

# *TOP GIRLS*

*written by  
caryl churchill*

*directed by  
larissa kokernot*

*november 1 - 4, 2012 mcclintock theatre*

USC School  
of Dramatic Arts

# FALL 2012 SCHEDULE

## THE COUNTRY CLUB

By Douglas Carter Beane  
Directed by Cameron Watson  
Oct. 4 - 7 / Scene Dock Theatre

## 12 OPHELIAS

By Caridad Svich  
Directed by Paul Backer  
Oct. 4 - 7 / McClintock Theatre

## THE RIMERS OF ELDRITCH

By Lanford Wilson  
Directed by Jack Rowe  
Oct. 11 -14 / Bing Theatre

## CRIMES OF THE HEART

By Beth Henley  
Directed by Robert Bailey  
Oct 25 - 28 / Scene Dock Theatre

## TOP GIRLS

By Caryl Churchill  
Directed by Larissa Kokernot  
Nov. 1 - 4 / McClintock Theatre

## AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY

By Georges Feydeau  
Translated by Nicki Frei and Peter Hall  
Directed by Michael Keenan  
Nov. 1 - 4 / Bing Theatre

## 27 WAGONS FULL OF COTTON AND OTHER SHORT PLAYS

By Tennessee Williams  
Directed by John DeMita  
Nov. 15 - 18 / Scene Dock Theatre

## FLYIN' WEST

By Pearl Cleage  
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel  
Nov. 15 - 18 / McClintock Theatre

## FALL DANCE CONCERT A WONDERLAND OF DANCE

Directed by Angeliki Papadakis  
Dec. 6 & 7 / Bing Theatre



## Ticket Information

### SHOWTIMES (except where noted otherwise)

Thu. & Fri. at 7pm • Sat. at 2:30 & 8pm • Sun. at 2:30pm  
\*Please see website below for performance schedule

### TICKET PRICES

PLAYS: General Admission \$10 • Seniors or USC Faculty/Staff with ID \$8 • USC Students with ID \$5

MUSICALS: General Admission \$15 • Seniors or USC Faculty/Staff with ID \$10 • USC Students with ID \$6

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL YEAR TWO: All tickets \$5

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL YEAR THREE: Admission is free and will be available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis.

For tickets and information: [www.usc.edu/spectrum](http://www.usc.edu/spectrum) • [arts@usc.edu](mailto:arts@usc.edu) • 213-740-2167

THE USC SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS

presents

# TOP GIRLS

By Caryl Churchill

with

Laura Lee Caudill • Fiona Collinson

Susan Durnford • Mary Rachel Gardner • Annie Hamilton

Allie Jennings • Nicole Knudsen

SCENIC DESIGN  
Esther Chung

COSTUME DESIGN  
Hannah Kim

LIGHTING DESIGN  
Jeff McLaughlin

SOUND DESIGN  
Jeff Polunas

STAGE MANAGER  
Megan Laughlin

DIRECTED BY  
Larissa Kokernot

November 1 - 4, 2012  
McClintock Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

Marlene..... Fiona Collinson  
Waitress/Kit/Shona ..... Annie Hamilton  
Isabella Bird/Joyce/Mrs. Kidd ..... Nicole Knudsen  
Lady Nijo/Win ..... Laura Lee Caudill  
Dull Gret/Angie ..... Allie Jennings  
Pope Joan/Louise..... Susan Durnford  
Patient Griselda/Jeanine/Nell..... Mary Rachel Gardner

### TIME

Early 1980s.

### PLACE

#### ACT I

Scene One: Restaurant. Saturday night.

Scene Two: 'Top Girls.'

Scene Three: Joyce's backyard. Sunday afternoon.

#### ACT II

Scene One: 'Top Girls.' Monday morning.

Scene Two: Joyce's kitchen. Sunday evening, a year earlier.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Dialect Coach..... Kathleen S. Dunn  
Scenic Artist ..... Vika Teplinskaya  
Apprentice Stage Manager ..... Tyler Miclean  
Assistant Costume Design..... Marly Hall  
Properties Coordinator ..... Hannah Burnham  
Crew ..... Grace Anaclerio, Brittany Attar,  
Liang Chen, Chloe Goutal,  
Ji Won Jeon, Alex Martinez,  
Deanna Morgan, Nicole Wolf

## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Larissa Kokernot's regional directing credits include work with Eye of the Storm Theatre in Minneapolis, where she served as Artistic Associate for six years; Indiana Repertory Theatre; Ten Thousand Things; The Children's Theatre; Guthrie Theater; The Playwright's Center; California Repertory Theatre; Watts Village Theatre; La Jolla Playhouse; and Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where she was the 2007 Phil Killian Directing Fellow. Larissa is a founding member of Chalk Repertory Theatre, where she has directed *Three Sisters*, *Family Planning* (Ovation Awards for Best Play in an Intimate Theatre and for Director), *Stray* and *Full Disclosure*. Larissa received her B.A. in Theater from Brown University and an M.F.A. in Directing from the University of California, San Diego. Larissa lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Karl Gajdusek, and their sons Kade and Nicholas.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Top Girls* is a play I first encountered in a college seminar with Paula Vogel about the history of the female character in dramatic literature. At that time, I was most taken with the feminist theatrics of the opening scene – an amazing celebratory dinner party where Marlene surrounds herself with intrepid and adventurous women from history and art. It's heady stuff to read as a young woman. Now, 20 years later, married with two children, I find the larger themes of the play – the choices we make, and the balance between work and family that often feels out of reach, not to mention the economic and social conditions that continually challenge what it means to be a feminist in the modern age – these are what grab hold of me and send my mind awhirl. Wherever you meet this play in your own life and experience, I hope it takes you on a ride as it always has done for me.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Casey Stangl

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Madeline Puzo

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Natsuko Ohama  
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Brent Blair (Director Of M.A. in Applied Theatre Arts)  
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