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Son of Semele Ensemble presents
Caryl Churchill's *Love and Information*
November 7 – December 13, 2015

LOS ANGELES (October 12, 2015) – Son of Semele Ensemble will present the Los Angeles premiere of Caryl Churchill's *Love and Information*, opening November 7, 2015, at the Son of Semele Theater. Churchill – recently hailed by *The New York Times* as “one of the wisest and bravest playwrights on the planet” – is recognized for her intellectual curiosity, trenchant social criticism and formal inventiveness in plays such as *Cloud 9*, *Top Girls* and *A Number*.

ABOUT THE PLAY: Through a collage of 50+ short scenes featuring 100+ characters, Churchill illuminates the paradox of modern society, in which we are simultaneously more connected and more isolated than ever before. The script includes neither character names nor descriptions, specifies no locations and includes a total of only five short stage directions, presenting director Matthew McCray and his cast of 11 with unique interpretive challenges and opportunities.

“Love and Information is a play that can be redefined at a core level by its cast and production team,” says McCray. “The play is built of carefully constructed blocks of text awaiting a context that will reveal their meaning. Some scenes have ‘obvious’ solutions; others are more mysterious. Through the rehearsal process, we’re exploring scenarios that tap into what is most resonant about each block of text and determining how these blocks assemble to create the tapestry we want to present.

The cast comprises Son of Semele Ensemble members Darren Bailey, Melina Bielefelt, Daniel Getzoff, Betsy Moore, Cindy Nguyen, Sarah Rosenberg, Ashley Steed, Dan Via and Alex Wells, plus guest artists Richard Azurdia and Michael Evans Lopez. The design team includes Chuhsuan Chang (lighting), Jenny Foldenauer (costumes), Drew Foster (set) and Keith Skretch (video). Lindsay Lucas is the stage manager.

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PERFORMANCES: Saturday, November 7 through Sunday, December 13, 2015

Fridays and Saturdays @ 8pm, Sundays @ 5pm

Monday performances November 16 & December 7 @ 7pm

LOCATION/PARKING: Son of Semele Theater

3301 Beverly Blvd. (@ Hoover), Los Angeles CA 90004

There is free street parking in the surrounding neighborhood.

TICKETS:

\$23 online / \$25 at the door

\$5 discount for patrons 25 years of age and younger (with valid ID at the door)

Advance online purchases at sonofsemele.org. The Son of Semele box office is open on performance days only, 30 minutes prior to curtain.

Playwright Caryl Churchill was born in London in 1938. Her first play, written while studying at Oxford, won an award at the *Sunday Times* National Union of Students Drama Festival. She then wrote a number of plays for BBC radio, including *The Ants* (1962), *Lovesick* (1967) and *Abortive* (1971). *The Judge's Wife* was televised by the BBC in 1972 and *Owners*, her first professional stage production, premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in London in the same year.

Churchill was Resident Dramatist at the Royal Court (1974-5) and spent much of the 1970s and 1980s working with the theatre groups 'Joint Stock' and 'Monstrous Regiment'. Her work during this period includes *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* (1976), *Cloud Nine* (1979), *Fen* (1983) and *A Mouthful of Birds* (1986), written with David Lan. *Top Girls* was first staged at the Royal Court in 1982, then transferred to Joseph Papp's Public Theatre in New York later that year. *Serious Money* was first produced at the Royal Court in 1987 and won the *Evening Standard* Award for Best Comedy of the Year and the Laurence Olivier/BBC Award for Best New Play. Later acclaimed and widely produced plays include *Mad Forest* (1990), *The Skriker* (1994), *Blue Heart* (1997), *Far Away* (2000), *A Number* (2002), *Seven Jewish Children – a play for Gaza* (2009) and *Here We Go* (2015).

Director Matthew McCray is Son of Semele Ensemble's artistic director and has produced 15 seasons for the company. He has directed productions and workshops at Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory (StudioSCR), Deaf West Theatre, Theatre @ Boston Court, RedCat, Circle X, Son of Semele, Moving Arts and Rogue Machine, among others. Awards include a 2013 SAGE Award and a 2014 LA Drama Critics Circle Award for his direction of Son of Semele Ensemble's *Our Class*.

ABOUT SON OF SEMELE ENSEMBLE: Son of Semele Ensemble is a Los Angeles-based ensemble theatre company comprised of 30+ actors, directors, designers, dramaturgs and producers. In its 15-year history Son of Semele Ensemble productions have been honored with two LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards (nine nominations), five *LA Weekly* Theatre Awards (eleven nominations), four Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards, two SAGE Awards, and an NAACP Theatre Award (four nominations).

SON OF SEMELE ENSEMBLE MISSION: We believe the impact of a theatrical experience should resonate beyond the theater door. As an ensemble of artists, we integrate complex design and performance, producing theatre that embraces the friction between emotion and intellect. Through a process of discovery, collaboration and creative risk-taking, we illuminate and amplify universal questions. To that end, we make an earnest commitment to the artistic sustainability of the greater community.