

For Immediate Release

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## **Cal Shakes Associate Artist James Carpenter named 2010 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow by Ten Chimneys Foundation**

*Award presented in “recognition of exceptional contribution to (his)  
community and to the overall quality of American theater”*

Berkeley, CA—April 26, 2010: California Shakespeare Theater announced today that Associate Artist **James Carpenter** has been named as one of only nine actors in the country being honored by the **Ten Chimneys Foundation** as a **2010 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow**.

“It is rare that I think of certain actors as artists. Jim Carpenter certainly is one,” says Cal Shakes Artistic Director **Jonathan Moscone**. “He doesn’t just perform roles. He creates them. Jim begins his process of creating a character from deep within him. He and I always joke about the acting ‘bogameter,’ an imagined device that goes off when a moment is phony (or bogus) in rehearsal or performance. But he’s dead serious about authenticity in his work, and the work of others. He challenges me at every turn, and it took us a while to trust each other, with my pushing him to places he may be uncomfortable with, and his getting me to trust the simplicity of a gesture or a look, of a moment between two people. He is a master of acting American Shakespeare; his work is confident, unforced, nuanced, skillful, and real. And when he’s afforded the chance to work on modern material, he uses all of those qualities to lift any script off the page in ways that are nothing short of thrilling. Jim’s also become a touchstone for me as a person, professionally and personally. He’s such a rich, deep human that not only is his work significantly informed by that, but also all of his relationships. When you talk to Jim, it’s a real conversation. There’s no ‘bogameter’ going off when you’re in a room with him. Jimmy Carpenter is the real deal, on stage, in rehearsal, in life.”

For the 2010 Fellowship Program, Ten Chimneys Foundation selected nine regional theaters to serve as Partner Theaters for this groundbreaking program. Each Partner Theater was invited to nominate the “master actors” of their communities, to be considered for recognition as Lunt-Fontanne Fellows. Joining Cal Shakes as Partner Theaters for this prestigious award are Trinity Repertory Company, The Old Globe, Guthrie Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Wilma Theater, Goodman Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

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In addition to a cash prize, Mr. Carpenter will join the other Fellows and revered actress **Lynn Redgrave** for an intensive weeklong master class and retreat at Ten Chimneys from July 11-18. The retreat will take place at the National Historic Landmark estate of Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, in Genesee Depot, Wisconsin.

Cal Shakes Associate Artist **James Carpenter** began his career with the company in 1988 as Thomas Mowbray in *Richard II*, Prince Hal in *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2*, and the title role in *Henry V*, and his performances have moved and delighted audiences ever since. He has appeared in such productions as Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Professor Serebryakov in *Uncle Vanya*, King Edward IV and the Bishop of Ely in *Richard III*; the Earl of Gloucester in *King Lear*; Ralph Nickleby in *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, Richard in *Richard III*, Cassius in *Julius Caesar*, Trigorin in *The Seagull*, MacDuff in *Macbeth*, and Richard in *Richard II*. Other Bay Area credits include his widely-acclaimed portrayal of the title character in A.C.T.'s *Scrooge*; and his hilarious turn as Donny in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* at Berkeley Rep, as well as performances at The Old Globe Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Intiman Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Arizona Theatre Company, and The Huntington.

#### TEN CHIMNEYS FOUNDATION – PROGRAM HOST

Ten Chimneys is the estate lovingly created by Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, widely considered the greatest acting couple in the history of American theater. With no ropes and nothing under glass, modern-day guests at Ten Chimneys are treated to a VIP guided tour of a National Historic Landmark replete with original furnishings and overflowing with the romance of the 1930s and '40s. The estate is open to the public as a world-class historic site and a national resource for American theater. For much of the 20th century, Ten Chimneys was “the center of the theatrical universe” – an important place for the luckiest of artists to retreat, rejuvenate, and collaborate. Luminaries such as Helen Hayes, Noël Coward, Alexander Woolcott, and Katharine Hepburn were all frequent and devoted Ten Chimneys guests. In addition, the Lunts were known for their dedication to the next generation; they reveled in mentoring young actors. Legends such as Laurence Olivier, Uta Hagen, Montgomery Clift, and Julie Harris proudly considered themselves protégés of the Lunts. The Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program continues that tradition of mentorship.

#### ABOUT THE LUNT-FONTANNE FELLOWSHIP

The Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program has been created by Ten Chimneys Foundation, and is made possible by a generous lead grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Through this 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, and deepen their commitment to mentorship. Lunt-Fontanne Fellows return to their home communities more inspired, and more inspiring – offering great benefits to other actors, to individual theaters, to students, to communities across the country, and to American theater as a whole. Ultimately, the program does not exist simply to serve actors; the purpose of the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program is to strengthen the ability of actors and theaters to enrich people's lives in communities across the country. Lunt-Fontanne Fellows do this as artists, as mentors, as teachers, and as leaders in their communities. As each class of Fellows connects with and



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inspires hundreds of fellow actors and tens-of thousands of audience members, year after year, the exponential impact is truly remarkable.

Photos and additional information available at: [tenchimneys.org/fellowship](http://tenchimneys.org/fellowship) and [calshakes.org](http://calshakes.org)

#### ABOUT CAL SHAKES

Founded in 1974, California Shakespeare Theater is a fully professional, critically acclaimed theater known for its innovative productions of the plays of William Shakespeare and other reimagined classics. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone and Managing Director Susie Falk, Cal Shakes is committed to being a leading community citizen by nourishing the imaginations of audiences, artists, and learners of all ages. Cal Shakes makes boldly imagined and deeply entertaining interpretations of Shakespeare and the classics; provides in-depth, far-reaching artistic learning programs for learners of all ages and circumstances; and brings disparate communities together around the creation of new American plays that reflect the cultural diversity of the Bay Area.

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