



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Tony Award-Winning RED Opens at American Stage**

**St. Petersburg, FL** – American Stage Theatre Company continues its 2014-15 season with John Logan’s compelling portrait of artist Mark Rothko at the Raymond James Theatre in Downtown St. Petersburg. Winner of the 2010 Tony Award for “Best New Play”, RED has been lauded as “...Intense and exciting...a study in artist appreciation, a portrait of an angry and brilliant mind that asks you to feel the shape and texture of thoughts...” (*New York Times*). Directed by regional favorite, Karla Hartley and featuring American Stage newcomer Gregg Weiner performing the role of Rothko, RED runs May 27 through June 21, 2015. **Opening Night is Friday, May 29, 2015.**

Performances for RED will begin with two preview performances on Wednesday, May 27 at 8pm and Thursday, May 28 at 8pm. The production will open on Friday, May 29 at 8pm. Performances continue for four-weeks through June 21, 2015. Showtimes will be Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, and Saturdays and Sundays at 3pm. General tickets range from \$29-\$59. Discount tickets are available as follows: Wednesday preview tickets are “Pay What You Can” and Thursday preview tickets are \$29; Student Tickets are \$20; Seniors and Retired Military Members receive \$2 off; and Group Rates are available for parties of 12 or more. Tickets are currently available at the American Stage Box Office, by phone at (727) 823-PLAY (7529) or online at [www.americanstage.org](http://www.americanstage.org).

### **THE PLAY**

Master abstract expressionist Mark Rothko has just landed the biggest commission in the history of modern art, a series of murals for New York’s famed Four Seasons Restaurant. In the two fascinating years that follow, Rothko works feverishly with his young assistant, Ken, in his studio on the Bowery. But when Ken gains the confidence to challenge him, Rothko faces the agonizing possibility that his crowning achievement could also become his undoing. Raw and provocative, RED is a searing portrait of an artist’s ambition and vulnerability as he tries to create a definitive work for an extraordinary setting. Craig Wright.

### **ABOUT MARK ROTHKO**

Born Marcus Rotkovitch in the town of Dvinsk, Latvia, then part of the Russian Empire, Mark Rothko immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of ten, settling in Portland, Oregon. A gifted student, Rothko attended Yale University on scholarship from 1921-23, but disillusioned by the social

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milieu and financial hardship, he dropped out and moved to New York to “bum around and starve a bit.” A chance invitation from a friend brought him to a drawing class at the Art Students League where he discovered his love of art. He took two classes there but was otherwise self-taught. Rothko painted in a figurative style for nearly twenty years, his portraits and depictions of urban life baring the soul of those living through The Great Depression in New York. The painter Milton Avery offered Rothko both artistic and nutritional nourishment during these lean years. In the 1930s, Rothko exhibited with The Ten, a close-knit group of nine American painters, which included fellow Avery acolyte, Adolph Gottlieb. Success was moderate at best but the group provided important incubation for the Abstract Expressionist school to come. The war years brought with it an influx of European surrealists, influencing most of the New York painters, among them Rothko, to take on a neo-surrealist style. Rothko experimented with mythic and symbolic painting for five years before moving to pure abstraction in the mid 1940s and ultimately to his signature style of two or three rectangles floating in fields of saturated color in 1949. Beginning in the early 1950s Rothko was heralded, along with Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Franz Kline and others, as the standard bearers of the New American Painting — a truly American art that was not simply a derivative of European styles. By the late 1950s, Rothko was a celebrated (if not wealthy) artist, winning him three mural commissions that would dominate the latter part of his career. Only in the last of these, The Rothko Chapel in Houston was he able to realize his dream of a truly contemplative environment in which to interact deeply with his artwork. RED presents a fictionalized account of Rothko’s frustrated first attempt to create such a space in New York’s Four Season’s restaurant. Rothko sought to create art that was timeless; paintings that expressed basic human concerns and emotions that remain constant not merely across decades but across generations and epochs. He looked to communicate with his viewer at the most elemental level and through his artwork, have a conversation that was intense, personal and, above all, honest. A viewer’s tears in front of one of his paintings told him he had succeeded. While creating a deeply expressive body of work and garnering critical acclaim, Rothko battled depression and his brilliant career ended in suicide in 1970.

### **THE PLAYWRIGHT**

John Logan received the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critic Circle and Drama League awards for his play RED. This play premiered at the Donmar Warehouse in London and at the Golden Theatre on Broadway. He is the author of more than a dozen other plays including NEVER THE SINNER and HAUPTMANN. His adaptation of Ibsen’s THE MASTER BUILDER premiered on the West End in 2003. As a screenwriter, Logan had three movies released in 2011: HUGO, CORIOLANUS and RANGO. Previous film work includes SWEENEY TODD (Golden Globe award); THE AVIATOR (Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and WGA nominations); GLADIATOR (Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and WGA nominations); THE LAST SAMURAI; ANY GIVEN SUNDAY, and RKO 281 (WGA award, Emmy nomination).

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## **THE PRODUCTION**

Karla Hartley directs this Tony Award-Winning play which features. The design team includes Jerid Fox (scenic), Jacqueline Padgett (costumes), and Phillip Franck (lighting).

## **RED Fact Sheet**

**WHAT:** American Stage presents RED by John Logan

**WHERE:** Raymond James Theatre: 163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**WHEN:** May 27 – June 21, 2015

Previews Wednesday, May 27, 8pm, "Pay What You Can" and Thursday, May 28, 8pm, \$29 tickets

Opening Night: Friday, May 29, 2015, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 6:30pm)

Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through June 21, 2015.

### **Performance Times & Prices:**

Wednesdays & Thursdays 8pm \$39 tickets

Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm \$49 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays at 3pm \$39 tickets

### **Ticket Purchases:**

Box Office: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Online: [www.americanstage.org](http://www.americanstage.org)

Walk-up: 163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

### **PLAY Description:**

Master abstract expressionist Mark Rothko has just landed the biggest commission in the history of modern art, a series of murals for New York's famed Four Seasons Restaurant. In the two fascinating years that follow, Rothko works feverishly with his young assistant, Ken, in his studio on the Bowery. But when Ken gains the confidence to challenge him, Rothko faces the agonizing possibility that his crowning achievement could also become his undoing. Raw and provocative, RED is a searing portrait of an artist's ambition and vulnerability as he tries to create a definitive work for an extraordinary setting.

### **WHO:**

Playwright: John Logan

Director: Karla Hartley

Cast: Andrew Perez\* as Ken and Gregg Weiner\* as Mark Rothko

Scenic Design: Jerid Fox

Lighting Design: Phillip Franck

Costume Design: Jaqueline Padgett

Production Stage Manager: Rachel Harrison\*

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association

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Follow this link <http://www.americanstage.org/mediapage.php> to American Stage's Media Resource Page.

DIRECT LINK to publicity photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/americanstage/sets/>

*Photo credit is Chad Jacobs. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact Roman Black for immediate needs.*

### Services and Facilities

**Physical Accessibility:** The theatre features accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and seating. *Benefits of a Valid Disabled Parking Permit: Displaying your valid disabled parking permit will allow you to park at City metered spaces for FREE, for as long as your event requires, including those posted with time limit signs (green signs). Please note: this does not apply to loading zones or otherwise restricted parking signage (red signs).*

**Listening System:** Theatregoers may enjoy the free infrared listening system from any seat.



Group Ticket Pricing Packages are also available. For tickets, please call the American Stage Box Office at (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

### Mission

Founded in 1977, American Stage's mission is to create the most satisfying professional live theatre in the Tampa Bay area, and to make it accessible to all members of the community. The vision is to preserve the greatest human stories from our past, while creating the most defining stories and storytelling of our time. American Stage presents its Mainstage Series in the 182-seat Raymond James Theatre year round and the annual American Stage in the Park each Spring. The theatre's other programming includes: "After Hours" Series, School Tour, Youth/Adult Classes, Summer Camp, and Teen Summer Institute.