



Media Contact  
Pattie Lockard  
415-263-9044  
[pattiel@magictheatre.org](mailto:pattiel@magictheatre.org)  
[www.magictheatre.org](http://www.magictheatre.org)

## ***Annapurna* launches Magic Theatre's series of four premieres**

Playwright Sharr White's breathtaking story begins November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Features local favorite Rod Gnapp and Denise Cormier

San Francisco, CA, October 5, 2011 — Magic Theatre, San Francisco's home for new plays, continues its 2011-12 season with the world premiere of playwright Sharr White's *Annapurna*, a breathtaking story about the longevity of love. After twenty years apart, Emma (played by Denise Cormier) tracks Ulysses (played by Rod Gnapp) to a trailer park in the middle of nowhere for a final reckoning. What unfolds is a visceral and profound meditation on love and loss with the simplest of theatrical elements: two people in one room.

Hot off his first major New York production (*The Other Place* at MCC Theater starring Laurie Metcalf), White has been hailed as "a crack craftsman who knows how to hook an audience" (*The New York Daily News*) and "a skillful hand...with an uncanny ability to know exactly how much to give away and when" (*The New York Press*). Commissioned by South Coast Repertory, *Annapurna* was featured at SCR's 2011 Pacific Playwright Festival directed by Magic's Producing Artistic Director Loretta Greco.

Greco is thrilled to direct the world premiere at Magic Theatre: "Sharr has written an spellbinding and epic tale about unconditional love and its destructive force. Emma and Ulysses are the most tragic of lovers because they are soulmates whose love is impossible, cruel, and yet all consuming."

*Annapurna* begins November 2 and performs through December 4, 2011. Opening/Press Night is Wednesday, November 9 at 8 p.m. Tickets (starting at \$30) are available by calling the box office at 415.441.8822 or online at [magictheatre.org](http://magictheatre.org).

### **ARTISTIC BIOGRAPHIES**

**Sharr White (Playwright)** has had plays developed or produced at theatres across the country, including MCC Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Repertory, Marin Theatre Company, Lincoln Center Theater's Directors Lab, Key West Theatre Festival, Caldwell Theatre Company, and others. White's *The Other Place* premiered Off-

Broadway with MCC Theater, Directed by Joe Mantello, and starring Laurie Metcalf. *The Other Place* was a recipient of the 2010 Playwrights First Award; the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation's Theatre Visions Fund Award; and was an Outer Critics Circle Award nominee for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play. White's *Sunlight* was commissioned by South Coast Repertory, and premiered at Marin Theatre Company as part of a National New Play Network rolling world premiere. White's *Six Years* was produced at the 30th Anniversary Humana Festival of New American Plays. White has also been honored with a Dr. Henry and Lillian Nesburn Award as part of the Julie Harris Award in Playwriting (*The Escape Velocity of Savages*); a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (*Six Years*); and the 2009 Skye Cooper New American Play Prize (*Sunlight*). *Annapurna* was a South Coast Repertory commission and was developed with Loretta Greco during SCR's 2011 Pacific Playwrights Festival.

**Loretta Greco (Producing Artistic Director)** is delighted to launch her fourth season at Magic Theatre with Claire Chafee's *Why We Have a Body*. She concluded her third season in style by producing Taylor Mac's five-hour fantasia *The Lily's Revenge*. While at the Magic she has developed and produced the work of Lloyd Suh, Laura Shellhardt, John Kolvenbach, Luis Alfaro, Lydia Stryk, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Carter Lewis, Oni Faida Lampley Liz Duffy Adams, and Theresa Rebeck. As a director, Ms. Greco's New York premieres include Tracey Scott Wilson's *The Story*, the OBIE Award-winning *Lackawanna Blues* by Ruben Santiago Hudson at The Public Theater; Katherine Walat's *Victoria Martin: Math Team Queen*, Karen Hartman's *Gum* at Women's Project; Emily Mann's *Meshugah* at Naked Angels; Laura Cahill's *Mercy* at The Vineyard Theatre and Nilo Cruz's *Two Sisters and a Piano* at The Public Theater and *A Park in our House* at New York Theatre Workshop. Ms. Greco directed the national tour of Emily Mann's *Having Our Say* as well as the play's international premiere at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, South Africa. Regional credits include the critically acclaimed revival of David Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow* and the West Coast premiere of David Harrower's *Blackbird* at American Conservatory Theater; *Romeo and Juliet* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival as well as productions at La Jolla Playhouse, McCarter Theatre Center, Long Wharf Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Playmakers Repertory Company and The Cleveland Play House. She has developed work with dozens of writers at Sundance, The O'Neill, New Harmony, New York Stage and Film, New Dramatists, The Public Theater, and South Coast Rep.

Prior to producing at the Magic, Ms. Greco served as Producing Artistic Director of NY's Women's Project, where she produced the world premiere of Diane Paulus and Deirdre Murray's musical *Best of Both Worlds* as well as plays by Lynn Nottage, Karen Hartman, Caridad Svitch, Rinne Groff, and Lisa D'Amour. She also served as Resident Producer at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton where she conceived and launched their new play second stage initiative and produced the work of Athol Fugard, Emily Mann, Ntozake Shange, Jon Robin Baitz, Anna Devereaux Smith, Doug Wright, Jane Anderson, Adrienne Kennedy, Nilo Cruz, and Joyce Carol Oates among others.

Ms. Greco received her MFA from Catholic University and is the recipient of two Drama League Fellowships and a Princess Grace Award.

**Denise Cormier\* (Emma)** is thrilled to be making her Magic Theatre debut. National Tour: *The Graduate*. Regional: *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Indiana Repertory Theatre, Pioneer Theatre

Company); *Intimate Apparel* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Bill W. and Dr. Bob* (Cleveland Play House); *The Poetry of Pizza* (Virginia Stage Company); *Cabaret, Steel Magnolias* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina); *After Ashley* (Kitchen Theatre); *Tender, Spinning into Butter* (Gloucester Stage Company); *Hunter Gatherers* (W.H.A.T.); *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Lyric Stage); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre). TV/Film: *Law & Order CI, Six Degrees, Guiding Light, The Big Gay Musical*. MFA: Shakespeare Theatre Company-Academy for Classical Acting at GWU. [www.denisecormier.com](http://www.denisecormier.com)

**Rod Gnapp\* (Ulysses)** a graduate of the American Conservatory Theater's MFA program and a veteran of Bay Area stages, Mr. Gnapp was last seen at Magic in *What We're Up Against, Goldfish, Mrs. Whitney* and *Mauritius*. Recent credits include: *The Taming of the Shrew, Mrs. Warren's Profession* and *The Pastures of Heaven* at Cal Shakes; *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Scapin* at American Conservatory Theater; *Tiny Alice* at Marin Theatre Company; and *Awake and Sing* at Aurora Theatre Company. Mr. Gnapp can be seen as a bad guy in the independent feature film *Touching Home* by the Miller Brothers, with Ed Harris. He can also be seen in *Valley of the Hearts Delite*, a local independent feature, as the bad guy.

## CALENDAR EDITORS

*Annapurna*

by Sharr White

directed by Loretta Greco

a breathtaking story about the longevity of love

After twenty years apart, Emma tracks Ulysses to a trailer park in the middle of nowhere for a final reckoning nowhere for a final reckoning. What unfolds is a visceral and profound meditation on love and loss with the simplest of theatrical elements: two people in one room.

Playwright Sharr White's wit is razor sharp, his insight deep, and his poetry spare. Nothing could be more epic.

Previews:

November 2,3,4,5 @ 8 p.m.

November 6 @ 2:30 p.m.

November 8 @ 7 p.m.

Press/Opening Night: Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 8pm

Run:

November 10, 11 @ 8 p.m.

November 12 @ 2:30 p.m., 8 p.m.

November 13 @ 2:30 p.m.

November 15 @ 7p.m.

November 16,17,18,19 @ 8 p.m.

November 20 @ 2:30 p.m.

November 22 @ 7 p.m.

November 23 @ 8 p.m.

November 25 @ 8 p.m.

November 26 @ 2:30 p.m., 8 p.m.

November 27 @ 2:30 p.m.  
November 29 @ 7 p.m.  
November 30 @ 8 p.m.  
December 1, 2 @ 8 p.m.  
December 3 @ 2:30 p.m. , 8 p.m.  
December 4 @ 2:30 p.m.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Magic Theatre  
Building D, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123  
(parking lot entrance at Marina Blvd. and Buchanan St.)

### **Tickets**

415-441-8822 or [www.magictheatre.org](http://www.magictheatre.org).

### **Pricing**

Previews: \$30

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays: \$45 – \$55

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays: \$55 – \$65

Student & Under 30 Discount: \$20 Tickets Available To Students And People Under 30 Years Of Age With Valid ID, Side Sections Only.

Senior & Educator Discount: \$5 Discount Available To Seniors (62 And Over) and Educators With Valid ID.

## **NEW PLAY EVENTS**

TalkBACKs after Friday performances (none on Friday, Nov. 4) moderated by Magic Theatre artistic staff and artists.

Docent Thursdays: November, 11, 18, 25, December 2

Docent led introduction to the play. 7:00pm – 7:30pm. Free glass of wine served.

###