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# R numBLER

by Caryl Churchill

ilprU25 - May 11, 211'

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Presents

# A Number by Caryl Churchill

Director	Robert Tolaro
Assistant Director	T.J. Moreno
Set Design	Ann Marie Gordon
Light Design	Tara Bonds
Stage Manager	Amy Lewis
Dramaturg	C. Denby Swanson

## CHARACTERS AND CAST

Salter	Norman Blumensaadt
Bernard 1,2 and Michael	Marc Balester

**Place: A room in the not too distant future**

A NUMBER IS PERFORMED WITH NO INTERMISSION.  
Approximate running time 60 minutes.

We invite the audience to a discussion of the play with dramaturg C.  
Denby Swanson following the performance

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

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## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Playwright Caryl Churchill was born on 3 September 1938 in London and grew up in the Lake District and in Montreal. She was educated at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where she read English. *Dow~stairs*, her first play, was written while she was still at university, was first staged in 1958 and won an award at the *Sunday Times* National Union of Students Drama Festival. She wrote a number of plays for BBC radio including *The Ants* (1962), *Lovesick* (1967) and *Abortive* (1971). *The Judge's Wife* was televised by the BBC in 1972 and *Owners*, her first professional stage production, premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in London in the same year. She was Resident Dramatist at the Royal Court (1974-5) and spent much of the 1970s and 1980s working with the theatre groups 'Joint Stock' and 'Monstrous Regiment'. Her work during this period includes *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* (1976), *Cloud Nine* (1979), *Fen* (1983) and *A Mouthful of Birds* (1986), written with David Lan. *Three More Sleepless Nights* was first produced at the Soho Poly, London, in 1980. *Top Girls* brings together five historical female characters at a dinner party in a London restaurant given by Marlene, the new managing director of 'Top Girls' employment agency. The play was first staged at the Royal Court in 1982, directed by Max Stafford-Clark. It transferred to Joseph Papp's Public Theatre in New York later that year. *Serious Money* was first produced at the Royal Court in 1987 and won the *Evening Standard* Award for Best Comedy of the Year and the Laurence Olivier/BBC Award for Best New Play. More recent plays include *Mad Forest* (1990), written after a visit to Romania, and *The Skriker* (1994). Her plays for television include *The After Dinner Joke* (1978) and *Crimes* (1982). *Far Away* premiered at the Royal Court in 2000, directed by Stephen Daldry. She has also published a new translation of Seneca's *Thyestes* (2001), and *A Number* (2002), which addresses the subject of human cloning. Her new version of August Strindberg's *A Dream Play* (2005), premiered at the National Theatre in 2005. Caryl Churchill lives in London. Her latest play is *Drunk Enough to say I Love You?* (2006), which premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in Winter 2006. In January 2009, Churchill wrote a ten minute history of Israel, ending with the Israeli attack on Gaza, to be performed free at the Royal Court Theatre, with a collection for Medical Aid for Palestinians. The play, Seven Jewish Children -- a play about Gaza, was then published online, for free download and use. Churchill stated: "Anyone can perform it without acquiring the rights, as long as they do a collection for people in Gaza at the end of it".. This play has been widely criticised as being anti-semitic although Churchill has denied the charge.

## THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

**MARC BALESTER** (*Bernard*) Marc always has fun with Different Stages, for whom he last appeared as Edward DeVere, Earl of Oxford in *The Beard of Avon*. His other OS appearances include Edmund Tyrone in *Long Days Journey Into Night* and the god Ganesh in *A Perfect Ganesh*. Among the roles he counts as favorites are Garry Lejuene in *Noises Off*, Charlie Fox in *Sp~ed the Plow*, Lopakhin in *The Cherry Orchard*, and Charles Condamine in *Blithe Spirit*. What he likes best in his life is spending time with his wife Nora and his son Bud. He is half Italian. His people are from Avellino and reveal little. He invites you to make up your own interesting fact about him. No prize will be offered. His obsession with bears has led to his appearance in no fewer than thirty productions of *A Winter's Tale*.

**NORMAN BLUMENSAADT** (*Salter*) is the Producing Artistic Director for Different Stages. As an actor he has worked in Shakespeare Festivals in Odessa, Tx., Madison, New Jersey and Dallas, Tx. For Different Stages he has recently appeared in *The Miser*, *Arms and the Man* and *The Playboy of the Western World*. Among the numerous shows that he has directed are *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Beard of Avon*, *The Hollow* and *The Constant Wife*. In celebration of his long and outstanding work in the Austin theater scene, the Austin Circle of Theaters bestowed upon Norman the 1998 Deacon Crain/John Bustin Award. His production of *The Goat or Who is Sylvia* won the 2006-2007 ACOT Award for Best Production of a Drama. Next he directs J.B. Priestly's thriller *An Inspector Calls*.

**ROBERT TOLARO** (*Director*) His Austin credits include *Lettice and Lovage* and *The Hasty Heart* for Different Stages, *The Gin Game* and *I Ought to be in Pictures* for Onstage Theatre, *Othello* and *Great Expectations* for St. Edward's University, and productions for the Austin Shakespeare Festival, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *A Comedy of Errors*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. When not directing, Robert is a professional Equity stage manager and actor, currently working for the *Greater Tuna* shows, *A Ride With Bob* with Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel, and *Menopause the Musical* in Dallas. He recently played Lord Caversham in *An Ideal Husband* for Austin Shakespeare. He received an Emmy Award for Best Director for his signed and voiced production of Moliere's *The Miser* which aired on National PBS stations. He will be directing *Greater Tuna* in Hartford, Connecticut for the Bushnell Performing Arts Center this summer.

**T.J. MORENO** (*Assistant Director*) jumped at the opportunity to work with Bob and this talented pair of actors and wants to thank them all for making this a great experience. For Different Stages he recently stage managed *The Goat or Who is Sylvia?* and performed in Agatha Christie's *Appointment With Death* and *The Hollow*..

**AMY LEWIS** (*Stage Manager*) is a graduate of McMurry University with a BFA in acting and directing with a minor in lighting. She has appeared in many shows in the four years she has lived in Austin including, *Bitten - a Zombie Rock Odyssey*, *Bride of Slapdash* and *The Automat* with Loaded Gun Theory, *Dracula* at the Bastrop Opera House, *All in the Timing*, *Sister Mary Ignatious Explains it All For You*, *Time Flies* and *Shakespeare in Hollywood* with Sam Bass Theatre, *The Laramie Project* with City Theatre, and *The Playboy of the Western World*, *The Hollow* and *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* with Different Stages. She is very grateful to the Austin theatre community for embracing her so warmly.

**ANN MARIE GORDON** (*Set Design*) is the resident designer at The Vortex. Her designs for *St. Enid and the Black Hand* won a B. Iden Payne Award. Recent Vortex designs include *Bell(e)* (B. Iden Payne nomination) and *The Dragonfly Princess*. She has also designed for Ariel Dance Theatre and the Rude Mechanicals. For Different Stages, she has designed *Life and Limb*, *The Beard of Avon*, *Lettice and Lovage*, *The Miser* and *Stop Kiss*.

**ACORN DESIGNS, LLC** (*Sotlnd Design*) is a Sound Design and Consulting firm with over 30 years of experience in theatre sound design and concert sound and has recently moved into retail sales. Acorn Designs was founded by Sound Designer Jeff Miller to provide an affordable sound alternative for the non-profit arts. Jeff served as Sound Engineer on the Broadway & National Tours of: *A Chorus Line*, *Zorba*, *South Pacific*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He has also done sound for numerous films, videos, national commercials, and industrial shows. Jeff's regional credits for Sound Design include: Zachary Scott Theatre's *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Master Class*, *Circumference of a Squirrel*, *Evita*, *Blues in the Night*, *The Taffetas*, *Forever Plaid*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Jack and Jill*, *Rockin' Christmas Party*, *Sylvia*, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, *Born Yesterday*, *Sisters Rosensweig*, *Shear Madness*, *Keely and Du*, and *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, for Capitol City Playhouse's *Always ..Patsy Cline*, Austin Theatre for Youth's *The Hardy Boys and the Mystery of the Haunted House* and *The Velvet-teen Rabbit*, Summer Stock Austin's *West Side Story*, Second Youth Family Theatre's *Wiley and the Hairy Man* and Theatre at the J's *A My*

*Name is Alice*, *Cabaret*, *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Frog And Toad*, *Suessical*, and *Singin' In The Rain*.. Jeff has also worked as a sound engineer for *Forever Plaid*, *Beehive*, and *Soul Sisters*. Jeff has degrees in electrical engineering and computer science. He is an accomplished musician who plays the tuba and string bass.

**Tara Bonds** (*Lighting Design*) Tara, a graduate of Texas State University-San Marcos, has been a theatre teacher for seven years, and currently is head director at C.D. Fulkes Middle School in Round Rock. Her mother, director Lynn S. Beaver, pushed Tara onto the stage at the age of twelve, and she has been involved on and off stage ever since. When not acting or directing (or running after her eighteen month old daughter, Avery), she loves to work on lighting design. Her design work includes *Romeo and Juliet* at Sam Bass Community Theatre, *All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* at the Palace Theatre, and Different Stages' *Appointment with Death* at the Vortex. Tara would like to thank her husband Richard for supporting her in all her theatrical endeavors.

**C. Denby Swanson** (*Dramaturg*) is a graduate of Smith College, the National Theatre Institute, and the University of Texas Michener Center for Writers. She is a former William Inge Playwright in Residence, Jerome Fellow and McKnight Advancement Grant recipient.. Her work has been commissioned by the Guthrie Theater; featured in the Southern Playwrights Festival, the Women Playwrights Project, the Estro-Genius Festival, the Lark Theater's Playwrights Week, PlayLabs 2002, New York Stage & Film (through P73), Culture Project's IMPACT Festival, the Playwrights Center's Writer/Director Lab, and the Icicle Creek Theater Festival; and produced by Salvage Vanguard Theater, The Drilling Company, and 15 Head a Theater Lab. She is published by Smith & Kraus, Heinemann, Accompany Publishing, and Playscripts, Inc. Her short play *The Potato Feast* received a Susan Smith Blackburn Houston Special Prize in honor of the award's 30th anniversary in 2008. She is a former Artistic Director of Austin Script Works, and on the faculty at Southwestern University. In 2007 and 2008 she was the NEA/TCG Playwright in Residence at Zach Scott Theatre Center, working on a new play about Austin blues club owner Clifford Antone.



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Russ Wiseman & Dougherty Arts Center, Latifah Taormina & Austin Circle of Theaters, Bonnie Cullum, The Vortex Rep

**Different Stages, Inc.** has been a community-based organization since its inception in 1981 and incorporation in 1984. It produces works by playwrights whom we believe to be defining forces in theatre. We seek to entertain with performances that reveal life in all its comedy, tragedy and intensity; and we hope to educate by choosing plays that provide exceptional insight into the human condition. By challenging ourselves as artists and our audiences as participants, we endeavor to provide the community with vigorous and exciting live theatre.

**Board of Directors:** Karen Jambon, T.J. Moreno, Norman Blumensaadt  
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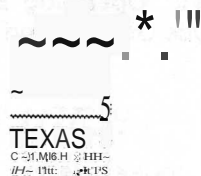
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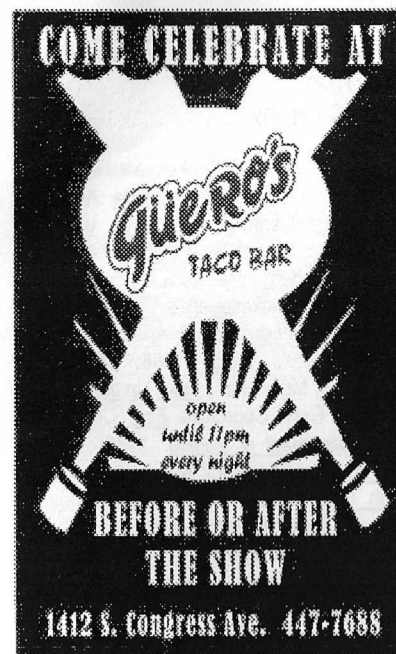
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