## HANOVER THEATRE & CONSERVATORY

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For interview requests, please contact Annie Kerins, PR Manager, at akerins@thehanovertheatre.org

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# EMMY AWARD® WINNER **RICHARD THOMAS**STARS AS ATTICUS FINCH IN CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED, RECORD-BREAKING PRODUCTION OF

HARPER LEE'S

## "TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD"

A NEW PLAY BY AARON SORKIN BASED ON HARPER LEE'S CLASSIC NOVEL

PREMIERING IN WORCESTER AT THE HANOVER THEATRE

MAY 3 - 5



Richard Thomas ("Atticus Finch") and The Company of To Kill a Mockingbird. Photo by Julieta Cervantes

Worcester, Mass (April 16, 2024) The history-making production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Academy Award® winner Aaron Sorkin's new play, directed by Tony® winner Bartlett Sher, starring Emmy Award®-winner Richard Thomas and based on Harper Lee's classic novel, will make its Worcester premiere at <u>The Hanover Theatre</u> generously sponsored by <u>Bay State Savings Bank</u> May 3 – 5, 2024 as part of a multi-year national tour across North America.

## Tickets are on sale now!

**Richard Thomas** as Atticus Finch has been embraced by critics and audiences alike. His performance has been called "Easily the most powerful work I've seen from Richard Thomas" (*BWW Charlotte*), "A memorable performance rarely seen in a touring Broadway production" (*Curtain Up Phoenix*), and "Sheer perfection - this role was made to be played by Thomas" (*Around the Town Chicago*). The Buffalo News proclaims "Both modestly human and divinely heroic. All rise for Richard Thomas," and the *Dallas Voice* declares "Richard Thomas as Atticus Finch is at the height of his career."

To Kill a Mockingbird holds the record as the highest-grossing American play in Broadway history. It began performances on November 1, 2018, at the Shubert Theatre and played to sold-out houses until the Broadway shutdown in March 2020. On February 26, 2020, To Kill a Mockingbird became the first-ever Broadway play to perform at New York's Madison Square Garden, in front of approximately 18,000 New York City public school students, also marking the largest attendance at a single performance of a play ever in world theater. The production resumed performances on October 5, 2021 and concluded its run at the Shubert Theatre on January 16, 2022. To Kill a Mockingbird is currently running at the Gielgud Theatre in London's West End.

Set in Alabama in 1934, Harper Lee's enduring story of racial injustice and childhood innocence centers on one of the most venerated characters in American literature, small-town lawyer Atticus Finch. The cast of characters includes Atticus's daughter Scout, her brother Jem, their housekeeper and caretaker, Calpurnia, their visiting friend Dill, and a mysterious neighbor, the reclusive Arthur "Boo" Radley. The other indelible residents of Maycomb, Alabama, are Bob Ewell, Tom Robinson, prosecutor Horace Gilmer, Judge Taylor and Mayella Ewell.

To Kill a Mockingbird is designed by Miriam Buether, with costumes by Ann Roth, lighting by Jennifer Tipton, sound by Scott Lehrer and an original score by Adam Guettel. Musical direction is by Kimberly Grigsby, hair & wig design by Campbell Young Associates,

casting by The Telsey Office, and design adaptation and supervision by Edward Pierce. The national tour is produced by Barry Diller.

Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$119 depending on seat location and performance. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Please contact the box office at **877.571.7469** or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org for more information.

Follow To Kill a Mockingbird

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Website - www.tokillamockingbirdbroadway.com

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

RICHARD THOMAS (Atticus Finch) (he/him). Broadway/Off-Broadway: The Little Foxes (Tony nom.), You Can't Take It with You, Race, Democracy, Incident at Vichy, The Stendhal Syndrome (Lucille Lortel Award), A Naked Girl on the Appian Way, An Enemy of the People, Tiny Alice, The Front Page, The Fifth of July, innumerable Shakespeare productions, and his professional debut at 7 years old in Sunrise at Campobello on Broadway. National tours: The Humans (Elliot Norton Award) and Twelve Angry Men. Thomas is an Emmy Award-winning actor for his performance in the iconic series "The Waltons". Film: "Last Summer"; "Red Sky at Morning"; "September 30, 1955"; "Wonder Boys"; "Taking Woodstock"; "The Unforgivable". TV: "The Americans", "Billions", "Tell Me Your Secrets" and the Netflix series "Ozark".

AARON SORKIN (Playwright). Broadway and Off-Broadway: A Few Good Men (Broadway debut; John Gassner Award for Outstanding New American Playwright), Making Movies, The Farnsworth Invention. Film: Being the Ricardos (Director and Writer; BAFTA and Writers Guild Award nominations for Best Original Screenplay), The Trial of the Chicago 7 (Director and Writer; Academy Award, BAFTA, Writers Guild Award nominations for Best Original Screenplay; Directors Guild Award nomination for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Theatrical Film Feature); "Molly's Game" (Director and Writer; Academy Award, BAFTA, and Writers Guild Award nominations for Best Adapted Screenplay), "Steve Jobs", "Moneyball" Academy, BAFTA, and Writers Guild Award nominations for Best Adapted Screenplay), "The Social Network" (Academy Award, BAFTA, and Writers Guild Award for Best Adapted Screenplay), "Charlie Wilson's War", "The American President", "Malice", "A Few Good Men". Television: writer and producer of "The Newsroom", "The West Wing" (Emmy Award for Outstanding Drama Series for four consecutive seasons, Humanities Prize), "Studio

60 on the Sunset Strip", "Sports Night" (Television Critics' Award for Best Comedy, Humanitas Prize).

**BARTLETT SHER** (*Director*) Graduate of The College of the Holy Cross, Sher was nominated for the 2019 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Play for To Kill a Mockingbird. Lincoln Center Theater (resident director): South Pacific (Tony Award; also London and Australia), My Fair Lady, Oslo (Obie Award, Tony Award for Best Play; also National Theatre, London), *The King and I* (also London), *Golden Boy, Joe Turner's Come* and Gone, Awake and Sing!, The Light in the Piazza (Tony Award noms.), Blood and Gifts, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown (also London). Broadway: Fiddler on the Roof (Drama Desk Award), The Bridges of Madison County. Off-Broadway: Waste (Obie Award), Cymbeline (Callaway Award; also Royal Shakespeare Company), Don Juan, Pericles (TFANA, BAM). Previously artistic director of Seattle's Intiman Theatre (2000– 2009), company director for the Guthrie Theater and associate artistic director at Hartford Stage Company. Opera: Rigoletto (Staatsoper Berlin); Roméo et Juliette (Metropolitan Opera, Salzburg, Milan, Chicago); Faust (Baden Baden); Two Boys (English National Opera, Metropolitan Opera); Il barbiere di Siviglia (Baden Baden, Metropolitan Opera), Otello, Les Contes d'Hoffmann, Le Comte Ory, L'elisir d'Amore (Metropolitan Opera); Mourning Becomes Electra (Seattle Opera, New York City Opera). He serves on the board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. Bart is currently directing a chamber opera production of Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel* at Lincoln Center Theater, with a score by Ricky Ian Gordon. His film "Oslo" premiered on HBO in May and was nominated for two Emmy Awards.

## **About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts**

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's facilities at 551 Main Street houses function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester's

BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All <u>donations</u> are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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