

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – contact Katalin Mitchell – 617-495-2668 – kati_mitchell@harvard.edu

American Repertory Theatre
presents
COPENHAGEN
by Michael Frayn • directed by Scott Zigler
January 5 — February 3
Loeb Drama Center

Cambridge, MA - The American Repertory Theatre (A.R.T.) presents Michael Frayn's Evening Standard and Tony Award-winning play **Copenhagen**, directed by Scott Zigler. The production runs from January 5 to February 3 at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Harvard Square in Cambridge, and will be available for press viewing on Wednesday, January 9 at 7:30pm.

“. . . a theatrical masterpiece... engages the audience on every level” —*Curtain Up*

“Fascinating and profound” —*Daily Telegraph*

“Intellectually gripping” —*The Guardian*

“The most invigorating and ingenious play of ideas in many a year” —*The New York Times*

In 1941 the German physicist Werner Heisenberg traveled to Copenhagen to meet his Danish counterpart, Niels Bohr. Once old friends and colleagues, they now found themselves on opposite sides in a world war, and embroiled in a race to create the atom bomb. Why Heisenberg went to Copenhagen, and what he wanted to say to Bohr, are questions that have intrigued and divided historians and scientists ever since. The play is set in a limbo beyond the grave, where the three characters Heisenberg, Bohr, and Bohr's wife reminisce and replay some of the events that transpired during that most mysterious day.

Copenhagen was first performed in London in 1998. Ten years later, the world is a very different place, and the context in which we are now producing the play has been transformed. Michael Frayn's subject is the race to manufacture the first nuclear bomb in the 1940s, but it is not simply a play about the creation of weapons of mass destruction. Beyond its historical, scientific, and political layers, *Copenhagen* asks profound questions about personal responsibility, and about the catastrophic effects that a handful of decisions can have on the whole world. It is also a play about uncertainty and enigma; over and again it asks: “What really happened? What should we believe? How can we be certain what is true? And finally it is a deeply personal play about the relationship between two men and a woman, whose private lives and desires intersect with a moment that will determine the future course of humanity.

The cast includes A.R.T. company members **Will LeBow** as Niels Bohr and **Karen MacDonald** as Margrethe Bohr, joined by **John Kuntz** as Werner Heisenberg. Set and costume design are by **David Reynoso**, lighting design by **Kenneth Helvig**, and sound design by **David Remedios**.

The structure of the atom and the interaction of sub-atomic particles are important parts of the texture of Frayn's play. Designer David Reynoso has created a visual image for the set that explores the relationship between the smallest particles of matter and the larger world, giving a suitable space to

a play that is about personal, intimate relationships and how those relationships relate to what is arguably the most momentous event of the twentieth century.

About the Company:

John Kuntz is a founding company member of the Actors Shakespeare Project, his credits include *Titus Andronicus* *12th Night*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, and the title role in *Richard III*. He appeared in New York in his own work *Jump/Rope*; his one-person shows *Starfuckers*, (Elliot Norton Award and New York International Fringe Festival Award); and *Freaks!*. Recent Boston credits include the title role in *Mr. Marmalade*, numerous productions of *The SantaLand Diaries* (IRNE Award Best Solo Performance), the New England premiere of *The Pillowman* (Katurian), *Waiting for Godot*, and the title role of *Scapin*. His plays *Sing Me To Sleep* and *Freaks!* both received Elliot Norton Awards for "Outstanding Fringe Production," *Jasper Lake* received both the Michael Kanin and Paula Vogel National Playwriting Awards, with productions at the Kennedy Center and the New York Fringe Festival.

Will LeBow appeared at the A.R.T. in forty-nine productions, including *Donnie Darko*, *A Marvelous Party!*, *Oliver Twist*, *Three Sisters*, *No Exit*, *The Miser* (Valère), *The Birthday Party* (Goldberg), and *Uncle Vanya*. Other: *The Cherry Orchard*, *Love's Labors Lost*, *The Rivals* and Melinda Lopez's *Sonia Flew* (Huntington Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company), Brian Friel's *Faith Healer* (Gloucester Stage Company), the Boston Pops premiere of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"(narrator). Television: the Cable Ace Award-winning animated series *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist* (voice of Stanley).

Karen MacDonald is a founding member of the A.R.T. and appeared in sixty-two productions, including *Donnie Darko*, *Oliver Twist*, *The Onion Cellar*, *Island of Slaves*, *No Exit* (Elliot Norton Award), *Olly's Prison* (Elliot Norton Award), *Dido*, *Queen of Carthage*; and the IRNE Award-winning *The Provok'd Wife*, *The Miser*, *The Birthday Party*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She directed *Dressed Up! Wiggled Out!*, for Boston Playwrights Theatre, and played in numerous productions in local theatres, including her Elliot Norton Award-winning portrayal of Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* at Merrimack Rep Theatre. She also appeared in theatres nationwide. including the Alley Theatre (Company member), the Goodman Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Hartford Stage, and Philadelphia Festival of New Plays.

World renowned playwright, author and translator **Michael Frayn**'s plays include *Alphabetical Order* (Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy of the Year), *Clouds*, *Donkeys' Years* (Laurence Olivier Award for Best Comedy), *Make or Break* (Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy of the Year), *Noises Off* (Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy of the Year, Laurence Olivier Award for Best Comedy), *Benefactors*, and *Democracy*. His numerous novels include *The Tin Man* (Somerset Maugham Award) and *The Russian Interpreter* (Hawthornden Prize). Frayn has also translated several Russian works, including plays by Chekhov and Tolstoy.

Director **Scott Zigler** is the Director of the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theatre Training. His A.R.T. directing credits include *Absolution*, *Animals and Plants*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, as well as the world premiere of David Mamet's *The Old Neighborhood* and the subsequent Broadway

production. He has also directed at the Steppenwolf Theatre, Alley Theatre, and the McCarter Theatre. Mr. Zigler served as Artistic Director of the Atlantic Theater of New York and as Executive Director of that company's professional training program, the Practical Aesthetics Workshop. He was Director of the Actors Theatre of Louisville Apprentice/Intern Company from 1992-94, where he helmed Mamet's *Oleanna* and Jose Rivera's *Tape* for the 1993 Humana Festival. He has also directed plays by Shakespeare, Strindberg, and Ionesco among others. Mr. Zigler has taught as resident or guest faculty at New York University, Indiana University-Bloomington, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, and the national Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney, Australia. He is a co-author of *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*.

Performance schedule is as follows: January 5, 11, 12, 18, 18, 26, February 1, 2 at 8:00pm; January 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30, 31 at 7:30pm; January 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, February 2, 3 at 2:00pm; December 7 and 13 at 10:00am. Single ticket prices range from \$39-\$79 with \$25 tickets for students, and \$10 off for seniors. Group discounts are also available.

The balance of the A.R.T.'s 2007-2008 Season includes *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, directed by Arthur Nauzyciel (February 9 - March 22, Loeb Stage); *Elections and Erections: A Chronicle of Fear and Fun* written and performed by Pieter-Dirk Uys in association with the Loeb Drama Center (April 2 - May 4, Zero Arrow Theatre); and *Cardenio* by Stephen Greenblatt and Charles L. Mee, directed by Les Waters in association with the Public Theatre of New York (May 10 - June 8, Loeb Stage).

The A.R.T. is still offering subscriptions with a host of benefits, including discounts on parking, fine dining, and tickets to other theatres; a *child-care series* (Saturday matinee), and *pre-performance* and *post-performance discussion series* (Saturday matinees).

To learn more about this and other productions, log onto the A.R.T. website at www.amrep.org or call the *A.R.T. InfoLine* at (617) 547-8300. The *InfoLine* is also available 24 hours a day to provide directions to the theatre; to order brochures, calendars, and newsletters; and to allow direct access to the A.R.T. Box Office (hours are noon to curtain time on performance days, noon to 5 pm on non-performance days, closed on Mondays).

The American Repertory Theatre, located at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square at 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge, is accessible to persons with special needs and to those requiring wheelchair seating or first-floor restrooms. Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons can also reach the Theatre by calling the toll-free N.E. Telephone Relay Center at 1-800-439-2370.

Public transportation and discount parking are available nearby.

AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE FACT SHEET

WHAT:

COPENHAGEN

by Michael Frayn

Directed by Scott Zigler

Set and Costume Design by David Reynoso

Lighting Design by Kenneth Helvig

Sound Design by David Remedios

CAST

Margrethe Bohr Karen MacDonald*
Niels Bohr Will LeBow*
Werner Heisenberg John Kuntz*

(*) Members of Actors' Equity Association.

WHEN:

Sa Jan 5 8pm (preview)
Su Jan 6 2pm (preview)

Tu Jan 8 7:30pm (preview)
We Jan 9 7:30pm Press opening
Th Jan 10 7:30pm
Fri Jan 11 8:00pm
Sa Jan 12 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matine performance)
Su Jan 13 2pm & 7:30pm

Tu Jan 15 7:30pm
We Jan 16 7:30pm
Th Jan 17 7:30pm (Pre-play discussion at 6:30pm)
Fri Jan 18 8:00 pm
Sa Jan 19 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matine performance)
Su Jan 20 2pm & 7:30pm (Pre-play discussion at 1pm)

Tu Jan 22 7:30pm
We Jan 23 7:30pm (Pre-play discussion at 6:30pm)
Thu Jan 24 10:00am
Fri Jan 25 10:00am
Sa Jan 26 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matine performance)
Su Jan 27 2pm & 7:30pm

Tu Jan 29 7:30pm
We Jan 30 7:30pm
Th Jan 31 7:30pm
Fri Feb 1 8:00 pm
Sa Feb 2 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matine performance)
Su Feb 3 2pm

TICKETS:

\$39-79

Students: \$25. Student rush \$15

Seniors \$10 off ticket price.

Tickets may be charged to American Express, Visa, or MasterCard.

Group discounts are available.

Box Office Phone and A.R.T. InfoLine: (617) 547-8300 www.amrep.org

E-mail address: press@amrep.org **Web address:** www.amrep.org

Production photos of *Copenhagen* can be downloaded from
www.amrep.org/media beginning January 7th.