



Dear friend of The Pearl,

Theatre happens in the space between live actors and receptive audiences. At The Pearl, we like to keep that transaction intimate and resonant. Therefore, we are pleased to share our 2008/2009 season announcement with you, in the hope you will join us for our exciting 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season of classics.

Sophocles, Lessing, Shakespeare, Molière, Williams. Big names. Great sources of light to illuminate our path as we look forward to our 25<sup>th</sup> season of classics. *The Oedipus Cycle* (Sophocles' three plays of Oedipus and his family, adapted for a single theatrical event), offers grace and wisdom as the light at the end of a dark journey of suffering and sacrifice. In *Nathan the Wise*, Lessing offers Reason, the great torch of the Enlightenment, to burn through the distorting fog of religious and racial hatred. In Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, love of every kind – brotherly, romantic, gastronomical – is the light that dispels the confusion and sorrow of being lost and alone. Molière's *Tartuffe* contrasts fear and blindness with selfless goodness and common sense. And Tennessee Williams, in the painful destitution of marginal lives, finds a glimmer of salvation even in the most fleeting human touch.

It is not only the themes and actions of these great plays that illuminate the path forward. The very act of theatre – a community coming together to explore and question our shared experience – is celebratory and strengthening. That's why The Pearl focuses on classics; that's why we nurture a resident acting company; and that's why our family of subscribers is essential to the joy and character of our work.

As we approach our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season of classical repertory, we ask that you renew your partnership with us in three ways:

**Subscribe!** Send in your subscription today to enjoy considerable savings, a guaranteed seat, and the exclusive right to change your reservation as needed.

**Tell a friend!** Please help us grow. If you know people who might enjoy The Pearl, please introduce us. As a subscriber the best way to acquaint your friends, family, and co-workers with us is by offering them Ambassador Tickets. This exclusive perk can save you, or those close to you, up to 25% off the regular ticket price.

**Contribute!** We ask you to make a tax-deductible donation to our company. Your generosity ensures that we can produce the plays of our 25<sup>th</sup> season and many more to come.

A word about a change from past seasons: *Nathan the Wise* is being offered as a special holiday season gift to New York, and especially to you, our subscribers. Because we first produced this play only six years ago, we are offering it as an add-on rather than as a part of your subscription. Your regular subscription includes four productions. We invite you to add *Nathan* for \$25 per ticket. The production will run only four weeks, and we hope to make it part of every season going forward – until this heartfelt and poignant call for the world to come together in hope and community no longer seems necessary. Please join us!

I look forward to welcoming you back to The Pearl. Together, we make great theatre.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shepard Sobel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Shepard Sobel  
Artistic Director