



**NEWS RELEASE  
CALENDAR LISTING**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
*September 3rd, 2010*

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**CLASSICAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS EARLY MODERN DRAMA**

*Ghosts by Henrik Ibsen*

"Scandal" is the word that is often most associated with Henrik Ibsen and his plays. Frequently banned or censored because of their scathing criticism of 19th Century morality, Ibsen's works were hotly contested by the public and the media of the day. *Ghosts* is no different from these, and with its powerful commentary on the topics of incest, infidelity and euthanasia, it may well have been ripped from today's headlines.

The play follows a day in the life of the widow Helene Alving as she prepares to dedicate an orphanage in the memory of her late husband, but in the process she reveals to her spiritual advisor, Pastor Manders, that the deceased Captain Alving was a vile and lecherous man. The play revolves around Mrs. Alving's afflicted son Oswald and his unhealthy obsession with Regina, their maid. It is literally the "sins of the father" made manifest. Meanwhile Helene and the pastor, strive to save her son's soul and his body before he is too far-gone.

"Henrik Ibsen is very rarely produced professionally in Houston. I am excited to get a chance to delve into the often neglected realm of early modern drama," says Classical Theatre Company's Executive Artistic Director John Johnston, "*Ghosts* is an intimate but powerful play that asks a lot of its actors and its audience." The show previews on October 7th and opens on October 8th at the recently renovated Talento Bilingue de Houston cultural center.

The production boasts a stellar cast with Alley Theatre regulars Philip Lehl and Christianne Mays playing the leading roles of Pastor Manders and Mrs. Alving. Returning after playing Haimon in CTC's *Antigone* is acclaimed international Irish actor Matthew Keenan who will portray the afflicted Oswald Alving. The outstanding cast is rounded out with local actor Kent Johnson as Engstrand and Classical Theatre Company Resident Actor Blair Knowles as Regina.

John Johnston – Executive Artistic Director [www.ClassicalTheatre.org](http://www.ClassicalTheatre.org)

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE PO Box 541324 Houston TX 77254 T 713.963.9665 F 713.963.0605



The Classical Theatre Company is dedicated to boldly re-envisioning classical drama on the stage, in the community, and in the classroom through engaging and enlightening plays - bringing them new life and relevance while maintaining the integrity that the works deserve.

For more information on the upcoming events or the Classical Theatre Company, or to arrange interviews with director John Johnston and actors participating in *Ghosts* please email [blairk@classicaltheatre.org](mailto:blairk@classicaltheatre.org).

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## CLASSICAL THEATRE COMPANY FACT SHEET

**PLAY:** Ghosts by Henrik Ibsen

**DIRECTOR:** John Johnston

**CAST:**

Mrs. Helene Alving	Christianne Mays
Osvold Alving	Matthew Keenan
Pastor Manders	Philip Lehl
Jacob Engstrand	Kent Johnson
Regina Engstrand	Blair Knowles

**DATES:**

Thursday October 7th 2010-7:30 pm (Preview)

Friday October 8th 2010-7:30pm (Opening)

Saturday October 9th 2010-7:30pm

Sunday October 9th 2010-2:30pm (Post-show talk-back)

Monday October 10th 2010-7:30pm (Industry Night) (Industry Night is open to the public)

Thursday October 14th 2010-7:30pm

Friday October 15th 2010-7:30pm

Saturday October 16th 2010-7:30pm

Sunday October 17th 2010-2:30pm (Post-show talk-back)

**TICKETS:** Students and Industry \$8, General Admission \$18  
Available online at [www.classicaltheatre.org](http://www.classicaltheatre.org) or by phone 713.963.9665

**LOCATION:** Talento Bilingue de Houston  
333 South Jenson Dr  
Houston, TX 77003

**MORE INFORMATION:** Classical Theatre Company  
Tel: 713.963.9665  
Fax: 713.963.0605  
[www.classicaltheatre.org](http://www.classicaltheatre.org)

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