

FLORIDA REP



2011-2012

HISTORIC ARCADE THEATRE • FORT MYERS RIVER DISTRICT
ROBERT CACIOPPO, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS

The Mystery of Irma Vep

A PENNY DREADFUL

BY CHARLES LUDLAM

SPONSORED BY
NAOMI BLOOM & RON WALLACE and NORTHERN TRUST BANK

STARRING
MARK CHAMBERS* • BRAD DePLANCHE*

DIRECTED BY
CHRIS CLAVELLI**

SET DESIGNER
RICHARD CROWELL

LIGHTING DESIGNER
MATTHEW F. McCARTHY***

COSTUME DESIGNER
MARY LYNNE IZZO

SOUND DESIGNER
KATE SMITH

STAGE MANAGER
JANINE WOCHNA*

ASST. STAGE MANAGERS
JUSTIN CORNELL
TRACY MARIE HOIDA

DIALECT COACH
GREG LONGENHAGEN

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP – A PENNY DREADFUL is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

2011-12 GRAND SEASON SPONSORS



The Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation • Bruce & Janet Bunch • Cheryl & David Copham
Gholi & Georgia Darehshori • John & Marjorie Madden • Arthur Zupko

This entire season sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Florida Repertory Theatre is a fully professional non-profit LOA/LORT Theatre company on contract with the Actors' Equity Association that proudly employs members of the national theatrical labor unions. *Member of Actors' Equity Association. **Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. ***Member of United Scenic Artists.

CAST LIST

Jane Twisden.....	MARK CHAMBERS*
Nicodemus Underwood.....	BRAD DePLANCHE*
Lady Enid Hillcrest.....	BRAD DePLANCHE*
Lord Edgar Hillcrest.....	MARK CHAMBERS*
An Intruder.....	MARK CHAMBERS*
Alcazar.....	BRAD DePLANCHE*
Pev Amiri.....	BRAD DePLANCHE*
Irma Vep.....	???

TIME & PLACE

In the library drawing room of "Mandacrest," the Hillcrest estate near Hampstead Heath, between the wars; and various places in Egypt.

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

CHARLES LUDLAM (Playwright) had prolific theatre career working as an actor, playwright, director, producer and teacher. Ludlam's interest in theatre began at an early age and by the time he was in high school he was performing with the Township Theatre Group and Huntington's community theatre. He received a drama scholarship to Hofstra University, where he received a B.A. in Dramatic Literature in 1965. After graduating from college, he went on to join John Vaccaro's Play-House of the Ridiculous, but after a falling out with Vaccaro he left and founded The Ridiculous Theatrical Company in New York City. Ludlam wrote numerous plays while at The Ridiculous Theatre Company including *Big Hotel*, *Bluebeard*, *Eunuchs of the Forbidden City* and *The Mystery of Irma Vep*. In addition to his work at The Ridiculous Theatre Company, he conducted many workshops at prestigious schools such as New York University, Connecticut College for Women, Yale University, and Carnegie Mellon University. Ludlam won fellowships from the Guggenheim, Rockefeller and Ford Foundations and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts. He also won four Obie Awards (Off-Broadway Theatre Awards), the last one 2 weeks before his death. For his distinguished achievement in the theater Ludlam received the Rosamund Gilder Award in 1986.



Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American Actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org.

*The Actors & Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The Designers at this Theatre are Represented by
United Scenic Artists • Local USA 829
 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

*The Mystery of
 Irma Vep*

CREATIVE TEAM



MARK CHAMBERS*

made his Florida Rep debut in 2006 as Oscar Wilde (and other roles) in *Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror*.

Now a permanent member of the Florida Rep ensemble, Mark has

been seen in *TRU, It's a Wonderful Life, Rumors, King o' the Moon, August: Osage County, Boeing-Boeing, Breaking Legs, A Funny Thing...Forum, Rounding Third, Scapino, The Rainmaker and Enchanted April*. His work with other theatres includes Actors Theatre of Louisville, Portland Center Stage, City Theatre, 42nd Street Moon, American Stage, Charleston Stage Company, and extensively with Daytona's Seaside Music Theatre and the Hippodrome State Theatre in Gainesville, Florida. Mark's film work includes the recently released *Baby Jane?* and *I Want to Get Married*, and he can also be heard on the CD, "Veil of Tears", by the Swiss group, MGY. Mark is the 2006 Florida Theatre Conference honoree for Distinguished Career in Professional Theatre.



BRAD DePLANCHE*

has been a proud ensemble acting member here at Florida Rep this season, having played Ken in *Rumors*, Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Nick in *Bedroom Farce* and many

roles in last season's *The 39 Steps*. Recent work; both Dromios in Danny Scheie's acclaimed production of *The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare Santa Cruz), Porthos in *The Three Musketeers* (People's Light and Theatre Company) and Pseudolus in *Forum* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival). Off-Off Broadway; *China; The Whole Enchilada* (World Premiere- NY Fringe), *Gameshow!* (Dodger Theatricals) *Cloud Nine* (Classic Stage Company) and *Armchair in Hell* (Theatre at St. Clements). Regional Theatre; Actors Theatre of Louisville (5 Seasons), American Conservatory Theater, South Coast Repertory, Syracuse Stage, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cape Playhouse, Florida Studio Theatre, Hangar Theatre, B Street Theatre and Seattle Shakespeare Company. Upcoming: *The Tempest*

at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare; Abridged* at Orlando Shakespeare Theater. Brad hails from Michigan and holds an MFA from the American Conservatory Theatre. Go Blue!

CHRIS CLAVELLI* (Director)

is the Associate Artistic Director of Florida Repertory Theatre. He was honored with an Alan Schnieder Directing Award nomination through Theater Communications Group. He was a founding member and co-artistic director of The Neighborhood Theatre for Kids in Brooklyn. Directing credits: At Florida Rep: *Black Tie, Sideman, Trying, Rounding Third, Alone Together, The Foreigner, The Glass Menagerie, The Santaland Diaries* and *The Lady with All The Answers*. The Virginia Stage Company: *Irma Vep, Vaudeville* and *Rough Crossing*; Off Square Theatre: *All in the Timing, Stones in His Pockets*; Two River Theatre Company: *House of Blue Leaves* and 16 productions for The Depot Theatre, most recently *The Drawer Boy* starring John Christopher Jones. Other theatres: Theatre South Carolina, the New York Fringe Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, (Solo Mio), the Southwest Florida Symphony, Symphony Space, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, Chenango River Theatre, Riverside Theatre, Neighborhood Theatre of Kids, and the famed Actors Studio. As an actor he has worked here at Florida Rep in 14 productions and all over the country. He is the recipient of both the Carbonell and Barrymore Awards. His one-man play, *A Little More Than You Wanted to Spend* recently played Theatre South Carolina and is slated for a New York production in the fall. For Jay and Lee.

RICHARD CROWELL (Set Designer)

is thrilled to return to Florida Repertory Theatre, to be a part of this wonderful production, and to work once again with the extraordinary staff at Florida Rep. Richard has been a part of various Florida Repertory productions since the inaugural season in the Historic Arcade Theatre, and has been designing scenery and lighting for the stage for over 30 years. He received his MFA from the Stage Design Training Program at Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University and a BFA from Memphis State University.



CREATIVE TEAM

GREG LONGENHAGEN (*Dialect Coach*) is thrilled to be back at the Florida Repertory Theatre, where he's appeared in numerous shows over the Reps fourteen remarkable seasons. Last seen by Florida Rep audiences as Steve Heidebrecht in *August: Osage County*, his other credits include performances at Charlotte Repertory Theatre, Riverside Theatre, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, Florida Stage, Pittsburgh Playhouse, Quantum Theatre, Trilogy Theatre, Pennsylvania Stage Company, The Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival, Philadelphia Shakespeare, The Pantages Theatre, The Fulton Theatre, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Opera Delaware, St. Vincent Theatre, Theatre Row Theatre, and Stage Right. Greg appeared Off-Broadway as Miles in the acclaimed production of *Driving Miles* for Young Playwrights Inc. His Film & Television credits include *Darrow* with Kevin Spacey, *Milk Money*, *Royal Faceoff*, and *As the World Turns*. Greg holds an MFA from the University of Pittsburgh and certified S.A.F.D. at Carnegie Mellon University. He would like to send a very special "thank you" to his loving family and especially Liz, Liza Jayne and Baby Jack!

ROBERTA MALCOLM (*Resident Costume Coordinator*) After 25 years traveling the country as a costumer/designer for everyone from community theatre performers to Florence Henderson, John Ritter, LeVar Burton, Tony Bennett, Patti LaBelle, Margaret O'Brien, Dean Jones, and Cloris Leachman, Roberta is pleased to be returning for her eighth season at the Florida Rep. Favorite productions include: *Gaslight*, *Boeing-Boeing*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *My Three Angels*, *Florida Follies* starring Florence Henderson, *Too Big to be a Waitress*, *Show Boat* (Dean Jones and Cloris Leachman national tour), *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Curly McDimple* starring Margaret O'Brien, *Blithe Spirit*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *A Funny Thing...Forum*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Cinderella – a Rock Fairy Tale*. Thanks to Sean, Becca, Jon, Bob – family always; and to the Florida Rep and its board for the opportunity to showcase the best theatre around.

MATTHEW McCARTHY* (*Lighting Designer*)** Previous productions at Florida Rep include; *Sylvia*, *Born Yesterday*, *Dancing At Lughnasa* and *Opus*. Design credits include; *Blue Man Group* in New York, Boston and Chicago; *Lost In Yonkers*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and

Broadway Bound at The Old Globe; *Dracula* at Alabama Shakespeare Festival; *Engaging Shaw*, *Rum & Coke*, *Texas Homos*, and many other plays for Abingdon Theatre Co.; over 60 musicals for Stages St. Louis; New Harmony Theatre Co.; *Collected Stories* starring Lynn Redgrave for Contemporary Stage Co. Opera credits include; Arizona Opera, Connecticut Opera, Curtis Institute of Music, Juilliard Opera Co., Houston Grand Opera, Tanglewood Opera. Member United Scenic Artists Local 829. www.mccarthylighting.com

KATE SMITH (*Sound Designer*) is happy to return for her third season at Florida Rep. She is a native of Pennsylvania and a graduate from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). She served as the Sound and Lighting Designer for Florida Rep's studio productions of *Tru*, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, *The Santaland Diaries* (2009, 2010 & 2011), and *The Lady with All the Answers*, as well as last seasons main stage production of *King o' the Moon*. Select lighting design credits include: *Picnic* (2009 KC/ACTF Region II Barbizon Award in Lighting Design for IUP), *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* with Florida Rep and *Evil Dead the Musical* for Keystone Rep. Select sound design credits include: Florida Rep's *Red*, *Bedroom Farce*, *God of Carnage*, *Rumors*, *Sylvia*, *August: Osage County*, *Trying and You Can't Take It With You*. Kate has also worked for Brevard Music Center, NC as Master Electrician, as the light board operator at Flat Rock Playhouse, NC. This past summer she worked as the Lighting Designer for IUP's Keystone Rep and part of the staff for the Footlight Players.

JANINE WOCHNA* (*Production Stage Manager*) is delighted to return to the Florida Rep having previously stage managed *Red*, *King o' the Moon*, *The Lady with All the Answers*, *The Rainmaker*, *Rounding Third*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Broadway Bound*, *Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Middle Ages*, *My Three Angels* and *A Dash of Rosemary*. Janine served as a resident stage manager at the Geva Theatre in Rochester, NY where her credits include: *Two Trains Running*, *Almost Maine*, *The Clean House*, *Evie's Waltz*, *ROOMS: a rock romance*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Bad Dates*, *Doubt*, *The Underpants* and as assistant stage manager for *Five Course Love*, *Ella*, *Souvenir*, *Fences*, *Sweeney Todd*, *A Christmas Story*, *Menopause the Musical*, *The House in*

The Mystery of
Irma Vep

CREATIVE TEAM

Hydesville, Pride and Prejudice, Cabaret and *A Christmas Carol*. Regional theater credits include: *Tea at Five* with Kate Mulgrew, Ken Ludwig's *Leading Ladies, Last Night of Ballyhoo, A Kiss for Cinderella* and *Two Trains Running* (Cleveland Play House); *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Indiana Rep); *All the King's Men* (Arkansas Rep). She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and she is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association since 1994.

JUSTIN CORNELL (Assistant Stage Manager) is a stage management and production intern at Florida Rep, where he was previously assistant stage manager for *Black Tie, Bedroom Farce*, and *It's A Wonderful Life*. He is grateful for this opportunity to learn from and work alongside established theater professionals. Selected recent stage manager credits: *Bongani* at Manhattan Theatre Source (FringeNYC '11),

Wanderlust at the Robert Moss Theatre (NY), *Medea & Medea/For Medea* at Incubator Arts (NY), *Taming of the Shrew* at Ramapo College (NJ), *At Sixes And Sevens* at the Gene Frankel Theatre (NY), and *Two Girls* at the Connelly Theatre (NY).

TRACY MARIE HOIDA (Assistant Stage Manager) is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside with a B.A. in theatre arts with a focus in stage management. She hails from Manitowoc, WI. She worked on numerous shows during her academic stay at UW-Parkside as both an assistant stage manager and stage manager. She served as fine arts office assistant and house manager as well. Professionally, she has worked for numerous theaters over the summers, including the Santa Fe Opera and Cortland Repertory Theatre in central New York.

FLORIDA REP EDUCATION PRESENTS Two Classic Musicals Performed by Florida Rep's Rising Stars!



by Roald Dahl
Friday, June 1 @ 7pm
Saturday, June 2 @ 2 & 7pm

A FANTASY RIDE INTO THE LAND OF
PURE IMAGINATION!

**ONLY 3
PERFORMANCES
EACH!
GET YOUR TICKETS
TODAY!**



by Steven Schwartz
Friday, June 15 @ 7pm
Saturday, June 16 @ 2 & 7pm

A HIP & SATIRICAL STORY FULL OF
INTRIGUE, TEMPTATION & FUN!

Tickets: Adults \$20 • Students \$10
FloridaRepEducation.org • 239.332.4665 x20

Florida Rep's Educational Programs are Sponsored By Grampy's Charities, Arthur Zupko, City of Fort Myers Public Art Committee, LOEC, Alliance for the Arts, Florida Theatrical Association, Publix Charities, Edison & Ford Winter Estates and SWFL Parent & Child Magazine.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Staging Matters, LLC

Getting ready to sell your house? We can help!
239-939-3200 • StagingMatters.net
2053 W. First St. Fort Myers, 33901

Bruce Strayhorn • Jason Tate • Herb Strauss Theatre • Spirits of Bacchus • Joyce Waltman