

Friday night BOGOS at Wheelock Family Theatre
Simply present your College ID on a Friday Night and get
two tickets for the price of one!

Wheelock Family Theatre

200 The Riverway, Boston MA 02215
www.WheelockFamilyTheatre.org

A Tale of Two Cities

By Dwayne Hartford

October 30 – November 29, 2009

Based on the book by Charles Dickens.

Set during the tumult of the French Revolution, *A Tale of Two Cities* vividly dramatizes the influence of historical and political upheaval on the individual. It follows the intertwined fortunes of a French Aristocrat who rejects his family's tradition of terrorizing the lower classes; a physician whose long imprisonment has left him a symbolic hero for the oppressed; a drunken lawyer who finds meaning in life through an requited love; and a mob leader whose sheer rage at the degradation of the lower classes demands vengeance. This new adaptation of the Dickens classic poses questions as pressing today as they were two centuries ago.

How does one prioritize loyalty?

Is violence ever justified?

What are the costs to society of a citizenry divided between rich and poor?

Can a single act of honor and love counteract a world filled with hatred?

How do the dignity and the rights of the individual withstand the actions of a howling mob?

Can a government that asserts its power in the form of public exhibition guarantee control of its audience reaction?

Does a society of spectacle breed paranoia and a culture of secrets?

And, in the face of war and terror perpetrated in the name of a broader cause, what is the definition of a life well lived?

Playwright: DWAYNE HARTFORD

Dwayne Hartford is a playwright, actor and director living in Phoenix, Arizona. He is an associate artist and playwright-in-residence at Childsplay, where his plays for young audiences have been developed through the Whiteman New Plays Program before premiering with the company.

Three of his plays have been published by Dramatic Publishing and have been produced around the country and in Canada. *Eric and Elliot*, was named the 2005 Distinguished Play by the American Alliance for Theatre & Education. *The Imaginators* had an extended run at Florida Rep in Fort Myers, and was produced and aired on KAET TV, the Phoenix PBS affiliate. In June 2007, *A Tale of Two Cities* was chosen to take part in NYU's New Plays for Young Audiences Program, a play development workshop at the Provincetown Playhouse in New York City. To date, the play has been produced at People's Light and Theatre in Malvern, Pennsylvania and at Seattle Children's Theatre. Dwayne is originally from a small town in central Maine. He received his

BFA from the Boston Conservatory. He is currently working on a new play for Childsplay set in Maine during World War II.

Cast:

Bill Mootos* (Sydney Carton)
Paul Melendy* (Charles Darnay)
Robin Eldridge (Lucie Manette)

Jane Staab* (Madame Defarge)
M. Lynda Robinson* (Miss Pross)
David Rothauser* (Dr. Manette)



Additionally with Kortney Adams*, John Davin*, Jonathan Overby, Cliff Odle, Tara Henry, De'Lon Grant, Dale Place*, Brian Quint
*Members of AEA

Bill Mootos has appeared in many theaters in the New England and New York areas, most recently in *BETTER OFF DEAD* with Village Theatre Project. This summer, he appeared in *DINNER WITH FRIENDS*, *THE WEIR*, and *ON GOLDEN POND* with the Barnstormers Theatre in NH. Regional credits include productions with the Huntington Theatre Company, The Publick Theatre, Metropolitan Playhouse of NYC, Manhattan Theatre Source, North Shore Music Theatre, the Vineyard Playhouse, Gloucester Stage Company, the Lyric Stage Company, Merrimack Rep, Foothills Theatre, Boston Theatre Works, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Garage Theatre Group of NJ, and many others. A proud member of AEA, AFTRA, and SAG, Bill's film credits include *THE COMPANY MEN*, *VALEDICTION*, *HARD LUCK*, *EASY LISTENING* and others. Bill can next be seen in Worcester at the Hanover Theatre's production of *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*.

Paul Melendy is making his WFT debut with *A TALE OF TWO CITIES*. Recent theater credits include New Century Theatre's *ARCADIA*, Foothills Theatre's *TAKE ME OUT*, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's *AS YOU LIKE IT*, *A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHTDREAM*, and *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*, Actors' Shakespeare Project's Eliot Norton award-winning *TITUS ANDRONICUS*, New Repertory Theatre's tour of *CYRANO DEBERGERAC*, Publick Theatre's *DESIGN FOR LIVING*, and Shakespeare Now! Theatre Company's *JULIUS CAESAR*. Film: *THE PINK PANTHER DEUX*. Paul was honored with the Best Actor Award from the New Hampshire Theatre Awards for his role as Adam in The Fringe Players' production of *THE COMPLETE WORKS ON WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)* as well as a Best Comedic Actor Award from the New England Theatre Conference at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. He is a four-time KCACTF nominee and three-time Regional Finalist. Paul is a graduate of Salem State College (Salem, MA) where he received a B.F.A. in Theatre Performance.

This production marks **Robin Eldridge's** return to WFT stage! Favorite past roles at WFT include Gretl in *THE SOUND OF MUSIC*, Winnie in the world premiere of Harold Bakken's memorable *TUCK EVERLASTING*, Scout in the classic *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*, and Juliet in *ROMEO & JULIET*. Since acting on Wheelock's stage, Robin earned a BA in philosophy from Brown University and has lived, worked (and acted) in San Francisco (*HEIDI CHRONICLES*, Actors Ensemble), New York City (*AN EVENING OF CHRISTOPHER DURANG* with All You Can Eat Theatre), and now Boston.

Jane Staab, a co-founder of the Wheelock Family Theatre, is the Theatre's resident Equity actor, general manager, and casting director. She has directed many WFT productions, including WFT's original adaptations of *A Little Princess*, *Holiday Stories* and *Secret Garden*, for which she also composed the music. A private acting coach, Jane also teaches courses in acting and drama at Wheelock College and at WFT. She has played roles in *THE BELLE OF AMHERST*, *THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE*, *MEDEA*, *HAPPY DAYS*, *ON GOLDEN POND*, *I REMEMBER MAMA*, and many more. Jane has also performed with the

California and New Jersey Shakespeare Festivals, Spectrum Theatre in NYC and Hartford Stage Company. She has also performed on Broadway with Frank Langella in the U.S. premiere of *THE PRINCE OF HOMBERG*. Jane has worked in television, film and radio, including a WGBH Legacies series: *Women in History* and the PBS series: *Best Families*.

M. Lynda Robinson has been working in theatre, film & TV for the past 30 years as an actor, director, producer, teacher, and playwright. She attended the Masters Program in Playwriting at B.U. and is a published playwright, most recently in "The Best Ten-Minute Plays for 2 Actors, 2007" published by Smith & Kraus. As an actor she has performed in many theaters in the Boston area including the Publick, Nora, Lyric, Wilbur, W.H.A.T., Huntington, Provincetown Rep, Merrimack, Gloucester Stage, Shear Madness, Stoneham, New Rep, among others. She is currently the Artistic Director of Blackburn Performing Arts in Gloucester, where she also directs and teaches. Her teaching includes Emerson College and Boston Casting. Lynda has performed in hundreds of commercials, corporate videos, live trade-shows, and voice-overs as well as performing principal roles in film and TV. In 1993 she was honored with the Outstanding Boston Actress Award, one of the first local actors to win this award.

David Rothauser has worked in all forms of the theatre and the media. He began his career as an actor while living in Paris, France. Among his film and television credits are *THE LONGEST DAY* (20th Century Fox) and *SPENSER: FOR HIRE* (Warner Bros.) In the United States he has worked with the Living Theatre, the Manhattan Theatre Club and the Providence Repertory Theatre in NYC and regional theatres in New England. Mr. Rothauser was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant for a screenplay about the Sacco-Vanzetti case, received a First Place Massachusetts Artists Fellowship for his stage play, *THE FIRST ALL-AMERICAN PRESIDENT* and won a blue ribbon at the American Film Festival in NYC as co-producer of, *A GOOD EXAMPLE; BERTOLT BRECHT*. In 1999 he received the Sacco-Vanzetti Award for Social Justice from the Community Church of Boston.

Production:

Director: Susan Kosoff

Scenic Design: Anita Fuchs

Costume Design: Lisa Simpson

Lighting Design: John Malinowski

Sound Design: Dewey Dellay

Production Stage Manager: Lindsay Garofalo

A Tale of Two Cities

October 30 – November 29, 2009

Friday nights at 7:30; Saturday & Sunday matinees at 3:00

Thu 11/5, Wed 11/18, Tue 11/24 at 10am

ASL/AD: Friday November 27 at 7:30 & Sunday November 29 at 3:00

Tickets: \$25 - \$15 Teens on Friday: \$15

College I.D. – Friday night BOGO – Buy One Get One FREE!

Extra! Extras! Free events at each performance: **Friday** teen workshops;
Saturday conversations with the production team; meet the cast on
Sundays

Box Office: 617-879-2300 tickets@wheelock.edu

- **WHEELLOCK FAMILY THEATRE:** professional, non-profit, Equity theatre; established 1981.
- **LOCATION:** 200 The Riverway on the campus of Wheelock College in Boston's historic Fenway.

- PARKING: discounted parking available at 375 Longwood Avenue, MASCO garage.
- MBTA: Fenway or Longwood - green line Riverside (D train); CT bus to Beth Israel.
- WEBSITE: www.WheelockFamilyTheatre.org
- ACCESS: The Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Final weekend performances are interpreted in American Sign Language for the Deaf and audio-described for the Blind.

For additional information, please contact: Charles Baldwin 617-879-2147 cbaldwin@wheelock.edu

Charles G. Baldwin, Director of Marketing
Wheelock Family Theatre

Create your own reviews: visit our WFT Blog!
<http://wheenews.blogspot.com/>

WFT 2009-2010 Season

A Tale of Two Cities; November 2009

The Dickens tale of love and intrigue set during the French Revolution.

HONK!; February 2010

A riotous, musical version of the "Ugly Duckling" story.

The Little Mermaid; April/May 2010

The classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale.