

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2012

**PUPPET MASTER AARON CROMIE BRINGS ARTISTRY AND BLOOD TO
SHAKESPEARE'S MOST GRUESOME AND EXCITING PLAY,
*TITUS ANDRONICUS***

On April 11, 2012 The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre enralls audiences with the revenge tragedy, *Titus Andronicus*. The production runs through **May 19, 2012** and is directed by **Aaron Cromie**. *Titus Andronicus*, believed to be William Shakespeare's first tragedy, was created as a crowd-pleasing shocker, full of murder, intrigue, betrayal, revenge and depravity.

Returning, finally victorious from a decade long war, Titus has lost many sons in battle. Clinging to his remaining family members, he has no idea that his worst nightmare is yet to be realized. Titus' prisoner of war, Tamora Queen of the Goths, is bent on getting revenge for the loss of her son at Titus' hands. The two become tangled in a cruel cycle of revenge in which they lose more than either one could ever imagine.

In the intimate setting of **The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre**, using light and shadow play, specially designed puppets, and copious amounts of stage blood, director **Aaron Cromie** will thrill audiences with this cutting edge roller-coaster of a production.

Aaron Cromie is a multidisciplinary theatre artist, performer, designer, director, and co-founding faculty member of Headlong Performance Institute. He recently directed acclaimed puppet and mask-inspired productions of *Scapin* at Lantern Theater Company, *The Long Christmas Ride Home* for Azuka Theatre, and the award-winning *The Fantasticks* at Mum Puppettheatre. Aaron has received Barrymore Awards for Choreography and Music Direction, grant support from the Jim Henson Foundation, and is a graduate of the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre. He studied woodcarving and mask making with Antonio Fava in Reggio Emilia, Italy.

All performances will be held in the intimate 122-seat theatre at 2111 Sansom Street. For ticket sales and information please call the box office at 215-496-8001 or purchase and print your tickets on the web at www.phillyshakespeare.org.

Press photos will become available April 12, 2012.

Reviewing Press is invited to attend Press Night of *Titus Andronicus* on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 7pm. Please call Rebecca Gissel at 215-496-9722 ext. 105 or email Rebecca@phillyshakespeare.org for reservations. All other media may arrange for tickets by calling 215-496-8001.

What: *Titus Andronicus*
By William Shakespeare
Directed by Aaron Cromie

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Summary: In The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre's 15th Anniversary Season, Artistic/Executive Director Carmen Khan enlists director and designer Aaron Cromie to present the very rarely staged *Titus Andronicus*.

Where: The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre
2111 Sansom St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

When: *Titus Andronicus*: April 11 – May 19, Wed - Sat at 7pm, Sun at 2pm
with a special 1pm Saturday matinee on April 21

Tickets: Tickets are \$25 Wed and Thurs, \$35 weekends, and \$20 previews. Student, senior, and group discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.phillyshakespeare.org or by calling 215-496-8001. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. Group organizers are encouraged to call the box office for pricing and availability. Season subscriptions are on sale.

THE PHILADELPHIA SHAKESPEARE THEATRE PRESENTS

***Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare**

Directed by Aaron Cromie

Sets Designed by Lisi Stoessel

Lights Designed by Maria Shaplin

Costumes Designed by Natalia de la Torre

Music Composed by Aaron Cromie

Properties by Louise Grafton

Cast – in alphabetical order

Titus Andronicus

Lesley Berkowitz	Lavinia
Victoria Rose Bonito	Ensemble
Caroline Crocker	Tamora
Rob Kahn*	Titus
Jered McLenigan*	Saturninus
Johnny Smith	Ensemble
Ian Sullivan	Chiron/Demetrius
J.J. Van Name*	Ensemble
Eric Van Wie	Ensemble
Davon Williams	Aaron

*Member of the Actors' Equity Association

About The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre

Since 1996, The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre has produced over 30 Shakespeare productions through fresh, muscular, and vivid interpretations that have at their center the actor and the playwright. The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre is one of the foremost proponents of text-based theatre.

Along with annual productions of works written by William Shakespeare, The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre's decade long Open Door Project offers the highest

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quality Shakespeare programming to high school and middle school students including; student matinees, Artist-in-Residence, and professional touring productions. We have served over 40,000 students in the Delaware Valley. We also offer audience enrichment programs including, seminars, reading groups and symposia.

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