

THE KEEGAN THEATRE
 at CHURCH STREET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 3, 2011: Washington DC-based Keegan Theatre returns to Ireland in September with Arthur Miller's masterpiece THE CRUCIBLE. This will be Keegan Theatre's 13th annual Ireland tour, most recently having toured FOOL FOR LOVE in 2010 and OF MICE AND MEN in 2009. THE CRUCIBLE tour is a co-production with Town Hall Theatre in Galway, and will feature local Irish actresses playing the younger roles of Betty, Susanna Walcott, Elizabeth Hubbard, and Mercy Lewis. In each town on this year's three-week tour (Galway, Kilkenny, Cork), four different young actresses will play these roles, rehearsing with the American cast after Keegan arrives in Ireland in early September.

Arthur Miller's classic portrait of one man's struggle toward grace is set in the scorching context of the 17th-Century Salem witch trials. A community galvanized by fear and suspicion, a wife betrayed by lust, an orphan girl blind with passion and possessed with revenge, ruthless prosecutors, deluded holy men and covetous neighbors. *The Crucible* pulses with the destructiveness of socially sanctioned violence, the power of hysteria and rancor, the blindness of zealots, and the heart of one tortured man trying to find his own goodness. Keegan Artistic Director Mark A. Rhea reprises his acclaimed performance as John Proctor; Associate Artistic Director Susan Marie Rhea directs.

"A riveting, white-hot production from Keegan Theatre ... Director Susan Marie Rhea's vision, combined with powerful performances, make Keegan's The Crucible a fresh viewing experience." – THE WASHINGTON POST

In addition to Mark A. Rhea, who has toured to Ireland every year, the cast of THE CRUCIBLE includes five other veterans of the Ireland tour. Kevin Adams will play Deputy Governor Danforth – Adams has been seen on Irish stages on recent tours as Shelly Levine (*Glengarry Glen Ross*), Father (*Fool for Love*), Chief

Bromden (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*), and Carlson (*Of Mice and Men*). Rhea's featured roles in Ireland include Stanley Kowalski (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Eddie (*Fool for Love*), McMurphy (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*), George (*Of Mice and Men*), and Roma (*Glengarry Glen Ross*), among many others.

Susan Marie Rhea directs THE CRUCIBLE for the second time; Keegan first produced the show in the States in 2003 to widespread critical and audience acclaim and a sold-out run. A Keegan company member as well as its Associate Artistic Director, Susan has both performed in Ireland -- Laura (*Glass Menagerie*), Stella (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Maggie (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*), Honey (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*) – and directed previous tours (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *True West*).

Keegan Theatre is delighted to be working with Town Hall Theatre to bring Irish audiences this incredible piece of American theater.

2011 IRELAND TOUR DATES

Town Hall Theatre, Galway	September 12-17
Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny	September 19-24
Everyman Palace Theatre, Cork	September 26-October 1
Church Street Theater, Washington DC	October 22-November 19