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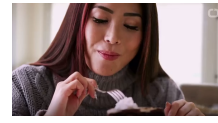


Photo Flash: First Look at HARD TIMES at Lookingglass Theatre

by BWW News Desk Oct. 11, 2017



Lookingglass Theatre Company opens its 30th Anniversary Season with the return of award-winning, circus-infused *Hard Times*, adapted and directed by Artistic Director **Heidi Stillman** from the book by **Charles Dickens** and in collaboration with The Actors Gymnasium. *Hard Times* runs now through January 14, 2018 at **Lookingglass Theatre Company**, located inside Chicago's historic Water Tower Water Tower at 821 N Michigan Ave at Pearson. The Press Opening is this Saturday, October 14, 2017, and BroadwayWorld has a first look at the cast in action below!

A Dickensian carnival of characters inhabits the streets of smoke-choked Coketown: grim Mr. Gradgrind's school churns out joyless students; poor Stephen Blackpool toils in the nearby mines; and mill-owner Mr. Bounderby, full of bluster and bombast, presides over it all. Only when a traveling circus alights nearby, and young orphan Sissy Jupe enters their world, does a ray of hope shine through. Artistic Director **Heidi Stillman** adapts and directs this timeless love-letter to the power of beauty, hope, and imagination.

Returning to *Hard Times* are Ensemble Members **David Catlin** (returning to the role of Stephen and Sleary), **Raymond Fox** (returning to the role of Mr. Gradgrind, Sissy's Father and Slackbridge), **Louise Lamson** (in the role of Rachael, Mrs. Gradgrind and Scherezade through 12/17) and Artistic Associate **Troy West** (returning to the role of Mr. Bounderby). The cast also includes Artistic Associate **Atra Asdou** (Rachael, Mrs. Gradgrind and Scherezade beginning 12/19), with **Audrey Anderson** (Sissy), **Amy J. Carle** (Mrs. Sparsit, Drunk Woman and Pufferumpus), Raphael Cruz (Bitzer and Le Papillon), **Cordelia Dewdney** (Louisa), **Marilyn Dodds Frank** (returning to the role of Mrs. Pegler), **Nathan Hosner** (Mr. Harthouse, Mr. M'Choakumchild and Kidderminster) and **JJ Phillips** (Tom).

The creative team for *Hard Times* includes Ensemble Members **Daniel Ostling** (returning scenic designer) and **Mara Blumenfeld** (returning costume designer), Artistic Associates **Brian Sidney Bembridge** (returning lighting designer), **Andre Pluess** (returning sound designer and original composition) and Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi (returning circus choreography) with Amanda Herrmann (props design), Isaac Schoepp (rigging) and **Eva Breneman** (dialect coach). The stage manager is Jeri Frederickson.

For season subscription and ticket information, call the Lookingglass Theatre box office at (312) 337-0665 or visit lookingglasstheatre.org.

Photo Credit: Liz Lauren

High-Res Photo Gallery

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Nathan Hosner, Ensemble Member Raymond Fox, JJ Phillips, Cordelia Dewdney, Audrey Anderson, and Raphael Cruz



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JJ Phillips and Cordelia Dewdney

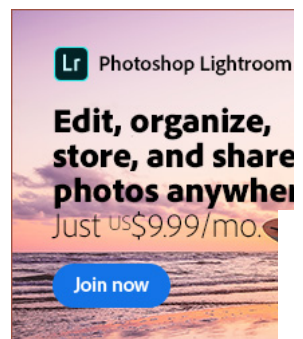


Cordelia Dewdney and Nathan Hosner




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Carle, Artistic Associate Troy West, Ensemble Member Raymond Fox, Audrey Anderson, Ensemble Member David Catlin, Nathan Hosner, and Raphael Cruz




Audrey Anderson, Ensemble Member David Catlin, and Raphael Cruz



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