar), Peter Hall’s production of Whose Life is it Anyway? (Comedy Theatre), Wild Honey (National Theatre on Broadway), Miss Julie (McCarte
Theatre), *The Misanthrope* (La Jolla Playhouse and The Goodman Theatre Chicago), *The Three Sisters* (Los Angeles Theatre Centre) and *A View From the Bridge* (Lee Strasberg Institute). Her most recent film credits include Roman Polanski’s *The Ghost Writer, Sex and The City* and *Sex and the City 2* in which she reprised her award-winning role as the infamous ‘Samantha Jones’. Cattrall was recognized for her work in the tv series with a Golden Globe; two Screen Actors Guild Awards; five Emmy Award nominations and Three Screen Actors’ Guild nominations. Cattrall also starred in Channel 4’s acclaimed production of William Boyd’s *Any Human Heart*. She will start in pre-production on the television adaptation of *Sensitive Skin* at the end of 2013.

A best-selling author, Cattrall has written several books, including *Sexual Intelligence, Being a Girl and Navigating the Ups and Downs of Teenage Life.*

In addition to her stage, screen and writing credits, Cattrall is the founder of Fertile Ground Productions, a Canadian-based production company. Their first project was *Sexual Intelligence*, a feature-length HBO documentary based on her book of the same name for which she was nominated for a Gemini as Best Host or Interviewer in a General/Human Interest or Talk Program or Series.

In 2009 Cattrall was inducted into Canada’s Walk of Fame and in 2011 she was honoured by GLAAD with the prestigious Golden Gate awards for her support of the organization.

*Seth Numrich* plays Chance Wayne. Numrich recently received critical acclaim on Broadway for his role in *Golden Boy* directed by Bartlett Sher (Lincoln Center Theater) and as Albert Narracott in the Lincoln Center Theater’s heralded production of *War Horse* directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris (Dorothy Loudon Award for Excellence in the Theater, the Outer Critics Circle and Drama League Award nominations). He became the youngest person ever accepted to The Juilliard School’s theatre department at the age of sixteen and made his Broadway debut in 2010 opposite Al Pacino in *The Merchant of Venice* (The Public Theater). Off Broadway Numrich has appeared in numerous productions: *Slipping, Blind, Yosemite* (all at the Rattlestick Playwrights Theater), *On the Levee* (LCT3), *Iphigenia 2.0* (Signature Theater), *Too Much Memory, Favorites, Break My Face On Your Hand* (Rising Phoenix Rep), *Gates of Gold* (S9E59) and *Dutch Masters* (LAByrinth). His regional theatrical productions include *The History Boys* (CTG/Ahmanson Theater, Los Angeles), *The Cure at Troy* (Seattle Rep), *Measure for Measure* (Chautauqua Theater Co.), *Summer and Smoke* (Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis) and most recently the West Coast premiere of *Slipping* in which he reprised the role of Eli (Lillian Theater, Los Angeles). Numrich has also appeared on television in *Gravity*, the critically acclaimed CBS legal drama *The Good Wife* (CBS) and will soon appear in the highly-anticipated period drama pilot, *Turn* (AMC). Film credits include *Private Romeo* and *How to Kill a Mockingbird, Sweet Bird of Youth* at The Old Vic marks Numrich’s London stage debut.

*Marianne Elliott* is an Associate Director of the National Theatre, where she has directed *Port, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (West End), *Season’s Greetings, Women Beware Women, All’s Well That Ends Well, War Horse* (West End, New York – Tony Award & US Tour, Toronto, Australia), *Mrs Affleck, Harper Regan, Saint Joan* (Olivier Award for Best Revival, South Bank Show Award), *Therese Raquin* and *Pillars of the Community* (Evening Standard Best Director Award). She was an Associate Director at the Royal Court, where her productions include *Stoning Mary, Notes on Falling Leaves, The Sugar Syndrome* and *Local.*
Previously she was an Artistic Director of the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester where she directed Port, Design for Living, Les Blancs, As You Like It, A Woman of No Importance, Nude With Violin, Fast Food, Martin Yesterday, Deep Blue Sea, Mad For It, Poor Superman and I Have Been Here Before. Other theatre credits include Much Ado About Nothing for the RSC, The Little Foxes at the Donmar and Terracotta at Hampstead and Birmingham Rep. Film credits include Alice (her first short film for Ruby Films). Future theatre projects include The Light Princess (National Theatre).

**Owen Roe** plays Boss Finley. Roe is one of Ireland’s foremost film, TV and theatre actors, having most recently appeared on stage in King Lear (Abbey Theatre), directed by Selina Cartmell. His other extensive theatre credits include The Plough and the Stars (Abbey Theatre), Brian Friel’s Faith Healer, Catastrophe, Festen, Cat On a Hot Tin Roof, Da and Glengarry Glen Ross, for which he received an Irish Times Theatre Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor (Gate Theatre, Dublin). In 2011 Roe reprised his role as Hamm in Beckett’s Endgame (US tour). On television he has appeared as Brendan O’Connor in Prisoners’ Wives (ITV) as well as Single Handed, Prosperity, Val Falvey TD (RTE) and Rásaí na Gaillimhe (TG4/Great Western). Film credits include Michael Collins, Sensation and When Harvey Met Bob.

**Brid Brennan** plays Aunt Nonnie. Brennan has numerous theatre credits to her name which include Henry V (Globe), The Veil and Pillars Of The Community (National), Philadelphia Here I Come (Gaiety Theatre), Brendan At The Chelsea (Riverside Studios), Doubt (Abbey Theatre Dublin) and By The Bog Of Cats (Wyndhams). She also received an Olivier Award nomination for her role in The Little Foxes (Donmar) and for her role in Rutherford & Son (National). Brennan also received a Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in Dancing at Lughnasa (Abbey Theatre Dublin/National Theatre/West End/Broadway). Other theatre credits include A Kind Of Alaska (Donmar/Lincoln Centre NYC), Macbeth (RSC) and The Playboy Of The Western World (Druidd Theatre Co., Galway/Donmar). On television, she has appeared in The Escape Artist, Upstairs Downstairs, South Riding, Little Crackers, Dr Who and Trial & Retribution. Film credits include Shadow Dancer (Edinburgh International Film Festival Award for Best Performance in a British Feature Film 2012), Topsy Turvy and Dancing At Lughnasa (Ifta Best Actress 1999).

Further cast include: **Charles Aitken** (King Lear at the RSC and in NY, The Lady Vanishes for BBC1 and Foyle’s War for ITV); **Michael Begley**, **Daniel Bettis** (Criminal Justice and Silent Witness for the BBC, The Bill for ITV); **Ruari Cannon** (Oliver and High School Musical at The Edinburgh Playhouse, World War Z); **Emily De Cosimo**, **Louise Dylan** (Bus Stop at The Young Vic, Endeavour for ITV, Call the Midwife for the BBC), **Kurt Kansley** (Ragtime and A Midsummer Night’s Dream at Regent’s Park Theatre) **Sean McConaghy** (Calloused Hands, Troilus and Cressida at the RSC), **Katie Meekison** (Guys and Dolls and A Midsummer Night’s Dream at LAMDA), **Bryonie Pritchard** (Rope for Devonshire Park, History of the World for the BBC, ), **Lucy Robinson** (Cause Célébre at The Old Vic, Call the Midwife for the BBC, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel), **Violet Ryder** (Romeo and Juliet at The Camden People’s Theatre, Lullabies of Broadmoor at The Finborough Theatre), **Ryan Saunders** (The Madness of George III and The History Boys for Theatre Royal Bath); **Alistair Scott; Anthony Taylor** (Peer Gynt and Romeo and Juliet at the National Theatre, Kick Ass 2), **Joe Townley** (trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts); **John Trindle** (War Horse in the West End, Equus at the Theatre Royal Bath and UK tour) and **David Webber** (The Government Inspector at The Young Vic).
*Seth Numrich is appearing with the permission of UK Equity, incorporating the Variety Artistes’ Federation, pursuant to an exchange program between American Equity and UK Equity.

Director    Marianne Elliott  
Designer      Rae Smith 
Lighting      Bruno Poet  
Music & Sound Dan Jones      
Dramaturg     James Graham  
Casting       Sarah Bird 
US Casting    Daniel Swee
SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Sat 1 June – Sat 31 August 2013
Previews: 1-11 June; Press Performance: 12 June at 7pm
Mon–Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm
[Please note there are no matinee performances on Sat 1 June, Wed 5 June or Wed 12 June.]

Post Show Discussion: Mon 17 June

TICKETS: £11, £16, £21, £28, £42, £52

For more information regarding Premium Seats for all productions please call the box office.

CONCESSIONS

PwC tickets for Under 25s: 100 £12 tickets for all performances. Bookable in advance for the under 25s but tickets must be collected in person from the Box Office with proof of age.

Senior Citizens: Best available seats for £26 for all matinee performances only.

Groups 10+: £10 off top 3 prices for Mon - Wed evenings & Wed matinees when scheduled.

School Groups 10+: £12 for Mon - Wed evenings & Wed matinees when scheduled.

Disabled Patrons: Top 3 prices reduced to £21 for all performances

Previews: £5 off top 3 prices (Old Vic Friends £7.50 off)

All concessions are limited and subject to availability. All 2013 ticket prices (apart from the PwC tickets for Under 25s, local residents & schools tickets) include a £1 restoration levy.
Notes to Editors

About Bank of America Merrill Lynch and the Arts

Developing substantive solutions for social and environmental challenges is at the core of Bank of America Merrill Lynch’s mission, and the arts and culture platform is a key component of the company’s integrated corporate responsibility strategy.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch helps a broad spectrum of arts programmes thrive, encompassing sponsorships, community grants and loans to museums from the company’s own art collection. The Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Conservation Project provides grants for the restoration of paintings, sculptures, archaeological or architectural pieces that are significant to the cultural heritage of a country or region or important to the history of art in order to preserve them for future generations.

Recent and upcoming sponsorships include, Americans in Florence: Sargent and the American Impressionists at the Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (March – July 2012), Jeff Koons: The Painter & The Sculptor at Schirn Kunsthalle and the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung, Frankfurt (June – September 2012) and Roy Lichtenstein at Tate Modern, London (February – May 2013) which travels to Paris in July 2013. The company is Season Sponsor of The Old Vic in London, as well as Global Sponsor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which travelled to Russia and Italy in 2012.

Through the company’s Art in Our Communities® programme, the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Collection has been converted into a unique community resource. The collection has grown in size and scope in recent decades with artworks from numerous legacy institutions, and offers museums and non-profit galleries the opportunity to borrow complete or customised exhibitions at no cost. This helps to secure vital revenue for those institutions that may lack sufficient resources to fully curate and manage exhibitions on their own, and also guarantees that the collection is shared with as wide an audience as possible. Since its launch in late 2008, more than 50 exhibitions have been loaned to museums around the world. Shows in 2012 included Conversations at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) in Dublin, Shared Space, part of PhotoEspaña 2012, at the Real Jardín Botánico in Madrid (June – July 2012), Andy Warhol: The Portfolios at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London (June – September 2012) which is currently showing at the Museo del Novecento in Milan (April – September 2013), and Gaze: The Changing Face of Portrait Photography, at Istanbul Modern Museum (October 2012 – January 2013). Learn more at www.bankofamerica.com/about and follow us on Twitter at @BofA_Community.

For more Bank of America news, visit the Bank of America newsroom.

www.bankofamerica.com

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The Old Vic would like to thank Biffa Award for its generous donation of £50,000 towards the cost of replacing the flooring and the carpets of the Upper Circle and, thus, helping to preserve our historic theatre for posterity. Biffa Award is a multi-million pound fund which awards grants to community and environmental projects across the UK. The fund's money comes from landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Waste Services.

Since 1997, the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) has been awarding grants to environmental and community projects under the fund name Biffa Award. The fund administers money donated by Biffa Group Ltd, a leading integrated waste management business.

Under the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996, landfill operators like Biffa Group Ltd are liable for taxes on waste deposited in landfill sites. The Landfill Communities Fund allows them to donate a small percentage of their tax liability to projects working to improve communities living within the vicinity of landfill sites. To date, Biffa Award has awarded grants totalling more than £125 million to hundreds of worthwhile projects.

www.biffa-award.org
The Old Vic gratefully acknowledges an award of £5 million in 2012 from the Catalyst Arts Endowment Fund, conditional on our raising £15 million match funding by 2015.