

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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[Pre]-production photos are now available at
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**MARIN THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *9 CIRCLES*,
A NEW PLAY BY BILL CAIN, WINNER OF MTC'S 2010 SKY COOPER NEW
AMERICAN PLAY PRIZE**

October 14 through November 7, 2010 | Opening October 19

MILL VALLEY, CA— Marin Theatre Company announces the world premiere of *9 Circles*, the newest play by *Equivocation* playwright Bill Cain. *9 Circles* is the riveting story of a young American soldier on trial for his life. San Francisco favorite **Kent Nicholson** returns to the Bay Area to direct *9 Circles* in MTC's intimate 99-seat Lieberman Theatre. *9 Circles* runs **October 14 through November 7, 2010**. Opening night is **October 19**.

"The MTC artistic staff was astounded by the power and grace of *9 Circles*—it was our unanimous choice for the 2010 Sky Cooper New American Play Prize. Mr. Cain's highly theatrical vision, so evident in *Equivocation*, is again on dazzling display," said MTC Artistic Director Jasson Minadakis.

In *9 Circles*, Daniel Reeves is arrested and prosecuted after being honorably discharged for acts that he may have committed during the war. Thrown into a labyrinth of military bureaucracy, the confused and troubled teenager tries to navigate through layers of commanding officers, public defenders, lawyers, preachers, and army psychiatrists. This dramatic, compelling, and visceral thriller inspired by actual events will be the most talked-about world premiere of the season.

"*9 Circles* is very close to my heart." says playwright Bill Cain. "It's the journey of a young man who comes to understand who he is and what he has done, and that he can be empathetic with what he once thought was his enemy. It's the story of a young man who achieves greatness by doing the one necessary thing—becoming himself."

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Bill Cain's *Equivocation* was awarded the 2010 Steinberg New Play Award and broke MTC box office records in its Bay Area premiere earlier this year. It received its world premiere at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2009, with subsequent productions in Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York. His widely produced play *Stand-Up Tragedy* earned six LA Critics Awards in its premiere at the Mark Taper Forum, four Helen Hayes Awards at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, and the Joe A. Callaway Playwriting Award for its 1990 Broadway engagement. He has won many awards for his film and television work. He is the founder of the Boston Shakespeare Company, where he was Artistic Director for seven seasons.

Director **Kent Nicholson** previously directed the 2009 hit production of *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* and *The Good German* in 2007 at MTC. He has extensive Bay Area credits including work with Aurora Theatre, Crowded Fire, Encore Theatre, Magic Theatre, and TheatreWorks. He is currently the Director of Musical Theater at Playwrights Horizons in New York.

Craig Marker, who appeared in *Equivocation*, returns to MTC as Daniel Reeves in *9 Circles*. Bay Area stage veteran **James Carpenter** will play multiple roles, as will **Jennifer Erdmann**, who makes her MTC debut. **Aldo Billingslea** will understudy for Mr. Carpenter.

9 Circles was developed at the Ojai Playwrights Conference and South Coast Rep's Pacific Playwrights Festivals.

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9 CIRCLES FACT SHEET

WHAT: 9 CIRCLES | World Premiere

The newest play by *Equivocation* playwright Bill Cain, *9 Circles* is the riveting story of a young American soldier on trial for his life. After being honorably discharged, Daniel Reeves is arrested and prosecuted for acts that he may have committed during the war. Thrown into a labyrinth of military bureaucracy, the confused and troubled teenager tries to navigate through layers of commanding officers, public defenders, lawyers, preachers, and army psychiatrists. This dramatic, compelling, and visceral thriller inspired by actual events is sure to be the most talked-about world premiere of the season.

WHO: By Bill Cain

Directed by Kent Nicholson

Featuring James Carpenter, Jennifer Erdmann and Craig Marker. Aldo Billingslea will understudy for Mr. Carpenter.

WHEN: Oct 14–Nov 7, 2010

Opening Night: Oct 19

Previews: Oct 14–17

Performance Times

Tue, Thu, Fri & Sat 8:00 pm

Wed 7:30 pm

Sun 7:00 pm

Matinees: Thu Oct 28, 1 pm | Sat Oct 23 and Nov 6, 2 pm | Every Sun 2 pm

Please check www.marintheatre.org or call box office at 415.388.5208 for exact performance dates and times.

WHERE: Marin Theatre Company | 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941
In the Lieberman Theatre

TICKETS: \$32–\$53, details below (discounts available for seniors and students)

Ticket Prices

Previews: \$32

Opening Night: \$48 & \$53

Tues: \$33 & \$35

Wed, Thu, & Sun Evenings: \$37 & \$42

Fri: \$43 & \$48

Sat Evenings: \$48 & \$53

Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun Matinees: \$37 & \$42

Discounts available:

Under 30: \$20, all performances

Senior discounts, varies by performance, please call

RUSH tickets \$15, available one-half hour prior to show, based on availability

For group sales, contact Julie Knight, 415-388-5200 x3302

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ABOUT THE MTC SKY COOPER NEW AMERICAN PLAY PRIZE. Norton J. “Sky” Cooper funds the Sky Cooper New American Play Prize at Marin Theatre Company, established in 2007 to celebrate the work of the American playwright and to encourage the creation of bold, powerful new voices and plays for the American stage. The Sky Cooper Prize is awarded annually to either an established or emerging playwright for an outstanding new work. The play selected as the Sky Cooper winner receives a full production at MTC as part of its annual season and will be given regional and national promotion. In addition, the playwright receives a \$10,000 award, as well as travel and accommodations for the MTC rehearsal period. Previous winners include Sharr White for *Sunlight* in 2009 and Zayd Dohrn for *Magic Forest Farm* in 2008.

ABOUT MTC. Marin Theatre Company is the Bay Area’s premiere mid-sized theater and the leading professional theater in the North Bay. We produce a five- to six-show season of provocative plays by passionate playwrights from the 20th century and today in two intimate theaters—a 231-seat proscenium and a 99-seat thrust. We are committed to the development and production of new plays by American playwrights, with a comprehensive New Play Program that includes at least one world premiere each season, two nationally recognized annual playwriting awards, numerous new play readings and workshops by the nation’s best emerging playwrights, and a leadership position in the National New Play Network. Our numerous educational programs serve more than 6,000 students each year.

9 CIRCLES ARTIST BIOS

Bill Cain’s (Playwright) play *Equivocation* received its Bay Area premiere at MTC after its world premiere at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2009 and is the recipient of the 2010 Steinberg New Play Award. He is the author of the widely produced play *Stand-Up Tragedy*, which earned six L.A. Critics Awards (including Best Production and Distinguished Writing) in its premiere at the Mark Taper Forum. *Stand Up* later won four Helen Hayes Awards (including Outstanding Production) at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, before its 1990 Broadway engagement where it received the Joe A. Callaway Playwriting Award. His play *The Laying on of Hands* was developed at the Ojai Playwrights Conference and NYU’s HotInk Series. *How To Write a New Book For The Bible: A Play For An Older Actress* was also developed at Ojai, South Coast Rep, and TheatreWorks. Mr. Cain was the co-creator/writer/producer of “Nothing Sacred,” a dramatic television series that premiered in the fall of 1997 on ABC and was awarded a George Foster Peabody Award for Outstanding Achievement in Television. He is the founder of the Boston Shakespeare Company, where he was Artistic Director for seven seasons, directing most of the Shakespeare canon.

Kent Nicholson (Director) directed *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* and *The Good German* for MTC. His many Bay Area credits include the world premieres of *Dog Act* by Liz Duffy Adams at Shotgun Players, the long-running *Sacrament!*, which

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he co-adapted with novelist Dave Eggers from Eggers' book at Campo Santo, *We Are Not These Hands* by Sheila Callaghan at Crowded Fire Theatre Company, and *Kissing the Witch* by Emma Donoghue at Magic Theatre; the American premiere of *Stones in His Pockets* by Marie Jones at Magic Theatre; and the west coast premieres of *Small Tragedy* by Craig Lucas at Aurora Theatre and *Grey Gardens* at TheatreWorks. He also directed *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller and *Vincent in Brixton* by Nicholas Wright at TheatreWorks. Mr. Nicholson served as Artistic Director of Crowded Fire Theater Company, Associate Artistic Director of the Magic Theatre, and New Works Director for TheatreWorks where he developed plays and musicals. His San Francisco production of *Five Flights* by Adam Bock for Encore Theatre was named one of the top ten cultural events of 2002 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He also directed *Five Flights* Off-Broadway at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre. Additional credits include Borderlands Theatre, San Diego Repertory Theatre, and the Summer Play Festival in New York. Mr. Nicholson is currently the Director of Musical Theater at Playwrights Horizons.

James Carpenter (Man) has appeared at MTC in *Two For the Seesaw*, *All in the Timing*, and *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*. A long-time Bay Area resident, his credits include 14 years as an Associate Artist with Berkeley Rep, many shows with A.C.T. (where he's been seen as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* for the past 5 years), Aurora Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theatre, CenterREP, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz. He is currently an Associate Artist with Cal Shakes. Regional credits include The Old Globe Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Intiman, Arizona Theatre Company, Dallas Theatre Center, and the Huntington Theatre Company. Screen credits include the films *The Rainmaker*, *Metro*, *Singing*, *The Sunflower Boy*, *Presque Isle*, and the TV series "Nash Bridges." Mr. Carpenter is a recipient of the Barbara Bladen Porter Award and the 2010 Lunt-Fontaine Fellowship grant from the Ten Chimneys Foundation.

Jennifer Erdmann (Woman) makes her MTC debut in *9 Circles*. Bay Area credits include Belinda in *Noises Off* at CenterREP, Amanda in *Restoration Comedy* at Stanford Summer Theater, Anna in *Vincent in Brixton* at TheatreWorks, and Julia in *Holiday* at California Conservatory Theatre. She has also performed at San Jose Repertory Theatre, Marin Shakespeare Company, American Musical Theatre of San Jose, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Woman's Will, the Willows Theatre, and the Pear Avenue Theatre. Regional credits include Sister Mary Leo in *Nunsense Jamboree* at Meadow Brook Theatre; Kate Keller in *The Miracle Worker* at Sierra Rep; and Lydia in *Pride and Prejudice* at Arizona Theatre Company, San Jose Repertory Theatre, and the Alliance Theatre. Ms. Erdmann also works frequently in independent film, commercials, and industrials. She holds a BA from Cornell University.

Craig Marker (Daniel Reeves) has appeared at MTC in Bill Cain's *Equivocation* and as Bo Decker in *Bus Stop*. He will appear this summer as Macduff in *Macbeth* at Cal Shakes. Other Bay Area theater credits include Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* at Cal Shakes; *As You Like It*, *The Foreigner*, *Iphigenia At Aulis*, and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* at San Jose Repertory Theatre; the title role in *Macbeth* at Shotgun Players; *Third*, *Theophilus North*, *Brooklyn Boy*, *Dolly West's Kitchen*, and *Shakespeare in Hollywood* at TheatreWorks; *First Person Shooter* and *The Story* at SF Playhouse; *The Circle* and *Curse of the Starving Class* at A.C.T.; *The Mousetrap* and *The Marriage of*

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Figaro at CenterREP; *Love's Labour's Lost* at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival; *The Shape of Things* and *The Persians* at Aurora Theatre; and David Edgar's *Continental Divide* at Berkeley Rep, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Barbican Theatre (UK), and La Jolla Playhouse. Mr. Marker will appear later this season at MTC as Trigorin in *Seagull*.

Aldo Billingslea (Understudy) has previously appeared at MTC as Yank in *The Hairy Ape* and Frederick Douglas/Jim in Scott Kaiser's *Splittin' the Raft*. Bay Area credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Coriolanus* at Shakespeare Santa Cruz; Joseph Merrick in *The Elephant Man* and Harmond Wilks in *Radio Golf* at TheatreWorks. He has also appeared at Renegade Theatre Experiment, Magic Theatre, A.C.T., Cutting Ball Theater, Playwrights Foundation, CenterREP, Playground, and Marin Shakespeare Festival. Regional credits include Officer Simmons in *The Rant* at InterAct Theatre in Philadelphia, and productions at Portland Center Stage, the Old Globe Theatre, and Shakespeare Festivals of Dallas, Illinois, Utah, and Oregon. Mr. Billingslea is a Playground company member, serves on the board of Renegade Theatre Experiment, and teaches acting at Santa Clara University.

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