



3809 n. broadway | chicago il 60613  
oracletheatre.org

## for immediate release

Contact: Brad Jayhan-Little  
brad@oracletheatre.org  
630.926.8690

### Oracle Opens Barker's THE CASTLE January 23

Making enemies in the Middle Ages is as easy as making enemies today

CHICAGO, January 4, 2010 – Continuing its exciting 2009-2010 season, Oracle Productions is proud to announce the opening of Howard Barker's breakthrough play, THE CASTLE, on January 23, 2010 at Oracle Theatre, 3809 N. Broadway in Chicago. Oracle's new production is sure to please anyone's taste for catastrophic social satire with a Python-esque twist. THE CASTLE previews January 22, 2010; runs January 23-March 6, Fridays and Saturdays at 8PM, and Sundays at 7PM. Tickets are donation only: \$20 suggested at the door, \$15 in advance, \$10 on Sundays. Press are invited to preview or any performance opening weekend.

Upon returning from the Crusades (one of them, anyway), a pious knight, his ribald retainer, and a cunning captured servant behold lush overgrowth where once there was an industrious, God-fearing estate. Is this what happens when the women are left in charge? Absurd carnage ensues as the knight restores order by building walls. Barker's 1985 play is a caustic, repulsive, and hysterical examination of the orthodox institution's reaction to social progress. It also contains more nauseating tripe than Monty Python crammed in a clown-car. Come watch Oracle build a castle 10 walls thick.

Born of the social and cultural unrest in mid-1980's Western civilization, Barker's text is a unique invention. His characters and situations are as harsh, deceptive, and unforgiving as his Theatre of Catastrophe seeks to produce, but not without a sense of eccentric irony that also makes them hilarious. Imbued with anachronistic colloquialisms from Cold War-era England and the United States, THE CASTLE is a shockingly crude and oddly timeless piece. Oracle brings audiences into another world where anything goes: a theatre-in-the-round experience of a poetic clash between chaos and order that is both touchingly tragic and downright comical.

Featured in the cast is company member David Boren appearing in his seventh role at Oracle since the first DISTURBED installment in 2006. Oracle also welcomes back Casey Chapman (TERMEN VOX MACHINA), David Steiger (TERMEN), Rachel Boller (DISTURBED II & stage manager for DISTURBED III), and Jackson King (set design for DISTURBED II). The

*OVER*



3809 n. broadway | chicago il 60613  
oracletheatre.org

ensemble also includes Jamie Bragg, Victoria Gilbert, and Jason Rice making his Chicago debut.

THE CASTLE is co-directed by company member Justin Warren and Artistic Director Ben Fuchsen. Joining them is costume designer and company member Joan Pritchard, set designer and former company member Chris Neil, scenic artist Kristina Carr, lighting designer Sean Campbell, and original music and sound design by Nick Davio. The design team is rounded off by graphic artist and Oracle's new Marketing Director, Angela Glyda. Ms. Glyda recently finished re-branding a fresh look for Oracle. The new website will be launched soon! Thanks to Angela, Oracle is theatre reborn.

THE CASTLE previews January 22, 2010; runs January 23-March 6, Fridays and Saturdays at 8PM, and Sundays at 7PM. Tickets are donation only: \$20 suggested at the door, \$15 in advance, \$10 on Sundays. Press are invited to preview or any performance opening weekend. Please contact Brad Jayhan-Little with all questions - [brad@oracletheatre.org](mailto:brad@oracletheatre.org). Visit [oracletheatre.org](http://oracletheatre.org).

#

#

#