

celebrating all good things

Manifesting evil

John Patrick Shanley's "Pirate" offers a look at the dark side of the soul. *by Kristine Coulter*

"Pirate"

Through Aug. 1
Powerhouse Theater
Vassar College
124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie
(845) 437-5599
powerhouse.vassar.edu

Audiences will be able to see the fully-staged production of "Pirate," the newest work of Pulitzer, Tony and Oscar winner John Patrick Shanley, on the Main Stage of Vassar and New York Stage and Film's Powerhouse Theater through Aug. 1. Last year, "Pirate" was performed as a reading.

This will be the 13th work of Shanley's to premiere at Powerhouse, since Powerhouse's first season in 1985.

"Pirate represents a certain part, I guess evil in some way, and the many different colors of evil and how evil manifests itself," said Bill Camp, who portrays Pirate.

Camp has performed on Broadway in "Heartbreak House," "Jackie: An American Life," "The Seagull" and "Saint Joan." He has won an Obie Award and was nominated for a Drama League Award. Camp has appeared on numerous television shows, including "Law & Order" and "Law & Order: CI." His film appearances have included "Reversal of Fortune" and "Reservation Road."

"[Pirate] is here and will be in all of us to various degrees. It's how we accept that evil in ourselves, whether we act on it or we don't," explained Camp.

Charlotte Parry portrays Portia. "She's fighting for Pirate's soul. She's mercy for him, the voice of mercy," said Parry.

The character of Nick wants to kill



Charlotte Parry as Portia and playwright/director John Patrick Shanley in rehearsal for "Pirate," on the Powerhouse Theater Mainstage through Aug. 1. *Photo © Vassar College/Buck Lewis Photography*

Pirate, said Parry.

It is "kind of [Portia's] mission to protect him and save his soul," she remarked.

Parry has performed on Broadway in "The Real Thing" and some of her performances in London have included "The Three Sisters," "Whistle Down the Wind" and "As You Like It."

Camp and Parry worked together before in a large cast during a run on Broadway in "Coram Boy."

When hearing of working with Parry again, Camp said jokingly, "I've threatened to quit, actually."

"Bill's amazing," said Parry.

During "Coram Boy" the two had "one look" with each other during the

whole show, said Parry. They said they are glad to be working more with each other in "Pirate."

Camp said he is a huge fan of Parry's.

"She's super smart and is really game. I admire that so much," said Camp.

The admiration was mutual, with Parry saying of Camp, "I don't think there's anyone else ... that could play the part."

The whole experience, said Parry, has been unlike any one before because of "the nature of the play and the style," she said.

"There are serious issues unfolding, like the layers of an onion," said Camp.

Both Camp and Parry said they were and are huge fans of Shanley, the author of the Pulitzer and Tony-winning "Doubt" and the Oscar-winning movie "Moonstruck."

"John Patrick Shanley was involved, so that made it immediately attractive," said Camp about taking on the role.

Parry said Shanley keeps the rehearsals fun. By having fun, the work becomes better, she said.

"You must come out of yourself. It's kind of a relaxed atmosphere," stated Parry.

Performing in a Powerhouse production, said Parry, "You can dive right into it here. The pressure is removed."

Camp said people sometimes allow themselves to get in the way by becoming scared or complacent. He said he admires people that "go to the high board" and make it scary.

The "Pirate" cast also includes Ivan Hernandez as "Nick" and Michael Puzzo as "Klaus."

For tickets to "Pirate," visit www.powerhouse.vassar.edu or call the box office at (845) 437-5599.