

THE 2011 LUNT-FONTANNE FELLOWS

Ten Chimneys Foundation is proud and excited to announce the 2011 Lunt-Fontanne Fellows and their nominating theatres.

Lunt-Fontanne Fellows are the top regional stage actors in America — the great mentor actors in the great theatre communities. They have 20+ years of experience as professional actors. They are widely respected by audiences, directors, and fellow actors for their talent, dedication to craft, attention to detail, and passionate pursuit of excellence – the qualities for which Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne were so revered. These extraordinary theatre artists are the best of the best – widely considered the top actors in their cities. They are their communities' theatre mentors. And we can't wait to welcome them to Ten Chimneys.

SALLY NYSTUEN VAHLE

Nominated by Dallas Theater Center | Dallas



"Sally Nystuen Vahle is an exceptional artist who has vast experience,

ferocious talent, and keen understanding of what an individual actor can bring to a play, a creative process, and an acting company to create art that is richer and deeper than its individual parts. For more than two decades Sally has performed significant roles on stage at Dallas Theater Center, creating highly lauded and long remembered roles, from the Angel in *Angels in America* to Macbeth to Linda Loman. Sally has repeatedly earned well-deserved recognition as one of Dallas' most talented actors. With each performance, Sally exhibits an ability to inhabit the strongest, earthiest characters with humanity and simplicity, and she does it with a mix of sheer emotional bravery and precise technique that is at once daring and awe-inspiring. While audiences and critics in Dallas think of Sally as one of the city's greatest actors, her artistic collaborators think of her more personally as one of the most warm, generous artists in the community. She shares her talent – as teacher, coach, and collaborator – with students and colleagues alike. More specially, Sally always thinks of the other person – in the scene on-stage or in a personal conversation off-stage – rather than of herself. Her ease and natural grace as a mother in her family life is matched by her heartfelt commitment to building and nurturing community in all that she does. Her passion for artistic expression fuels her to teach acting and voice at the University of North Texas and led her to co-found Kitchen Dog Theater, one of Dallas' most innovative theater companies, before she joined the acting company at DTC. Sally is truly one of the finest artists in Dallas. When we're fortunate to work with her on a project, she makes all of us better."

- **Kevin Moriarty, Artistic Director**



TEN CHIMNEYS

LUNT-FONTANNE FELLOWSHIP PRESS RELEASE

**DALLAS THEATER CENTER'S SALLY NYSTUEN VAHLE
HONORED AS ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP ACTORS**

*Vahle to participate in Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program
with actress OLYMPIA DUKAKIS at historic TEN CHIMNEYS*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 6, 2010 (Lynn Fontanne's Birthday)

On December 6, 2010 (on what would have been Lynn Fontanne's 123rd birthday), the Lynn Fontanne Foundation announced that Dallas actor Sally Nystuen Vahle has been selected a Fellow. Nominated by Dallas Theater Center, Ms. Vahle is one of only ten actors who will participate in the 2011 Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program, a widely acclaimed program designed to serve the future of American theatre. Next summer (July 24-31, 2011), Vahle and other Lunt-Fontanne Fellows will join Academy Award-winning actress Olympia Dukakis for a master class and immersion experience at Ten Chimneys, the National Historic Landmark home of theatre legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, in Genesee Depot, Wisconsin (just outside of

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NEWS IN BRIEF



■ Peter Sinn Nachtrieb has been selected by the National New Play Network to be the first of five Full Stage USA writers commissioned to create a new work under the sponsorship of New York's New Dramatists. The award provides \$25,000 to the playwright along with travel and development resources for New Dramatists. An additional \$40,000 goes to the eventual production.

■ The Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University has selected *Will Power* as one of the two recipients of its second annual 2010 Meadows Prize arts residency

(the other is choreographer *Shen Wei*). Power will receive a \$25,000 stipend and will conduct classes with the Dallas Theater Center's resident acting company and with Meadows students. Power will also serve two periods of residency at DTC in 2011 to develop work that will eventually premiere there.

■ The Lunt Fontanne Fellowship Program, created by the Wisconsin-based Ten Chimneys Foundation, has announced this year's fellows. The honored actors and their nominating theatres are *Rene Augesen*, American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco; *James Craven*, Penumbra Theatre, St. Paul, Minn.; *Nike Douglas*, South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, Calif.; *Rich Fouches*, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, D.C.; *Mark Harshik*, South Coast Repertory; *Mary Martello*, Arden Theatre Company, Philadelphia;

Austin Pendleton, Stephenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago; *James Pickering*, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre; *Vilma Silva*, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland; and *Sall Nystruen Vahle*, Dallas Theater Center. Each fellow is awarded a \$2,500 cash fellowship and will join *Olympia Dukakis* for an intensive weeklong master class at Ten Chimneys in July 2011.

■ Canada's largest theatre award, the Siminovitch Prize, went to director *Kim Collier* of Vancouver's Electric Company Theatre. Her *No Exit* gets its U.S. premiere at San Francisco's American Conservatory Theater in April.

■ American playwright *Brian Yorke*'s race-themed drama *Chybaourne Park*, produced at the Royal Court, was named best play of the year by London's *Evening Standard* Theatre Awards. Nineteen-year-old *Anna Reiss* received the Charles Wintour Award

ABOUT THE LUNT-FONTANNE FELLOWSHIP

The Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program has been created by Ten Chimneys Foundation. In order to serve as “a continuing resource and powerful inspiration for American theatre,” Ten Chimneys Foundation leadership spent years talking to the top artists and producers of American theatre to determine the deepest needs in the industry. One of the most pervasive and significant needs articulated was, “the top stage actors in American theatre, ‘the mentors,’ need real opportunities to be mentored.” Ten Chimneys Foundation realized that it was uniquely positioned to fill this critical need, and began years of extensive planning to do just that. The result was the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program.

Through this groundbreaking national program, the top actors in the country are given a rare and deeply-needed opportunity to grow artistically, renew their passion for their art form, deepen their commitment to mentorship, and form a national community of Lunt-Fontanne Fellows. These actors return to their home communities more inspired, and more inspiring – offering great benefits to other actors, to individual theatres, to students, to communities across the country, and to American theatre as a whole. Ultimately, this program does not exist simply to serve actors, but to strengthen the ability of actors and theatres to enrich people’s lives in communities throughout the country. Lunt-Fontanne Fellows do this as artists, as mentors, as teachers, and as leaders in their communities.

The program’s innovative approach to a deep unmet need in American theatre allows it to achieve extraordinary outcomes. Artists are able to create, interpret, and refine their work and talent. When Fellows return to their home communities (as stronger artists and more passionate and committed mentors and teachers), they help their nominating theatres increase their ability to realize their artistic and public service goals. Audiences experience those same inherent artistic benefits when they see Lunt-Fontanne Fellows perform, after their Ten Chimneys experience, as well as benefitting from seeing the work of other actors who work with these rejuvenated mentors. And all of these outcomes help strengthen the art of theatre in major communities throughout America.

2010 Ten Chimneys National Advisory Board

With the guidance of a National Advisory Council, Ten Chimneys Foundation selected the “best of the best” from great theatre cities across the country.

Ten Chimneys Foundation is pleased and honored to have the counsel of a remarkable group of leaders in American theatre.

- Olympia Dukakis, 2011 Master Teacher
- Lou Bellamy, Founder & Artistic Director, Penumbra Theatre Company
- André Bishop, Artistic Director, Lincoln Center Theater
- Susan Booth, Artistic Director, Alliance Theatre
- Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director, Alley Theatre
- Mark Clements, Artistic Director, Milwaukee Repertory Theater
- Curt Columbus, Artistic Director, Trinity Repertory Company
- Erica Daniels, Casting Director, Steppenwolf Theatre Company
- Tyler Dobrowsky, Associate Artistic Director, Trinity Repertory Company
- Joe Dowling, Director, Guthrie Theater
- Barry Edelstein, 2010 Master Teacher, The Public Theater
- David Emmes, Artistic Director, South Coast Repertory
- Teresa Eyring, Executive Director, Theatre Communications Group
- Jody Feldman, Associate Producer, Alliance Theatre
- Barbara Gaines, Artistic Director, Chicago Shakespeare Theater
- Dean Gladden, Managing Director, Alley Theatre
- David Ira Goldstein, Artistic Director, Arizona Theatre Company
- Joseph Hanreddy, Former Artistic Director, Milwaukee Repertory Theater
- Dawn Helsing Wolters, Managing Director, Milwaukee Repertory Theater
- Chris Jennings, Managing Director, Shakespeare Theatre Company
- Michael Kahn, Artistic Director, Shakespeare Theatre Company
- Richard Kotulski, Casting Director, The Wilma Theater
- Martha Lavey, Artistic Director, Steppenwolf Theatre Company
- Jerry Manning, Producing Artistic Director, Seattle Repertory Theatre
- Bob Mason, Artistic Associate, Chicago Shakespeare Theater
- John Miller-Stephany, Associate Artistic Director, Guthrie Theater
- Kevin Moriarty, Artistic Director, Dallas Theater Center
- Jonathan Moscone, Artistic Director, California Shakespeare Theater
- Paul Nicholson, Executive Director, Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Terrance J. Nolen, Artistic Director, Arden Theatre Company
- Carey Perloff, Artistic Director, American Conservatory Theater
- Bill Rauch, Artistic Director, Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Ellen Richard, Executive Director, American Conservatory Theater
- Roche Schulfer, Executive Director, Goodman Theatre
- Steve Scott, Associate Producer, Goodman Theatre
- Howard Shalwitz, Artistic Director, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
- Molly Smith, Artistic Director, Arena Stage
- Louis G. Spisto, CEO/Executive Producer, The Old Globe
- Kent Thompson, Artistic Director, Denver Center Theatre Company
- Paula Tomej, Managing Director, South Coast Repertory
- Blanka Zizka, Artistic Director, The Wilma Theater

**“NATION’S TOP REGIONAL THEATRE ACTORS HONORED AS
“2011 LUNT-FONTANNE FELLOWS”**

For the 2011 Fellowship Program, Ten Chimneys Foundation selected nine of the top regional theatres in the country to serve as Partner Theatres – to identify America’s top stage actors, it’s “theatre mentors.” Each Partner Theatre was invited to nominate the “master actors” of their communities, to be considered for recognition as Lunt-Fontanne Fellows. Selected with the guidance of a National Advisory Board, following are the ten actors who have been selected as the 2011 Lunt-Fontanne Fellows, along with their nominating Partner Theatres:

RENÉ AUGESSEN - American Conservatory Theater (San Francisco)

JAMES CRAVEN - Penumbra Theatre (Saint Paul)

NIKE DOUKAS - South Coast Repertory (Costa Mesa, CA)

RICK FOUCHEUX - Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (Washington, D.C.)

MARK HARELIK - South Coast Repertory (Costa Mesa, CA)

MARY MARTELLO - Arden Theatre Company (Philadelphia)

AUSTIN PENDLETON - Steppenwolf Theatre Company (Chicago)

JAMES PICKERING - Milwaukee Repertory Theater (Milwaukee)

VILMA SILVA - Oregon Shakespeare Festival (Ashland)

SALLY NYSTUEN VAHLE - Dallas Theater Center (Dallas)