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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***VANYA and SONIA and MASHA and SPIKE***

Tony Award winning comedy filled with sibling rivalry, costume parties, and voodoo dolls

May 15 – June 28, 2015

ATLANTA – Christopher Durang’s Tony Award winning comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* makes its Atlanta debut May 15. A Co-Production with Aurora Theatre, this “deliriously funny” comedy with a Chekhovian flare runs through June 28 at Horizon Theatre in Little Five Points (Euclid and Austin Avenues in Little Five Points, 1083 Austin Avenue NE). Performances are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8:30pm and Sundays at 5pm. Tickets start at \$25 and are available at [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com) or 404-584-7450.

"In my 20s, I read Chekhov's plays and loved them. My impetus for *Vanya*... was the realization that I am now the age of Chekhov's older characters. And I found myself wanting to write a comic play — not a parody, but its own thing.," said playwright Christopher Durang in an interview. "Set in Bucks County (PA) in the present. So I took themes and characters from Chekhov, and put them into a comic blender."

This New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play winner is laced with farce, filled with possibilities, and even a has a strip tease. *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* is sure to delight audiences with its Chekhovian flared themes on family, dreams, and the ever present question “What if?”

**STORY**

In this hilarious comedy, Vanya and his adopted sister, Sonia, live a quiet life in the Pennsylvania farmhouse where they grew up, while their sister Masha travels the world as a movie star. Just as their cleaning woman issues a warning about terrible events in their future, Masha returns for an unannounced visit with her 20-something boy-toy Spike in tow. **And so begins this unforgettable family reunion filled with rivalry, regret, and racket. Winner of the Tony Award for Best Play!**

**PLAYWRIGHT**

Christopher Durang (Playwright) won the 2013 Tony Award for Best Play for *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. His works include *A History of the American Film* (Tony nomination, Best Book of a Musical); *The Actor’s Nightmare*; *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* (Obie Award); *Beyond Therapy, Baby with the Bathwater* (Playwrights Horizons); *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* (Public Theater, Obie Award and Dramatists Guild Hull Warriner Award); *Laughing Wild* (Playwrights Horizons); *Durang/Durang* (an evening of six plays at Manhattan

Theatre Club); *Sex and Longing* (Lincoln Center Theater); *Betty's Summer Vacation* (Playwrights Horizons, Obie Award); *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* (City Theatre in Pittsburgh); *Adrift in Macao* (a musical written with composer Peter Melnick, at Philadelphia Stage Company); *Miss Witherspoon* (McCarter Theatre and Playwrights Horizons, Pulitzer Prize finalist) and *Why Torture is Wrong*, and the *People Who Loved Them* (Public Theater). Durang has a BA from Harvard College and an MFA in playwriting from Yale School of Drama. Since 1994 he and Marsha Norman have been co-chairs of the Playwriting Program at the Juilliard School. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild's council and lives in Pennsylvania.

## **DIRECTOR**

Justin Anderson has worked as a freelance professional director whose work has earned him both popular and critical praise. Theatre critic Brad Rudy says Anderson's work is "a quickly-becoming-overwhelming list of successful stagings" (AtlantaTheatreBuzz, April 15, 2012). And he shows no signs of slowing down any time soon. The current Atlanta professional theatre season has Justin running the gamut from new works to classics, plays to musicals, holiday shows to family-friendly fare. Mr. Anderson also serves as the casting director for Theatrical Outfit, the third oldest professional theatre company in Atlanta, Georgia. Artistic associations include Theatrical Outfit, Synchronicity Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse and Pinch 'N' Ouch Theatre. While studying directing at Rutgers University, Justin had the privilege to work with Amy Saltz, Pam Berlin, William Carden, and Deborah Headwall. He holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Campbell University. His work has been seen at regional theatres in the Atlanta area including Alliance Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Aurora Theatre, Actor's Express, 7 Stages, Synchronicity Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, Dad's Garage, Pinch 'N' Ouch Theatre, Stage Door Players and Working Title Playwrights. He recently won the 2013 Suzi Bass Award for "Outstanding Director of a Musical" for his work on *Les Miserables* at Aurora Theatre. Justin is also a faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University.

## **CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

The ensemble cast features many Horizon Theatre favorites and a debut performance! Fresh from *The Waffle Palace* Lala Cochran brings back her comedic chops. Bill Murphy returns to Horizon Theatre after last being in Gene Gabriel Moore recipient *Third Country*. From Aurora Theatre's critically acclaimed *Clybourne Park*, Tess Malis Kincaid joins her former *Third Country* cast member. Denise Arribas and Danielle Deadwyler round out the returning members of Horizon's family after taking the stage together in *The Book Club Play*. Edward McCreary makes his Horizon Theatre debut as Spike after last being seen in Serenbe Playhouse's production of *Oklahoma* with cast member Lala Cochran.

**Multiple Suzi Award winning set designers Moriah and Isabel Curley-Clay** (*Time Stands Still*, *The Waffle Palace*, *Avenue Q*, *Right On*, *Detroit*, *Grand Concourse*) are back at Horizon to create the siblings Pennsylvania home. Also returning is Suzi Award winning resident lighting designer **Mark Parker** (*The Waffle Palace*, *Avenue Q*, *Detroit*, *Grand Concourse*).

## **TICKETING INFORMATION**

The show runs May 15 – June 28, 2015. Performances are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; and Sunday at 5 p.m.

General admission tickets start at \$25, and ticket prices are subject to change based on availability. Order early to get the best prices. Eight percent sales tax will be added to all ticket orders. Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more – call for more information. Internet convenience fee added to all online orders. No refunds, exchanges, or late seating.

This play contains adult content, and is recommended for ages 14 and up.

Tickets may be ordered by phone at 404.584.7450 or online at [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com).

#### **CAST**

Vanya	Bill Murphey
Sonia	Lala Cochran
Masha	Tess Malis Kincaid
Nina	Danielle Deadwyler
Cassandra	Denise Arribas

\*Member of Actors Equity Association

#### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Director	Justin Anderson
Playwright	Christopher Durang
Scenic Design	Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay
Costume Design	Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay
Lighting Design	Mary Parker
Sound Design	Thom Jenkins
Stage Manager	Katie Pelkey

#### **ABOUT HORIZON THEATRE COMPANY**

Horizon Theatre Company, 1083 Austin Avenue, connects people, inspires hope and promotes positive change through the stories of our times. We produce professional area and world premieres of smart, funny and provocative contemporary plays. For more information about tickets, group sales, or to receive a season brochure, call 404.584.7450 or visit [horizontheatre.com](http://horizontheatre.com).

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