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BERKSHIRE
THEATRE GROUP

Press Contacts:

Rebecca Brighenti, (413) 448-8084 x11
becky@berkshiretheatregroup.org
www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org

Madelyn Gardner, (413) 448-8084 x15
madelyn@berkshiretheatregroup.org
www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org

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Berkshire Theatre Group Presents Tony Award-Nominated Comedy Thriller *Deathtrap* featuring Gregg Edelman, Alison Fraser, Eric Hill, Tom Pecinka and Debra Jo Rupp

Pittsfield, MA— Berkshire Theatre Group presents Tony Award-nominated comedy thriller *Deathtrap*, featuring Gregg Edelman, Alison Fraser, Tom Pecinka, Debra Jo Rupp and Eric Hill, and directed by BTG Alum, Aaron Mark. Opening Night is Friday, July 3 at 8pm. Preview performances begin on Wednesday, July 1 at 7pm and the production closes Saturday, July 25 at 8pm.

Tickets to *Deathtrap* are \$62, all preview tickets are \$42. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield; at the Fitzpatrick Main Stage Ticket Office at 83 East Main Street, Stockbridge; by calling (413) 997-4444 or online at www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

Recognized as the longest-running comedy thriller on Broadway, *Deathtrap* is a sidesplitting romp of a play within a play. **Aaron Mark**, who brilliantly directed *The Mystery of Irma Vep* last year, directs Ira Levin's treasured Tony Award-nominated play. This witty thriller tells the tale of defeated playwright, Sidney Bruhl, played by **Gregg Edelman** (Broadway: *City of Angels*, *1776*, *Into The Woods*, *Anything Goes*; BTG: *A Little Night Music*), who would do almost anything to write a hit Broadway play. Former student, Clifford Anderson, played by **Tom Pecinka** (BTG: *Design For a Living*), tells Sidney that he's written a suspense play with a seamless plot that's sure to be Broadway-bound. When Sidney lures Clifford into his colonial style home, adorned with eclectic antique weaponry, both men's motives become unclear as unforeseen happenings unfold. Jaw-dropping hilarity ensues as the zany characters, played by **Alison Fraser** (Broadway: *The Secret Garden*, BTG: *Anna Christie*), **Debra Jo Rupp** (Television: *That 70's Show*) and **Eric Hill** (BTG: *A Christmas Carol*, *A Man for All Seasons*), weave a web of mystery in two acts.

Mark says, "*Deathtrap* ran for four years on Broadway after opening in 1978, and it's remained ubiquitous in theaters around the world. It's the play theatregoers think we know but shocks us every time. What struck me reading it again recently, though, is how eerily relevant it is prophetic, even—in our increasingly "success"—obsessed culture. Ira Levin (*Rosemary's Baby*, *The Stepford Wives*) not only created the mother of all contemporary meta-thrillers when he created *Deathtrap*, he created a potent cautionary tale about greed. As one with "thrilleritis" (Levin's term, not mine), myself, I couldn't be more thrilled that The Fitzpatrick Main Stage is the frighteningly perfect setting for this ingenious puzzle of a 'who'll-do-it.'"

Stay after the opening performance of *Deathtrap* on July 3 to sample offerings from BTG's brand new café, Jane's Café, located inside The Fitzpatrick Main Stage lobby. Jane's Café, named after Jane Fitzpatrick, will be catered by The Red Lion Inn. The menu, created by The Red Lion Inn's Executive Chef and Director of Food & Beverage, Brian Alberg, includes handcrafted sandwiches, salads and sweets.

Deathtrap

by Ira Levin

directed by Aaron Mark

featuring: Gregg Edelman, Alison Fraser, Tom Pecinka, Debra Jo Rupp and Eric Hill

at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage, Stockbridge Campus

Previews: Wednesday, July 1 and Thursday, July 2

Press Opening/Opening Night: Friday, July 3 at 8pm

Talkback: Monday, July 6 after 7pm performance

Closing: Saturday, July 25 at 8pm

Tickets: Preview: \$42

Tickets: \$62

Sponsored by: Blantyre, Country Curtains and The Red Lion Inn

Performance Dates

Wednesday, July 1 at 7pm (Preview)

Thursday, July 2 at 7pm (Preview)

Friday, July 3 at 8pm (Opening)

Saturday, July 4 at 2pm

Monday, July 6 at 7pm (Talkback)

Tuesday, July 7 at 7pm

Wednesday, July 8 at 7pm

Thursday, July 9 at 7pm

Friday, July 10 at 8pm

Saturday, July 11 at 2pm

Monday, July 13 at 7pm

Tuesday, July 14 at 7pm

Wednesday, July 15 at 7pm

Thursday, July 16 at 2pm and 7pm

Friday, July 17 at 8pm

Saturday, July 18 at 2pm and 8pm

Monday, July 20 at 7pm

Tuesday, July 21 at 7pm

Wednesday, July 22 at 7pm

Thursday, July 23 at 2pm and 7pm

Friday, July 24 at 8pm

Saturday, July 25 at 2pm and 8pm (Closing Night)

ACTOR BIOS:

Gregg Edelman (Sidney Bruhl in *Deathtrap*): is excited to return to Berkshire Theatre Group after playing Fredrik Egerman in last summer's *A Little Night Music*. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* marked the 15th Broadway production of Gregg Edelman's career. Since his first Broadway appearance in the original Broadway production of Harold Prince's *Evita*, Gregg has gone on to star in such productions as *City of Angels*, *1776*, *Into The Woods*, *Anything Goes*, *Falsettos*, *Wonderful Town*, and *Cabaret*. He has earned four Tony-Award nominations for his performances, as well as numerous other honors including the Drama Desk Award. Recent credits include the record-breaking world premiere production of A.R. Gurney's *Black Tie* at Primary Stages, Sweeney in the critically acclaimed production of *Sweeney Todd at the Drury Lane Theater* in Chicago, and the award-winning George Street Theatre production of *12 Angry Men* in which he portrayed Juror #8, a role made famous by Henry Fonda. Film credits include: *Little Children*, *Spiderman2*, *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *City by The Sea*, *Green Card*, *Hollywood Ending*, *Liberal Arts* and the just completed *Jane Wants A Boyfriend* and *Market Trip*. He was a regular on the CBS series *Hack*; has guest-starred on numerous television series such as *30 Rock*, *The Good Wife*, *Blue Bloods*, *Law and Order*, *Law and Order SVU*, and *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*; and no list of Gregg's television work would be complete without mentioning the time he spent as the voice of the peanut M&M. His concert and recording work have given him the opportunity

to travel all over the world, appearing with such orchestras as the Boston Pops, the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Symphony, as well as the Philadelphia and Chicago Pops. His many appearances at Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops have allowed him to help honor such friends as John Kander, Fred Ebb, and Charles Strouse. He has also grown to love performing solo concerts in such intimate rooms as Feinstein's. These smaller venues give him a chance to perform great music in a subtler and more personal way. His 17 recordings of Broadway shows include the cast albums of *City of Angels*, *Wonderful Town*, *1776*, and *Into The Woods* and studio recordings of *On The Town*, *Cabaret*, *Anything Goes* and *Sweet Charity*.

Alison Fraser (Myra Bruhl in *Deathtrap*): Ms. Fraser made her BTF debut as Marthy in *Anna Christie* directed by David Auburn. She is a two-time Tony-Award nominee for *The Secret Garden* and *Romance/Romance*. Also on Broadway, she was Dorine in *Tartuffe*; *Born Again*, Helena in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and most recently, Tessie Tura in Arthur Laurents' acclaimed production of *Gypsy* starring Patti Lupone. She co-starred with Nathan Lane and Marion Seldes in the world premiere of Terrence McNally's *Dedication, or the Stuff of Dreams*. Other Off- Broadway roles Alison has created include: Arsinoé in *The School For Lies*, Sister Walburga in *The Divine Sister*, and Trina in *March of the Falsettos* and *In Trousers*. Film and TV credits include: *Happyish*, *Smash*, *It Could Be Worse*, *Between the Lions*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Thing About My Folks*, and Aaron Marks' *Commentary*. She can be heard on thousands of radio and television commercials, *Grand Theft Auto 3* and *Grand Theft Auto 5*, and innumerable audiobooks.

Eric Hill (Porter Milgrim in *Deathtrap*): directed Berkshire Theatre Group's production of *Poe*, *Benefactors*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Oklahoma!*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Who's Tommy* as well as *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* at the Neil Ellenoff Stage at the Mount. Additional BTG directing credits include *Macbeth*, *Endgame*, *Faith Healer*, *The Einstein Project*, *Amadeus*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *The Caretaker*. Previous acting credits include the title role in *A Christmas Carol*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *Dimetos* and *The Father*.

Tom Pecinka (Clifford Anderson in *Deathtrap*): is thrilled to be returning to BTG after appearing in Noel Coward's *Design For Living* and John Willard's *The Cat and the Canary*. His New York/Regional credits include *Arcadia* (Yale Repertory Theatre); *The Soldiers Tale* (with Michael Cerveris at Carnegie Hall); *The Germ Project* (New Georges); *As You Like It*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Shakespeare on the Sound), *Losing Tom Pecinka* (HERE Arts); *Exquisite Corpse* (Clubbed Thumb); *There Will Be Snacks* (Incubator Arts Project); *Dar and Matey's Christmas SpectaculARGH!* (Vampire Cowboys); *Richard 3* (New York International Fringe Festival); *The Martian Chronicles* (Fordham Alumni Company). Tom is a founding member of the New York-based theatre company Morgan Gould and Friends. MFA Yale School of Drama.

Debra Jo Rupp (Helga Ten Dorp in *Deathtrap*): BTG: *Mornings at Seven*. Broadway: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* with Kathleen Turner. Off Broadway: Dr. Ruth Westheimer in *Becoming Dr. Ruth* (Nominations: Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Connecticut Critics Circle) at the Westside Arts Theatre, following successful runs at Barrington Stage Company and TheaterWorks Hartford; *A Girl's Guide to Chaos*, directed by Wynn Handman; *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* directed by Paul Benedict; *The Butcher of Baraboo* directed by Judith Ivy. Berkshire Regional: *Annapurna* (TheaterWorks Hartford) *Madagascar*, *Body of Water* (Chester Theater) *True West*, *A Flea in Her Ear* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Television: *That 70's Show* (Kitty Forman, 8 seasons), recurring roles on several shows including *Friends* and *Seinfeld*, HBO's *From The Earth to the Moon* directed by Sally Field. Films include: *She Wants Me*, *She's Out of My League*, *Kickin' It Old School*, *Sgt Bilko*, *Clockwatchers* and her first film *Big* with Tom Hanks.

DIRECTOR BIO:

Aaron Mark: is most recently the writer-director of *Another Medea*, starring Tom Hewitt, presented by All For One at The Wild Project. Other directing credits include: *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (Berkshire Theatre Festival), Ben Rimalower's *Patti Issues* and *Bad With Money* (Duplex and tours) and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (BC/EFA at New World Stages). As a writer, his plays have been developed by New York Theatre Workshop, Labyrinth Theater Company, the Cherry Lane Theatre, Theater for the New City, the Blank Theatre, and American Theater Group. His independent feature films (as writer-director) are *Commentary*, *Random*

Unrelated Projects, Zbornik Developing, and Do Not Duplicate (upcoming). He is a NYTW Usual Suspect and he does not have aaronmark.com because it belongs to a German gay porn star with the same name, so his website is aaronmark.info.

For more information about Berkshire Theatre Group and our upcoming season, please visit www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org

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About Berkshire Theatre Group

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. Having united in November of 2010 under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, these two institutions are providing the Berkshires and beyond with the finest in live theatre, music, dance and the visual arts in Stockbridge, MA and Pittsfield, MA. The Fitzpatrick Main Stage (300 seats), cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, was originally designed and built by Stanford White as the Stockbridge Casino in 1888. The intimate Unicorn Theatre (122 seats) is a home for emerging artists and new theatrical ideas. The Colonial in Pittsfield (780 seats) re-opened in August of 2006, following a \$21 million restoration, and boasts pristine acoustics, classic gilded age architecture and state-of-the-art technical systems. BTG also performs at The Garage, a music venue located in the lobby of The Colonial. BTG serves over 100,000 patrons per year and reaches over 13,000 students through its educational and outreach programs. To purchase tickets, call (413) 997-4444 or go online to www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org.