McCARTER THEATRE CENTER
PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE OF
THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

Douglas McGrath’s adaptation of Edith Wharton’s timeless love story to open McCarter’s 2018-2019 Theater Series, helmed by Tony Award®-winning director Doug Hughes

In association with Hartford Stage

Tickets start at $25 and are available now at mccarter.org

Sierra Boggess and Andrew Veenstra in The Age of Innocence. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

PRINCETON, NJ: When is it wrong to love someone? Is love the highest ideal, or is kindness and duty even greater than love? Wharton’s Pulitzer Prize winner is romantic and heartbreakingly unsentimental in its portrayal of a rigid society where “people dreaded scandal more than disease.”

Called “an entrancing, lyrical love story” by The Hartford Courant, this world premiere production about star-crossed lovers forced to choose between love and honor is adapted by Oscar® and Tony® nominee (and Princeton University alumnus) Douglas McGrath (Beautiful on Broadway).

The play is directed by Tony Award® winner Doug Hughes (Junk, Doubt: A Parable, Born Yesterday on Broadway) and runs September 7 – October 7 in the Berlind Theatre. Press opening is Saturday, September 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at $25. The Age of Innocence is produced in association with Hartford Stage and was named Outstanding Play at the 2018 Connecticut Critics Circle Awards.
About the production, McCarter Artistic Director Emily Mann said: “What I love most about Douglas McGrath’s brilliant adaptation is how all of us—regardless of age, background, or varied experiences—look back on our past decisions and wonder ‘did I make the right choice?’ This production shows the universal truth behind the struggle of choosing one path over another.”

The cast includes four-time Tony Award® winner Boyd Gaines as the Old Gentleman, internationally-renowned actress and vocalist Sierra Boggess as Countess Ellen Olenska, Helen Cespedes as May Welland, and Andrew Veenstra as Newland Archer, and Joseph Adams, Darrie Lawrence, Deirdre Madigan, Haviland Morris, Sara Norton, Dan Owens, Josh Salt, Sara Schwab, Tony Ward, and Alessandro Gian Viviano. The cast is joined onstage for each performance by pianist Yan Li.

The design team includes Tony Award® winners John Lee Beatty (sets, McCarter’s Glengarry Glen Ross) and Linda Cho (costumes, McCarter’s A Christmas Carol), alongside Obie Award-winners Ben Stanton (lighting, McCarter’s She Stoops to Conquer) and Mark Bennett (original music and sound). Chuck LaPointe (wig and hair design, McCarter’s Antony and Cleopatra) and Peter Pucci (choreography, McCarter’s Mrs. Packard) round out the design team.

About Adaptor Douglas McGrath
Douglas McGrath is a playwright and filmmaker. His films include Emma, Nicholas Nickleby, Infamous, and Becoming Mike Nichols (Emmy nomination) and he co-wrote Bullets Over Broadway (Oscar nomination). For the theater he has written Checkers and Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (Tony® nomination). He has written about politics and the arts for The New Yorker, The New Republic, Vanity Fair, and The New York Times.

About Director Doug Hughes

Cast and Creative Team Bios
Joseph Adams (Julius Beaufort/Sillerton Jackson/Mr. Hickey) has appeared on Broadway in Come Back, Little Sheba; The Real Inspector Hound; A View From the Bridge; and The Survivor. Off Broadway credits include The Road to Damascus (The Directors Company), Sixty Miles to Silver Lake (Soho Rep), Murder In the First (Directors Company), The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (New Victory), Serendib (Ensemble Studio Theatre), Dance of the Seven Headed Mouse (Beckett Theatre). Regional appearances include The Old Globe, Humana Festival (Actors Theatre of Louisville), Pittsburgh Public and Hartford Stage. Films include Brooklyn’s Finest, That Awkward Moment, Touched With Fire, The Inevitable Defeat of Mister and Pete, Maggie Black and the upcoming Kingfish and Amy Makes Three. TV credits include Bull, Master of None, Turn: Washington’s Spies, The Blacklist, Blue Bloods and all three Law and Orders.

Helen Cespedes (May Welland) New York credits include The Cripple of Inishmaan (Broadway), The Rose Tattoo (benefit for The Acting Company), The School For Scandal (Red Bull Theater), A Picture of Autumn (The Mint), and Couriers and Contrabands (Timeline). Regionally, Helen has performed at Williamstown, Two River Theater, Barrington Stage, The Goodman, New York Stage and Film, Harford Stage, Studio Theater, and Chautauqua. She has developed new work with New York Theatre Workshop, The Lark, Primary Stages, New Dramatists, and Ma-Yi Theater Co (among others). She has appeared on screen in projects such as The Way I Remember It with Christine Ebersole and Stephen Soderbergh’s The Knick. Helen trained at Juilliard where she received the John Houseman Prize.

Boyd Gaines (Older Gentleman) McCarter debut. Broadway: The Heidi Chronicles, The Show Off, She Loves Me, Company, Cabaret, Contact, Twelve Angry Men, Journey’s End, Gypsy, Driving Miss Daisy, The Columnist, Enemy of the People (directed by Doug Hughes). Off-Broadway: The Dead, 1904 (Irish Rep); The Grand Manner, Contact (LCT); A Month in the Country (Roundabout); The Comedy of Errors, Spring Awakening (Public Theatre); The Heidi Chronicles, The Maderati (Playwright’s Horizon); The Shawl (Jewish Rep); Winter’s Tale, Barbarians, Johnny On a Spot (BAM Co.); Vikings (MTC). International: Driving Miss Daisy (West End, Australian Tour); The Piano Upstairs (Spoleto Festival). Film: The Goldfinch (2019), No Pay, Nudity, Second Best, Call Me, Heartbreak Ridge, The Sure Thing, Porky’s, Fame. Television: One Day at a Time, LA Law, Law & Order, Frasier, Caroline in the City, Angela’s Eyes, Molly Dodd. Education: PCPA, Juilliard.

Darrie Lawrence (Mrs. Manson Mingott) McCarter: Night of the Iguana. Broadway/National Tour: Steel Magnolias, Come Back Little Sheba, Buried Child, Dead Accounts, Doubt. Off-Broadway: Tales from Red Vienna, The Other Side (MTC); Everybody’s Ruby (Public); Portraits (Union Square Theatre); Children, Happy Birthday (TACT); La Ronde (Ohio Theatre). Regional: Roof of the World (Premiere–KC Rep); Appoggiatura (Premiere-Denver Center Theatre Company); The Humans, Mothers and Sons, Retreat from Moscow, Last Night of Ballyhoo, Merry Wives of Windsor, Texas (Repertory Theatre St. Louis); Lettuce and Lovage, Noises Off, The Foreigner (Pioneer Theatre); On Golden Pond (Indiana Repertory Theatre); Dancing at Lughnasa, Our Town, Over the Tavern (Cincinnati Playhouse on the Park); Seascapes, Grapes of Wrath, I Hate Hamlet (Cleveland Playhouse); Film: The Night Before, August Rush, Kettle of Fish, Hitch. Television: Chicago Med, Third Watch. Education/Training: BA University of NC – Greensboro, MFA Penn State University.

and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Other Desert Cities (Bucks County Playhouse); Exit Strategy (Philadelphia Theatre Co); and A Nightingale Sang, A Marriage Minuet (Westport Country Playhouse); Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England (Two Rivers Theatre); Mary Stuart, The Little Foxes, God of Carnage (Pittsburgh Public Theatre); Abigail 1702 (City Theatre); Mrs. Whitney (Merrimack Rep); The Diary of Anne Frank (Denver Center). Television: The O.A., The Americans, Marvels’ Daredevil, Elementary, all the Law and Orders._deirdremadigan.com


Josh Salt (Thorley/Riviere/Dallas) Broadway: Les Liaisons Dangereuses (with Liev Schreiber and Janet McTeer), The Cripple of Inishmaan (with Daniel Radcliffe), NYC: Independence (La Jolla Playhouse Workshop, dir. Des McAnuff), F***ck Marry Kill (LCT Director’s Lab and Less Than Rent Theatre Co.), Regional: Teddy Ferrara, World Premiere (Goodman), 4000 Miles (Northlight Theatre), Yellow Moon (Writers Theatre), Pride and Prejudice (Center Stage). TV: Blue Bloods (CBS), The Deuce (HBO), Power (Starz), Chicago PD (NBC), Chicago Fire (NBC), Person of Interest (CBS). Film: Cut Shoot Kill (2017). Misty Button (upcoming). Education: holds a BA in Theatre from Columbia College Chicago and is currently pursuing the David Lynch Screenwriting MFA at the Maharishi University of Management.


Yan Li (Pianist) McCarter debut. Off-Broadway: Made In China, Interstate, Long Story Short, Barcelona, The Bridge, Oedipus for Kids, Damascus Square. Regional: From Here to Eternity (Ogunquit Playhouse); Side Show (Trinity Rep); A Little More Alive (Barrington Stage); And the World Goes Round (Interplayers); Sunfish (Daegu Opera House); Cannibal! the Musical (Noonan Rep). Composer: Made In China, Sweet Nothings, Misprint, Blind, Enjoy the Ride, As You Like It. Education: NYU, UVic, Royal Conservatory of Music.

John Lee Beatty (Set Design) McCarter: No Time for Comedy, Rough Crossing, Talley’s Folly, Glengarry Glen Ross. Broadway: 116 productions including Sweat, Junk, Venus in Fur, Disgraced, The Nance, Chicago, Ain’t Misbehavin’, The Color Purple, Talley’s Folly, Fifth of July, Burn This, Proof, Doubt, Good People, Rabbit Hole, Sisters Rosensweig, Crimes of the Heart, A Delicate Balance, The Heiress, Most Happy Fella, Other Desert Cities. Off-Broadway: Manhattan Theatre Club (70 productions); Lincoln Center Theater (28 productions); Playwrights Horizons, City Center Encores! (68 productions); The Public; Shakespeare in the Park; Roundabout; CSC; Big Apple Circus. Regional: Arena Stage, Guthrie, Mark Taper Forum, Alliance, Louisville, St. Louis, Manitoba Theater Center, Long Wharf, Seattle, Goodman, Old Globe. Film: Substance of Fire. Education: Brown University; Yale School of Drama. Awards: multiple Tony Awards®, Drama Desk Awards, and Outer Critics Circle Awards; a NY Drama Critics Award, Obie Award, Theater Hall of Fame Inductee.

Linda Cho (Costume Design) is a Tony Award®-winning Costume Designer based in New York City, who maintains a highly successful career with opera and theater companies in the United States and abroad. In 2014 she won the Tony Award® and the Henry Hewes Design Award for the Broadway musical A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder. In 2017 she was nominated for Tony®, Outer Critic’s Circle and Drama Desk Awards for Best Costume Design of a Musical for the Broadway production of Anastasia. Her other successes in New York theater include the Broadway production of Velocity of Autumn; Grand Hotel at New York City Center Encores! and Wild Goose Dream (La Jolla Playhouse and Fall 2018 The Public Theater). Highlights of her American regional theater company designs include A Walk on the Moon and October Sky (The Old Globe); A Thousand Splendid Suns (American Conservatory Theatre/Old Globe/Seattle Repertory Theatre and Grand Theatre London, Ontario); The Age of Innocence (Hartford Stage and McCarter Theatre Center/Connecticut Critics Circle Award); Rags (Goodspeed Opera) and Sovereignty (Arena Stage). She is the proud recipient of the Theatre Development Fund’s Irene Sharaff Young Master Award and The Ruth Morely Design Award from the League of Professional Theatre Women. She served as the American Costume Design Curator from 2007-2011 for the International Prague Quadrennial, and is currently is on the Advisory Committee of the American Theatre Wing. Linda is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. She received her MFA from the Yale School of Drama; her undergraduate degree from McGill University, and a Certificate of Fine Arts and Fashion from the Paris American Academy. lindachocom

Ben Stanton (Lighting Design) McCarter: She Stoops to Conquer. Broadway: Junk (Tony nom.), Six Degrees of Separation, Fully Committed, Deaf West’s Spring Awakening (Tony nom.), Fun Home (Tony nom.), An Enemy of the People, Seminar. Selected Off-Broadway: The Low Road (The Public), Beast in the Jungle (Vineyard), Fiasco Theater’s Twelfth Night (CSC); Napoli Brooklyn (Roundabout); This Ain’t No Disco (Atlantic); Marjorie Prime, The Christians (Playwrights Horizons); Yen, The Legend of Georgia McBride, The Nether (MCC); Angels in America (Signature); Incognito,
Murder Ballad, The Whipping Man (MTC); Belleville (NYTW); Into the Woods (Delacorte). Selected Concert & Tour designs: Beirut, Regina Spektor, St. Vincent, Sufjan Stevens, The National. 2015 Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Lighting.

Mark Bennett (Original Music and Sound Design) McCarter: Turning Off the Morning News, All The Days, Antony & Cleopatra, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (also Lincoln Center Theater & Broadway), Proof, Phaedra Backwards, An Iliad, Candida, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Broadway: Junk, The Coast of Utopia (Drama Desk Award), Driving Miss Daisy, A Streetcar Named Desire (Emily Mann, dir.), Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Henry IV, Lily Tomlin’s The Search..., A View From the Bridge. BAM/Old Vic: original scores for all Bridge Project productions 2009-2012 (Sam Mendes, dir.). Off-Broadway: An Iliad, Mad Forest (NYTW). Scores for eight Shakespeare productions at The Public (NYC); as well as The Low Road, The Seagull (Mike Nichols, dir.), and Dogeaters. Regional: Over 50 productions including, recently, King Charles III, Salome, Coriolanus (Shakespeare Theatre). Awards: Obie for An Iliad, Sustained Excellence in Sound Design, 14 Drama Desk nominations.


About McCarter Theatre Center
McCarter Theatre Center’s mission is to create world-class theater and present the finest artists for the engagement, education, and entertainment to the community. Under the artistic leadership of award-winning playwright and director Emily Mann and Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg, McCarter produces a vibrant six-play Theater Series each season. Winner of the 1994 Tony Award® for Outstanding Regional Theatre, world premieres include Christopher Durang’s Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (2013 Tony® - Best Play); Tarell Alvin McCraney’s The Brother/Sister Plays; Emily Mann’s Having Our Say; and Danai Gurira’s The Convert. Other works which later moved to Broadway
include Brian Friel’s *Translations*, Nilo Cruz’s *Anna in the Tropics* (Pulitzer Prize), and Frank McGuinness’ translation of *Electra*. Through the leadership of Special Programming Director William W. Lockwood, McCarter brings the best artists from around the world to Princeton, New Jersey, including upcoming visits from Dianne Reeves, Esperanza Spalding, Andy Borowitz, and many more. Education and outreach efforts serve tens of thousands through student matinees, in-school residencies, and adult education classes. McCarter is supported by contributions from Princeton University, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, corporations, foundations and from over 2,000 individuals. More at mccarter.org.

**THE AGE OF INNOCENCE - PRODUCTION FACTS**

Based on the book by: Edith Wharton  
Adaptation: Douglas McGrath  
Direction: Doug Hughes  
Set design: John Lee Beatty  
Costume design: Linda Cho  
Associate costume design: Ricky Lurie  
Lighting design: Ben Stanton  
Original music and sound design: Mark Bennett  
Wig and hair design: Chuck LaPointe  
Choreographer: Peter Pucci  
Casting director: David Caparelliotis/Caparelliotis Casting  
Production stage manager: Lori Lundquist*  
Director of production: David York  
Resident producer: Debbie Bisno  
Managing director: Michael S. Rosenberg  
Artistic director/resident playwright: Emily Mann

**THE CAST**

Julius Beaufort/Sillerton Jackson/Mr. Hickey: Joseph Adams*  
Countess Ellen Olenska: Sierra Boggess*  
May Welland: Helen Cespedes*  
Older Gentleman: Boyd Gaines*  
Mrs. Manson Mingott: Darrie Lawrence*  
Mrs. Welland/Mrs. Van Der Luyden/Florist: Deirdre Madigan*  
Mrs. Archer: Haviland Morris*  
Thorley/Riviere/Dallas: Josh Salt*  
Newland Archer: Andrew Veenstra*  
Mr. Van Der Luyden/Larry Lefferts/Letterblair: Tony Ward*  
Pianist: Yan Li  
Ensemble/As Cast: Sara Norton, Dan Owens, Sara Schwab, Alessandro Gian Viviano

*Member of Actors Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.
**Ticket Information and Performance Schedule**

*The Age of Innocence* runs September 7 - October 7 in the Berlind Theatre. Tickets start at $25 and are on sale now online at mccarter.org, by phone at (609) 258-2787, or in person at the McCarter Ticket Office, located at 91 University Place in Princeton.

The production’s running time is 100 minutes, with no intermission.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

McCarter Live at the Library – Thursday, August 30
McCarter’s Resident Producer Debbie Bisno is joined by playwright and screenwriter Douglas McGrath and Tony Award-winning director Doug Hughes to discuss McCarter’s season-opening production of McGrath’s adaptation of Edith Wharton’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Age of Innocence*. The artists—who will be in the midst of rehearsals—will speak about their collaborative process, as well as about the joys and challenges of bringing to life Wharton’s richly romantic Gilded-Age love-triangle narrative and satirical critique of “Old New York” in the 1870s. McCarter Artistic Engagement Manager Paula Alekson will moderate.

The event takes place from 7:00-8:30pm in the Princeton Public Library’s Community Room (on the first floor adjacent to the Café). The Princeton Public Library is located at 65 Witherspoon St., Princeton, NJ. No RSVP or ticket is required to attend; it is free and open to the public. This is a Princeton Public Library and McCarter Theatre Center community partnership event.

Weekday Matinees
McCarter is now providing mid-week matinee performances for *The Age of Innocence* at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26 and Wednesday, October 3.

Dialogue on Drama – Sunday, September 16
An in-depth post-show interview with Director Douglas Hughes and Adaptor Douglas McGrath, offering audiences a window into the artistic process of bringing a play to life. The interview is followed by questions and reflections from the audience. This is a free event, no RSVP required.

Post-Show Discussions – Wednesday, September 20 and Sunday, September 23
Post-show discussions are interactive conversations facilitated by a member of McCarter’s artistic staff, often featuring cast members. Post-show discussions occur directly following the 7:30 p.m. performance on Wednesday, September 20 and the 2 p.m. performance on Sunday, September 23.

An Evening of Etiquette – Tuesday, October 2
Join us 45 minutes before the performance for a 19th Century Etiquette-inspired Inside Story featuring guest speaker and renowned etiquette consultant Mary Harris of Mary Harris Events. After the show, stay for a mix & mingle with select members of the cast, crew, and staff. Enjoy happy hour specials at the bar while socializing with 19th century flair.

Inside Story: Join us 45 minutes before every performance for a talk led by a member of McCarter’s artistic staff. Hear about what inspired the play, its unique style, and more. All Inside Story talks take place in the Berlind Theatre unless otherwise noted in the lobby upon arrival.

*The Age of Innocence* is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further inquiries and more information, contact: Tom Miller, Director of Public Relations tmiller@mccarter.org | 609.258.6524 | 91 University Place, Princeton, NJ 08540 | mccarter.org