



**PHYLICIA RASHAD WILL LEAD THE NATION'S TOP REGIONAL-THEATRE ACTORS
AS MASTER TEACHER FOR THE 2015 LUNT-FONTANNE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

*ACTORS TO CONVENE FOR MASTER CLASS AND IMMERSION EXPERIENCE AT
HISTORIC TEN CHIMNEYS ~ JULY 12-19, 2015*



Phylicia Rashad, 2015 Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program Master Teacher

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GENESEE DEPOT, WI - Ten Chimneys Foundation has announced Tony Award winner Phylicia Rashad will serve as the Master Teacher for the 2015 Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program, a national program to serve the future of American theatre.

July 12-19, ten of the nation's top regional theatre actors will join Ms. Rashad for an intensive, weeklong master class and immersion experience at Ten Chimneys, the National Historic Landmark estate of theatre legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne in Genesee Depot, Wisconsin.

The following are the ten actors who have been selected as the 2015 Lunt-Fontanne Fellows, with their nominating theatres:

- LARRY BATES – South Coast Repertory (Costa Mesa, CA)
- EDWARD GERO – Goodman Theatre (Chicago, IL)
- ALLEN GILMORE – Yale Repertory Theatre (New Haven, CT)
- PHYLLIS KAY – Trinity Repertory Company (Providence, RI)
- GRETCHEN KRICH – Seattle Repertory Theatre (Seattle, WA)
- TIMOTHY MCCUEN PIGGEE – Arizona Theatre Company (Tucson, AZ)



- LIZ MIKEL – Dallas Theater Center (Dallas, TX)
- NATHANIEL STAMPLEY – Milwaukee Repertory Theater (Milwaukee, WI)
- ED SWIDEY – The Wilma Theater (Philadelphia, PA)
- HOLLY TWYFORD – Arena Stage (Washington, DC)

“In my experience, teaching and directing have one great thing in common: I never know what is going to happen until I am in the room with the people. But, one thing is certain: As surely as we hold the intention to explore the truth of human behavior, the results are astonishing.”

– **Phylicia Rashad, 2015 Master Teacher**

Our 2015 Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Class will delve into roles that are “against type” and will allow our ten Fellows to engage in parts that differentiate from the characters they may typically play.

Since its inception in 2009, the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program, conceived and executed by Ten Chimneys Foundation, has brought the nation’s top regional theatre actors to Ten Chimneys to work with a world renowned Master Teacher. Past Master Teachers include **Lynn Redgrave, Barry Edelstein, Olympia Dukakis, Joel Grey, Alan Alda, and David Hyde Pierce**. Through this groundbreaking national program, the top actors in the country are given a rare and deeply needed opportunity to grow artistically, renew their passion for their art form, deepen their commitment to mentorship, and form a national community of Lunt-Fontanne Fellows.

“The Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program is the preeminent program for our country’s top regional theatre actors; the celebrated mentors of their communities, the best-of-the-best. Ten Chimneys Foundation is honored to welcome Ms. Phylicia Rashad to our distinguished list of Master Class teachers. We’ve been watching Ms. Rashad’s career for years; she is highly respected within the theatre community as an award-winning actor/director and masterful teacher - we’re thrilled she will be sharing her expertise with our 2015 Fellows. She possesses the high standards and compliments of skills that make for a magnificent teacher. I’m looking forward to another memorable week at Ten Chimneys that will transcend all boundaries as our actors explore “against type”.

– **Randy Bryant, President & CEO, Ten Chimneys Foundation**

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITIES

At the close of the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program guests are invited to attend two public programs. On Friday, July 17, Ten Chimneys Foundation will present *A Conversation with Phylicia Rashad*, an intimate evening during which Ms. Rashad will share stories about her life and career. On Saturday, July 18, Ms. Rashad and the ten 2015 Lunt-Fontanne Fellows will take the stage together for a *Concluding Presentation*, a rare look at the work they explored during their week at Ten Chimneys, as well as a one-night-only program highlighting the remarkable actors chosen as 2015 Lunt-Fontanne Fellows.

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, April 7th. More information, including ticket prices and program details, can be found at www.tenchimneys.org, or by calling (262) 968-4110.

ABOUT PHYLICIA RASHAD – 2015 MASTER TEACHER

Ms. Phylicia Rashad became a household name for her portrayal of Claire Huxtable on *The Cosby Show*, a character whose appeal has earned her accolades for over two decades. While TV was a catalyst in the rise of her career, she has been a constant force on the stage. Ms. Rashad received both the Drama Desk



and the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play for her riveting performance as Lena Younger in the Broadway revival of *A Raisin in the Sun*. Her Broadway theatre credits include *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (a role that she reprised on the London Stage), *August Osage County*, *Cymbeline*, *Gem of the Ocean* (Tony Award nomination), *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Into the Woods*, *Dreamgirls*, and *The Wiz*. Her off-Broadway theatre credits include *Bernarda Alba*, *Helen*, *The Story*, *Everybody's Ruby*, *Puppet Play*, *Zooman and the Sign*, *Sons and Fathers of Sons*, *In an Upstate Motel*, *Weep Not for Me*, *The Great MacDaddy*, *The Duplex*, and *The Sirens*. Ms. Rashad has received rave reviews for her directorial work, including *Gem of the Ocean*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and *Fences*. Her film credits include Tyler Perry's *Good Deeds*, and Perry's highly acclaimed film version of Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf*.

Respected in the academic world, Ms. Rashad was the first recipient of the Denzel Washington Chair in Theatre at Fordham University. She holds Honorary Doctorates from Fordham University, Carnegie Mellon University, Howard University, Providence College, Morris Brown College, Clark Atlanta University, Barber Scotia College, St. Augustine College, Brown University, and Spelman College. She has been awarded numerous honors including the 2015 BET Honors Theatrical Arts Award, Texas Medal of Arts, the National Council of Negro Women's Dorothy L. Height Dreammaker Award, AFTRA's AMEE Award for Excellence in Entertainment, the Board of Directors of New York Women In Film and Television's Muse Award for Outstanding Vision and Achievement, Dallas Women In Film Topaz Award, Peoples' Choice Awards, several NAACP Image Awards, and the Pan African Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Rashad serves on the Advisory Board of the PRASAD Project and the Board of Directors of True Colors Theatre, the Broadway Inspirational Voices, The Actors Center, the Center for African American Studies at Princeton University, and the ADEPT Center- which is steering the restoration of the historic Brainerd Institute.

TEN CHIMNEYS FOUNDATION - PROGRAM HOST

The one-of-a-kind Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program takes place at Ten Chimneys - the National Historic Landmark estate lovingly created by theatre legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, widely considered the greatest acting couple in the history of American theatre. This beguiling Wisconsin landmark offers a one-of-a-kind environment for the work of the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program. Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne constructed Ten Chimneys to be the perfect working retreat for themselves and a circle of friends comprising the best-of-the-best in American theatre. This historic context, and the inherent inspiration of Ten Chimneys, is why Lynn Redgrave said that "this program simply couldn't happen anywhere else," and why participating Fellows have all talked about the experience being "transformative." Today, Ten Chimneys is open to the public as a House Museum and a national resource for American theatre.

Ten Chimneys is a proud recipient of funds from the Wisconsin Arts Board.



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PRESS OPPORTUNITY



Ms. Rashad is graciously making herself available to the press during her week at Ten Chimneys (July 12-19). To be part of the week, please contact:

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