



Les Liaisons Dangereuses

*written by Choderlos de Laclos
adapted by Christopher Hampton
directed by Stephanie Shroyer*

*Scene Dock Theatre
February 19-22*



**The USC School of Theatre 2003-04 Season is
Dedicated to the Memory of
John Ritter
1948-2003**

Everyone associated with USC and its School of Theatre mourns the loss of John Ritter, who was an alumnus, a member of the Board of Councilors and a great friend to the School.

John Ritter was a proud member of the Trojan Family, as was his mother, Dorothy Fay Ritter. Dorothy not only attended USC but also became an associate professor. Ritter's brother, Thomas, also attended USC.

Since his graduation in 1971, Ritter never stopped giving back to USC. Always generous with his time and talent, he shared his experiences with classes and served as master of ceremonies for events ranging from School of Theatre awards ceremonies to the 15th annual USC Scriptor® Award. He planned to return for the 16th annual Scriptor gala as well. In 2000 he gave the keynote address for the School of Theatre graduation commencement ceremony.

In honor of Ritter's dedication to the university, USC Town & Gown established the John Ritter Scholarship in 1987, awarding it to students across the university. In addition, he was a generous supporter of Festival Theatre USC-USA.

Ritter's stage appearances began with the Edinburgh Festival as part of Festival Theatre USC-USA in the summer of 1968, under the direction of John Edw. Blankenchip. He went on to appear in more than 50 plays, recently completing a nine-month starring role in the Broadway premiere of Neil Simon's *The Dinner Party*.

He came to national prominence as the star of television's long-running hit comedy *Three's Company*, for which he won Emmy, Golden Globe and People's Choice awards. For his critically acclaimed series *Hooperman*, he received Emmy and Golden Globe nominations and won a People's Choice award. His series *Hearts Afire* ran from 1992-1995. Ritter returned to television last season starring in the ABC hit *8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter*, winner of a Family Television Award and the People's Choice Award for favorite new comedy series.

His motion picture credits include *Sling Blade*, *Noises Off*, *Skin Deep* and *Problem Child*. Most recently, he co-starred with Sigourney Weaver in *Tadpole*.

His talent, humor and grace are deeply missed.



WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The USC School of Theatre gratefully acknowledges everyone who has dedicated wisdom, talent, time, and financial resources to the benefit of the School. We hope that you will consider joining with today's leading supporters of the School, whose gifts and generosity of spirit inspire us all.

THANKS TO THESE MAJOR DONORS

The Anna H. Bing Living Trust for three bequests totaling \$700,000 to endow maintenance of the Bing Theatre, productions of work by young playwrights, and salary support for staff of the School.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger (Michele Dedeaux '68) Engemann, for their leadership and their gift of \$500,000 to establish the School of Theatre Building Fund. Michele Engemann is chair of the USC School of Theatre Board of Councilors.

Dr. and Mrs. Peter Bing and the Anna H. Bing Living Trust for two recent gifts totaling more than \$375,000 for renovation and future acoustic treatment of the Bing Theatre.

The Trojan League of Los Angeles for their generous gift of \$25,000 that is acknowledged in the box office area of the Bing Theatre's new lobby.

USC THEATRE ASSOCIATES

The USC Associates is the University's premier support group. The School gratefully acknowledges these current 2003-2004 members who make annual gifts of \$2,500 or more:

Susan Arnold & Richard Ochs

Emanuel Bachmann Foundation

Debbie & Terry Hammer

Jim Kehr

Lynn Davis Lasher

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Mary Lou & Bill Mullin

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Richard & Diane Weinberg — in memory of John Ritter

Lynne & Steve Wheeler — Co-Chairs of the School of Theatre Parents Council

SPECIAL SUPPORTERS

Space limitations preclude listing of all contributors to the USC School of Theatre, but we are pleased to acknowledge gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,499 from the following individuals:

Joan Beber

Paul D. Comi in memory of John Ritter

Tate Donovan in memory of John Ritter

Nancy "Nony" Muse Shore

*For more information about giving to the School of Theatre, please e-mail
Cindy Young at cqyoung@usc.edu or call (213) 743-4522.*

USC SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Dean
Madeline Puzo

Faculty – Professors

John Edw. Blankenchip (*Emeritus*)
Sharon Marie Carnicke (*Associate Dean*)
Velina Hasu Houston (*Director of Playwriting*)
Courtesy Joint Appointments:
Thomas G. Cummings
Larry E. Greiner

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Margo Apostolos (*Director of Dance*)
Meiling Cheng (*Director of Theatre Studies*)
Don Llewellyn (*Director of Scenic Design*)
Ritchie Spencer (*Director of Production*)
James Wilson

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Martin Fusi
Oliver Mayer

Senior Lecturers

Paul Backer, Brent Blair, Alicia Grosso,
Duncan Mahoney, Jack Rowe, Lora Zane

Lecturers

Casey Cowan-Gale, Joseph Hacker,
Eric Trules

Adjunct Assistant Faculty

Theresa Bard, Elizabeth Bell-Haynes,
John “Eddie” Bledsoe, D’Shaun Booker,
Frank Catalano, Stacie Chaiken,
Paula Cizmar, Anita Dashiell-Sparks,
Debra Deliso, Kathleen Dunn,
Sabin Epstein, Jeff Flowers,
Jay Fuentes, Parmer Fuller,
Raphael Garcia, Kevin Goold,
Takeshi Hamagaki, Elizabeth Hogan,
Michael Keenan, Mary Klinger,
Jonathan Lee, Joey Letteri,
Marilyn McIntyre, Brian Nelson,
Lindsey Nelson, Yael Pardess,
Victoria Paul, Jacqueline Pavlich,
Lewis Segal, Stephanie Shroyer,
Kelly Ward, Lee Wochner

Board of Councilors

Michele Engemann (President), Charles Dillingham, Larry Harmon, Paula Holt, Marcy Lafferty,
William H. Mullin, Joan Tewkesbury, Joe Tremaine, Richard Weinberg

Production Staff

Artistic Director:
Jack Rowe (*Associate Dean*)
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Assistant Theatre Manager:
Christopher R Boltz
Costume Shop Manager:
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Michael Etzrodt, Mia Torres

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Budget Tech
Crystal Balthrop, Olga Gomez

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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Major-domo – Michael Schwartz
La Marquise de Merteuil – Dara Goldman
Mme. De Volanges – Megan S. Densmore
Cecile Volanges – Sorel Carradine
Le Vicomte de Valmont – David Weidoff
Azolan, Valmont’s valet de chamber – Torey Rubin
Mme. De Rosemonde – Danielle Hamrick
La Presidente de Tourvel – Christina July Kim
Emilie, a courtesan – Vivian Kerr
Le Chevalier Danceny – Adam Westbrook
Danceny’s Valet — Adrian Zaw

PRODUCTION STAFF:

Voice and Dialect Coach – Paul Backer
Scenic Design – Benoit LaBerge
Costume Design – Ji Hyang Yoon
Lighting Design – T. Stirlin Burk
Sound Design – Allison Smith
Make-up Designer – Allison Smith
Fight Choreographer – Edgar Landa
Stage Manager – Jennifer Wheeler
Assistant Stage Manager – Ashley Cauble
Assistant Costume Design – Katie Cowan
Assistant Lighting Design – Tony Shayne
Second Make-up Designer – Ashley Cauble
Master Electrician – Kaitlyn Anderson,
Vanessa Arredondo, Meghan Coreia,
Melissa Jalali, Jonathan La Cour
Crew – Aubrey Elson, Maria Frisk, Heidi
Garvin, Julia Gelb-Zimmerman, Leah Jacobs,
Brittani Noel, Scot Speer, Kristen Stoeckeler,
Adrian Zaw

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

William Whitehurst, Jeff Flowers, Kathleen Dunn, Dean Puzo, Jack Rowe, Meiling Cheng

Time and Setting: In and around Paris during one autumn and winter in the 1780’s.

There will be fog on stage during this performance.

There will be one ten minute intermission.

Produced with Special Permission by Samuel French, Inc.

Food, beverages, smoking, audio/video recorders, and still cameras are prohibited in the theatre.

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers and alarms during the performance.

Latecomers will be seated by the ushers at the appropriate breaks in the performance.

All programs subject to cancellation or change.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Our story this evening is a variation of the aristocratic love game prevalent in French and English comedy from the late seventeenth century until the French Revolution. The rules are simple...the object is for the man to seduce as many women as possible, avoid marriage and establish a rakish reputation. The woman is to use the respectability of marriage to cover as many affairs as she can manage. Thrust into this contradictory situation, the sexes play a fiercely competitive game with each other, seeking a victory composed of deceptions and manipulations. On a playing field of sexual exploits these combatants seek the mantle of power. In a society so privileged, isn't it interesting they rally round a sport composed of decadence and excesses to fill their leisure time.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Stephanie Shroyer has directed and/or choreographed at the American Conservatory Theatre, the Denver Center, the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, and locally at the Pasadena Playhouse, the Matrix, the Pacific Resident Theatre, A Noise Within, the Laguna Playhouse, the Odyssey, Stages, Anteaus, Alliance Rep. and Cal Arts. She is a two-time recipient of the LADCC award. Other directorial recognition includes Ovation and *LA Weekly* nominations, six *Dramalogue* Awards and a Garland Award. She is an adjunct faculty member of USC's School of Theatre.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE

The School of Theatre began as the Department of Drama and was founded in 1945 by playwright and film director William Churchill de Mille. From 1945–1983, the department functioned under the umbrella of the School of Performing Arts, along with Cinema-Television, Fine Arts and Music. In 1984, the Division of Drama was created under the auspices of Cinema-Television. As a result of our national reputation and the strength of our programs and faculty, the Division of Drama became the School of Theatre on July 1, 1991.

Today the School of Theatre is ranked among the top undergraduate theatre schools in the country by the Gourman Report and is internationally recognized as a leader in theatre education for offering professional training in a university environment.

The School of Theatre offers professional and scholarly training in the theatre, stressing the

interdependence of production experience with academic knowledge.

Study in theatre requires a close working relationship among students, faculty and staff. In this atmosphere of collective effort, a special bond develops. Academic advisement and discussions of educational and professional aspirations are important concerns attended to by faculty and staff. When students enter the School of Theatre, they are assigned a faculty mentor who will assist them with preparation for professional development, as well as any other concerns which may arise.

The School provides students with training in their specific area of interest, building upon a broad foundation of study as required by the university. There is a focus on both the theory and practice of theatre by furnishing intellectual challenges and providing opportunities for performance and practical experience.

UPCOMING USC SCHOOL OF THEATRE EVENTS

The Laramie Project

Bing Theatre – February 26-29

The Laramie Project chronicles the life of the town of Laramie in the year after the murder of Matthew Shepard. Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater members have constructed a deeply moving theatrical experience based on more than 200 interviews with the people of Laramie and their own experiences.

Present Laughter

Scene Dock Theatre – March 4-7

An aging actor juggles relationships with his wife, would-be lovers, lawyers, fellow actors, fans, and a mad playwright in Noel Coward's sparkling comedy of "bad manners."

MFA Playwrights Workshop

Massman Theatre – March 1-10

Enjoy new, original plays chosen from the works of graduate Dramatic Writing students.

Free admission. Please phone 213-743-1967 for showtimes.

Patience

Bing Theatre – April 1-4 & 8-10

A group of guards are in love with a group of maidens, who are madly in love with a poet, who only has eyes for Patience, the milkmaid. Then another young poet, whom Patience used to love, arrives on the scene. Complication follows complication in another of Gilbert and Sullivan's topsy-turvy masterpieces.

USC School of Theatre Tickets, Times & Prices

Showtimes: Thursdays & Fridays: 7 p.m.

Saturdays: 2:30 & 8 p.m.

Sundays: 2:30 p.m.

At Ticket Office and Venue:

USC Students with ID: \$5

General Public: \$10

Non-USC Students, Seniors, Children under 12, USC Faculty & Staff: \$8

For Phone Orders and Information Call 213.740.2167

Please Note: A \$2.00 service fee is added for each ticket purchased over the phone.