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## **GULFSHORE PLAYHOUSE, PHILHARMONIC CENTER**

### **ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP FOR 2012-13 SEASON**

#### ***Gulfshore Playhouse at the Phil to feature Terrence McNally's Master Class***

Gulfshore Playhouse, the Naples area's first professional, self-producing theater organization, will partner with the Philharmonic Center for the Arts in the 2012-13 season, presenting its production of Terrence McNally's award-winning play *Master Class* at the Phil from April 5-21, 2013 with a preview on April 4.

In addition, Gulfshore Playhouse and the Phil announced a partnership for the play *Art*, which will be presented October 20-November 18, 2012 at the Norris Center in Cambier Park. Ticket-holders for *Art* will be entitled to two-for-one admission to the Patty & Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art and patrons with a museum ticket will receive a 10-percent discount on a ticket to *Art*.

"We are committed to nurturing all of the arts in this community and it makes good sense to bring local professional theater to our hall," said Philharmonic Center CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen, in announcing the partnership. "Gulfshore Playhouse is an important component in the arts of Southwest Florida and we are pleased to be working with them."

*Gulfshore Playhouse at the Phil* is one of several arts partnerships for the 2012-13 season that the Phil expects to announce in the coming months, van Bergen added.

Kristen Coury, founder and producing artistic director of Gulfshore Playhouse, said, "I am delighted to be partnering with the Phil to bring our professional theater productions to new audiences. *Master Class* seemed like a perfect fit at the Phil due to its setting and classical music

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theme. This community has shown that it strongly supports high-quality professional theater and I am honored and humbled by our growth and this new leg of the journey.”

Coury founded Gulfshore Playhouse in May of 2004 and has produced and directed several productions each season at the Norris Center, ranging from new works to comedies to classics. Originally from New York City, Coury has a rich theatrical background that includes directing and producing theater and film, theater management and marketing. She has worked on shows for Walt Disney Theatrical Productions, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Really Useful Company and London’s English Shakespeare Company, among others.

Terrence McNally’s Tony Award-winning *Master Class* was inspired by the real-life master classes taught by legendary opera diva Maria Callas at the Juilliard School. As she coaxes her students into giving the performances of their lives, Callas entertains us with secrets of her own while reminiscing on the triumphs and tragedies of her life and career. This powerful play is filled with quips about life and love and insights into what it means to be human.

*Art*, the funny, thought-provoking Tony Award-winning play by French playwright Yasmina Reza, will be presented in rep with *God of Carnage*, which Reza also wrote. *Art* explores the meaning of friendship, art collecting, peer pressure and the ultimate value of those we love. The Times of London called *Art* “a remarkably wise, witty and intelligent comedy.”

For more information on Gulfshore Playhouse, please visit [gulfshoreplayhouse.org](http://gulfshoreplayhouse.org).

For more information on the Philharmonic Center for the Arts, please visit [ThePhil.org](http://ThePhil.org).