The Illusion
by Pierre Corneille
adapted by Tony Kushner
directed by Adam Koplan

PENTHOUSE
THEATER
May 23 - June 3

A brilliant and hilarious meditation on the nature of love. Adapted by Tony Kushner, author of the triumphant Angels in America, this play mines the territory of which theatre thrives: fantasy, humor, witchcraft, passion and despair.
The History of the Devil
or Scenes from A Pretended Life
by Clive Barker
in partial fulfillment of a Master of Fine Arts Degree
SET DESIGN Tristan M. T. Dalley
COSTUME DESIGN Heidi Ganser
LIGHTING DESIGN Steve O’Shea
STAGE MANAGER Brooke Hendricks
COMPOSER J. Daniel Stanley
CHOREOGRAPHER Rebecca Enghauser
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Kris Shaw
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER Chris Trice
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Sarah Shively
DRAMATURG Jim Fitzmorris

The main action of the play takes place in Lake Turkana, a desolate swamp in Equatorial Africa, over the course of two days.

Here a makeshift court has been set up. Witness testimony will evoke seven journeys spanning 1212 B.C. to the 1940’s in the following locales: Russia, the Kabul Valley in India, the Middle East, France, Swiss-German Lucerne, England, and Germany.

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

"In law, there are no certainties. Suppose we tried our loved ones? Made a list of offences against us. How long before we’d amassed enough resentment to hang them by? Now, we put the Enemy on trial. How long before we find enough reasons to love the Prince of the World?"

- ACTOR, History of the Devil

"Self-justification is more important than sex. Ever gone six weeks without a self-justification?"

- The Big Chill

"As a religious person I believe the world is charged full of wonderful, miraculous things and that part of our duty as creative persons is to talk about that magic and wonder. What I’m trying to do in my work is to make the readers suspend all their prejudices about the world: I want to be able to say to my readers: Everything you thought you knew, everything you thought was certain and fixed and immutable, for the time you read this book, isn’t. For the time you read this book, miraculous things are possible; sometimes horrible things are going to happen, sometimes wonderful things will take place and sometimes the terrible things will turn out to have wonderful results. So don’t judge anything for the time you read this book."

- Clive Barker

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CAST

The Present World

Aaron Blakely BELIAL, a demon of the First Order
Len Childers* SAM KYLE, The Devil’s Advocate
Kelly Conway* MILO MILO, Clerk of Court
Jim Fitzmorris JUDGE FELIX POPPER
Hana Lass NANCY KYLE, wife to Sam, also LILITH, wife to Devil
Jenny Merciea* JANE BECK, Prosecuting Attorney
Suzanne Morrison VERRIER, a demon of the First Order, the Devil’s Lieutenant
Eva Osusky PROCELL, a demoness of the Seductive Order
Shontina Vernon* CATHERINE LAMB, Prosecuting Attorney
Adam Watson MACREADY, a Messenger to Heaven
Jessica Wells SONEILLON, a demoness of the Seductive Order, also SCREAMING WOMAN
Shad Willingham* THE DEVIL HIMSELF

Other Worlds (The *Actors*)

"The Devil is an Actor: a man of masks, never the same tempter twice. It’s appropriate then that a play exploring his life and times should be an Actor’s Piece." -Clive Barker

Jillian Boyd* POLYXENE (Kabul Valley), ISOBEL NIDER (Lucerne)
Kelly Conway* MARY ANN CLARKE (England)
Conor Duffy CALLIMACHUS (Kabul Valley), NICHOLAS VIDAL (France), DUKE OF YORK (England)
Kyra Himmelbaum* PIA SHIM (Russia), SISTER MADEleine VIDAL (France), BARBARA (Lucerne), MRS. MENDOZA (England)
Hana Lass ULLA SHIM (Russia), SISTER ALETTE VIDAL (France), THERESE (Lucerne)
Richard Lopez* YAPSHI KANISHKA (Kabul Valley), DANTE, FIGHT ANNOUNCER (England)
Bernard Mosley* JESUS CHRIST, DANIEL MENDOZA (England)

*members of the Professional Actor Training Program
To me the play is about accountability for our own actions. Accountability presupposes not only regret but also making amends and altering our behavior in the future, which involves understanding what made us... or allowed us to act selfishly in the first place. What justified our behavior at the time? What scapegoat did we hang our sin on? This question is at the heart of the play. Also, unconditional love as a redemptive force.

Oh... and also the play is naughty and fun. We hope you are entertained, titillated, shocked, provoked, that you look at some difficult questions about right and wrong, and ultimately have a good time on the ride.

Here are some of Clive Barker's thoughts on the piece:

"If this story's worth telling it's because it's about being human. The Devil's tale is the tale of our own confusion, ego and inability to live without hope for Heaven. His wings removed, Satan is dropped into the world wounded, and though he conceals his frailty well enough, putting on a fine show of dispassion, he's never far from throwing back his head and raging like an abused child."

"If the play persuades its audience to look at what this mirage of external evil is - in short, an excuse; a brushing off - then it has done something of what I intended."

**Clive Barker**

Best-selling author Clive Barker began his literary career writing, directing, and acting for the London stage. His theatre group, The Dog Company, performed many of the plays he wrote, including *Frankenstein in Love, The History of the Devil, Crazyface and Subtle Bodies*, among others. After his collections of short stories *The Books of Blood* were published in 1984, he went on to write numerous best-selling novels, some including *The Great and Secret Show, Weaveworld, The Thief of Always, Sacrament, Gallilee*, and most recently *The Essential Clive Barker*. As a screenwriter, director, and/or film producer he is credited with the *Hellraiser* and *Candyman* pictures as well as *Nightbreed, Lord of Illusions*, and *Gods and Monsters*. An accomplished painter and visual artist, Mr. Barker has had exhibitions in New York and Los Angeles, and his illustrations and paintings have been published in two volumes entitled *Clive Barker: Illustrator*.

Six of Barker's plays can be found in the collections *Incarnations* and *Forms of Heaven*, published by HarperPrism.