

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

**LINCOLN CENTER THEATER
ANNOUNCES A NEW PRODUCTION FOR THE 2019-2020 SEASON**

**“INTIMATE APPAREL”
A NEW OPERA
MUSIC BY RICKY IAN GORDON
LIBRETTO BY LYNN NOTTAGE, BASED ON HER PLAY
DIRECTED BY BARTLETT SHER**

**PREVIEWS BEGIN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
OPENING NIGHT IS MONDAY, MARCH 23
AT THE MITZI E. NEWHOUSE THEATER**

Lincoln Center Theater (under the direction of André Bishop) has announced that it will produce *Intimate Apparel*, a new opera with music by Ricky Ian Gordon and a libretto by Lynn Nottage, based on her critically acclaimed play. The production, which will be directed by Bartlett Sher, will begin previews Thursday, February 27 and open on Monday, March 23 at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater (150 West 65 Street).

Intimate Apparel was developed by Lincoln Center Theater and the Metropolitan Opera as part of the *Met/LCT New Works Program*, a co-venture between the two institutions which is dedicated to developing new opera and music theater works. In addition to *Intimate Apparel*, the program has overseen the creation of several new operas, including Nico Muhly’s opera *Two Boys*, with a libretto by Craig Lucas; and the upcoming *Eurydice* by Matthew Aucoin and Sarah Ruhl, and *Grounded* by Jeanine Tesori and George Brant. Other composers and librettists currently working on projects for the New Works Program include David T. Little and Royce Vavrek, and Joshua Schmidt and Dick Scanlan.

Set in turn of the century New York, *Intimate Apparel* tells the story of Esther, a lonely, single African-American woman who makes her living sewing beautiful corsets and ladies’ undergarments. Seeking love and romance, Esther embarks on a letter writing relationship with a mysterious suitor laboring on the Panama Canal, and realizes that only her self-reliance and certainty of her own worth will see her through life’s challenges.

Lynn Nottage has written her first libretto for this operatic version of her lauded drama and Ricky Ian Gordon’s score will paint a portrait of life in 1905 New York City, employing a variety of musical styles including ragtime, cakewalk and the blues.

Intimate Apparel premiered off-Broadway in 2004 and won that year's NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play as well as the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Play, and is one of the most frequently produced works in US regional theaters.

Casting and design team for *Intimate Apparel*, as well as additional Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater productions for LCT's 2019-2020 season, will be announced at a later date.

RICKY IAN GORDON's (*Music*) operas include *The House Without A Christmas Tree* (for Houston Grand Opera, with librettist Royce Vavrek), *Morning Star* (for Cincinnati Opera, with librettist William Hoffman), *27* (for Opera Theatre of St Louis, with librettist Royce Vavrek), *A Coffin In Egypt* (for Houston Grand Opera, with librettist Leonard Foglia), *Rappahannock County* (for Virginia Opera with librettist Mark Campbell), *Green Sneakers* (for the 2008 Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival), *The Grapes of Wrath* (for Minnesota Opera, with librettist Michael Korie), *The Grapes of Wrath* (concert version for Carnegie Hall, with Jane Fonda narrating), *The Tibetan Book Of The Dead* (for Houston Grand Opera, with playwright Jean Claude Van Itallie) and *Orpheus and Euridice* (for Lincoln Center, for which he won an OBIE Award in 2005). His musicals include *Sycamore Trees* (for the Signature Theatre, which won a Helen Hayes Award), *My Life With Albertine* (for Playwrights Horizons, with writer/director Richard Nelson, which won an AT&T Award and The Gilman and Gonzalez-Falla Music Theater Foundation Award) and *Dream True* (for The Vineyard Theatre with writer/director Tina Landau, which won a Richard Rodgers Award). His upcoming projects include *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* (for New York City Opera and The National Yiddish Theater Folksbiene, with librettist Michael Korie), *Private Confessions* (a musical theater piece with playwright Richard Nelson) and *Ellen West* (a collaboration with poet Frank Bidart, for Beth Morrison Projects and Opera Saratoga). His songs have been recorded and performed by such artists as Renée Fleming, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Frederica Von Stade, Dawn Upshaw, Nadine Sierra, Harolyn Blackwell, Judy Collins, Nathan Gunn, and the late Lorraine Hunt Lieberson. Other awards include the National Institute For Music Theater Award, the Stephen Sondheim Award, the Jonathan Larson Foundation Award, the Constance Klinsky Award, The Shen Family Foundation Award and The Carnegie-Mellon University Alumni Award.

LYNN NOTTAGE (*Libretto*) is a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her plays *Sweat* (also Obie Award, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and Tony and Drama Desk award nominations for Best Play) and *Ruined* (also New York Drama Critics Circle, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Lucille Lortel, Obie, and Audelco awards for Best Play). Her other plays include *Milma's Tale*, *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*; *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (Obie Award); *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*; *Las Meninas*; *Mud, River, Stone*; *Por'knockers*; and *POOF!*. She wrote the book for the musical version of the novel *The Secret Life of Bees*, currently in previews at the Atlantic Theater Company, and in July 2017, developed *This is Reading*, a performance installation based on two years of interviews at the Franklin Street Reading Railroad Station in Reading, PA. Recipient of a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, she is the co-founder of the production company Market Road Films, whose most recent projects include *The Notorious Mr. Bout*, *First to Fall*, *Remote Control*, and is a writer/producer on the Netflix series *She's Gotta Have It*, directed by Spike Lee.

BARTLETT SHER (*Director*) is Resident Director of Lincoln Center Theater where he directed *Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific*, winning the Tony Award for Best Director. He was also nominated for Tony Awards for his LCT productions of the current *Lerner & Loewe's My Fair*

Lady, Oslo (also National Theatre, London), *Rodgers & Hammerstein's The King and I* (also London), *Golden Boy*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Awake and Sing!*, and *The Light in the Piazza*. His additional LCT productions include *Blood and Gifts* and *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (also London). He directed the Metropolitan Opera productions of *Roméo et Juliette* (also Salzburg, Milan, Chicago); *Two Boys* (also English National Opera); *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (also Baden Baden); *Otello*; *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*; *Le Comte Ory*; and *L'Elisir d'Amore*. Broadway: the current *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Tony Award nomination), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Drama Desk Award), *The Bridges of Madison County*. Off-Broadway: *Waste* (Obie Award for Best Play), *Cymbeline* (Callaway Award; also Royal Shakespeare Company), *Don Juan*, *Pericles* (TFANA, BAM). Opera: currently *Rigoletto* (Staatsoper Berlin); *Faust* (Baden Baden); *Mourning Becomes Electra* (Seattle Opera, New York City Opera). He was previously Artistic Director of Seattle's Intiman Theatre (2000–2009), Company Director for the Guthrie Theater, Associate Artistic Director at Hartford Stage Company, and currently serves on the board of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

LINCOLN CENTER THEATER is currently producing the ongoing run of its award-winning production of *Lerner & Loewe's My Fair Lady*, directed by Bartlett Sher, at the Vivian Beaumont Theater; the upcoming productions of *The Rolling Stone*, a new play by Chris Urch, directed by Saheem Ali, beginning performances on Thursday, June 20 at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater and the LCT3 production of *In The Green*, a new musical by Grace McLean, directed by Lee Sunday Evans, beginning performances on Saturday, June 8 at the Claire Tow Theater. LCT is also a co-producer of the Broadway productions of *Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird*, a new play by Aaron Sorkin, also directed by Bartlett Sher, at the Shubert Theatre and *The Sound Inside*, a new play by Adam Rapp, to be directed by David Cromer, which will begin performances Saturday, September 14 at Studio 54.