

MOHONK MOUNTAIN STAGE COMPANY, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Mohonk Mountain Stage Company Presents
the Hudson Valley Premiere of
A Number
by Caryl Churchill
on November 4 and 5, 2005*

*Please note: Digital headshots of Mr. Pileggi, Mr. Kroll and Ms. Churchill
are available on the MMSC web site*

(<http://www.mmstageco.com/news/releases.html>) or by request.)

New Paltz, NY –The Readers Theatre Group of Mohonk Mountain Stage Company’ will present the Hudson Valley premiere of **A Number**, the challenging new play by Caryl Churchill, on Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5, 2005 at 8 PM at the Parish Hall of Ascension Episcopal Church on Rte. 9 W in West Park. Admission is \$10. For reservations, call MMSC’s offices at (845) 255-3102.

Caryl Churchill, author of **Top Girls** and **Cloud 9**, and one of the most original writers in theatre today, explores what constitutes a person’s essence against the unsettling backdrop of cloning and genetic engineering. What happens when three men discover they are replicates — human clones cut from identical genetic cloth with drastically differing results? A father is confronted with a number of his sons, all genetically identical, yet not the same person. How does a copy become unique?

A Number is at once a psychological thriller tinged with science fiction, a standoff between an aging father and his son, and a meditation on the questions that cloning raises about the value that is placed on every life as unique and individual. The play turns the familiar father-son drama on its head as the sons struggle to find their identity not only in their father’s gaze but in their all-too-human reflections.

MMSC’s production of **A Number** will be directed by Christine Crawfis and will feature Bruce Pileggi and Jack Kroll in two of the most challenging roles written in the contemporary theatre.

“...a stunning play...ferociously inventive...gripping dramatic consideration of what happens to autonomous identity in a world where people can be cloned.” — *The New York Times*

“**A Number** confirms Churchill’s status as the first dramatist of the 21st century. On the face of it, it is

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about human cloning...Like all Churchill's best plays, **A Number** deals with both the essentials and the extremities of human experience...The questions this brilliant, harrowing play asks are almost unanswerable, which is why they must be asked." *Sunday Times*

"Caryl Churchill's magnificent new play only lasts an hour but contains more drama, and more ideas, than most writers manage in a dozen full-length works." *Daily Telegraph*

Mohonk Mountain Stage Company is an independent theater company that has been operating in the Hudson Valley since 1994. MMSC celebrates ideas, imagination and ingenuity through its award-winning Readers Theatre Group and Theatre For Young Audiences, a semi-annual literary journal and an annual theatre scholarship award. They have garnered numerous awards from The Taconic Newspapers and Times Herald Record including Best Theatrical Event of the Year, Best Play and Best Actor. Their Theatre for Young Audiences productions such as **Brave Little Tailor**, **The Jungle Book** and **The Frog Prince** have toured nationally, performing in schools, theaters, and civic centers. Sponsors include both the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. and Brooklyn Academy of Music as well as local and regional schools.

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