



# CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY

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## **CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY TO PRODUCE STAGED-READING OF STEPHEN METCALFE'S *THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS!***

*San Diego Premiere of Celebrated Writer's Uncommon Look at the Common Family.*

SAN DIEGO, CA – Cygnet Theatre is proud to present the San Diego premiere staged-reading of acclaimed writer Stephen Metcalfe's *The Tragedy of the Commons*. The cast will include Jim Winker, Manny Fernandes, Monique Gaffney, Francis Gercke, Veronica Murphy and Tim West and will be directed by Stephen Metcalfe. *The Tragedy of the Commons* will be presented **ONE NIGHT ONLY at 7:30pm on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009** at Cygnet's Old Town Theatre. A wine and appetizer meet-and-greet will precede the reading, and **a talk-back with the cast and playwright, Stephen Metcalfe, will immediately follow the reading.**

Dakin Adams, a retired school teacher, spends his days writing and sending his thoughts - his blogs - out into the void that is the internet. His wife, Macy, walks the dogs and gardens. It would seem the only thing they have in common anymore is their home and their memories and their love of "the view"- the pacific ocean as seen from the back deck of the house. But now their neighbor is selling and the new owner is coming in to tear down and rebuild - build "up" - and the view - and the fragile relationship of two people - is in ever increasing jeopardy.

**Stephen Metcalfe is an accomplished writer of stage, television and screen. His first produced screenplay was *Jackknife*, based on his Off-Broadway play *Strange Snow*.** The film starred Robert DeNiro and Ed Harris and was directed by British stage and screen veteran, David Jones. He adapted screen-plays for Paramount's *Cousins* (with Ted Danson and Isabella Rossellini) and *Pretty Woman* (with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, directed by Gary Marshall.) Other well-know works include *Arachnophobia* (directed by Frank Marshall), *It Could Happen to You* (with Nicholas Cage and Bridget Fonda), *The Air Up There* (with Kevin Bacon) and *Mr. Holland's Opus* (with Richard Dryfuss). His plays, which have been produced in New York and in regional theaters throughout the United States,

include *Loves & Hours*, *Vikings*, *Strange Snow*, *Sorrows and Sons*, *Pilgrims*, *Half a Lifetime*, *Emily*, *White Linen*, *The Incredibly Famous Willy Rivers*, *White Man Dancing* and *The Gift Teller*. He is an Associate Artist at The Old Globe Theatre and is a member of the Playwright's Unit at The Manhattan Theatre Club in New York.

"We were incredibly excited when Stephen reached out to Cygnet," said Associate Artistic Director Francis Gercke. "We have been looking to collaborate with playwrights of his caliber and reputation and bring some original works to our stage. We are thrilled to be asked to present Stephen's latest draft of this play to its very first audience." Gercke and Metcalfe met several times to discuss *The Tragedy of the Commons*, as well as casting ideas and an agreeable date to stage a reading. In February 2010, Metcalfe's *Tragedy* will receive a three-day workshop at the Pasadena Playhouse.

**Directed by Stephen Metcalfe, the cast of *The Tragedy of the Commons* will include many familiar faces from Cygnet's current and past seasons: Associate Artistic Director Francis Gercke** (director of several Cygnet productions including the current production of *Man from Nebraska* and appearing on Cygnet's stage in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *A Number* and *Love Song*), **Manny Fernandes** (*Mauritius*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Communicating Doors* and *Bug*), **Monique Gaffney** (currently in Cygnet's *Man from Nebraska*, her award-winning performance in *Yellowman* and appearing in *The Piano Lesson* early in 2010), **Veronica Murphy** (*A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *My Fair Lady* and *The Matchmaker*) and **Tim West** (*A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and *Communicating Doors*).

***The Tragedy of the Commons* will also feature Jim Winker in the lead role of Dakin Common.** Jim Winker has appeared as an actor at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, South Coast Repertory, the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, San Diego Repertory Theatre, the Guthrie Theatre, Hartford Stage, the Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz and the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego where he is an associate artist. His one man show, *Anthem for the Doomed Youth: The Poetry and Letters of Wilfred Owen* was performed at the Mark Taper Forum literary cabaret and at the American Conservatory Theatre.

This ONE NIGHT ONLY staged-reading of *The Tragedy of the Commons* will be performed Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm on Cygnet's Old Town Stage located at 4040 Twiggs St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. The Wine and Appetizer meet-and-greet will begin at 6pm and the talk-back with Stephen Metcalfe and cast will immediately follow the performance. Tickets are a suggested \$10 donation.

**Reservations are highly recommended as seating is GA and will be booked on a first-come-first-serve basis.** Reservations can be made by visiting Cygnet's website at [www.cygnettheatre.com](http://www.cygnettheatre.com) or by calling the box office at **619-337-1525**. Reservations can also be made in person by visiting Cygnet's box office located at the Old Town Theatre, 4040 Twiggs St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

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*Cygnet Theatre Company is a 501(k) non-profit organization founded in 2002 by Artistic Director Sean Murray and Executive Director Bill Schmidt. In 2003, Cygnet renovated a storefront at 6663 El Cajon Blvd in the Rolando area into a 157-seat theatre. Cygnet has received over 60 awards and grown to one of the most highly regarded theatre companies in the San Diego area. In December 2007, Cygnet was awarded a 10-year lease by State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Concessions and Reservations Division of the Old Town Theatre. Located in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, the 248-seat venue was renovated during the summer and fall of 2008 and re-opened in November.*

**CYGNET THEATRE FACT SHEET**  
***STAGED READING...THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS***

**WHAT:** Cygnet Theatre presents a staged-reading of *The Tragedy of the Commons*.

**WHERE:** Cygnet Theatre – The Old Town Stage  
4040 Twiggs St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

**WHO:** Written by Stephen Metcalfe  
Director: Stephen Metcalfe

**CAST:** Jim Winker\* (*Dakin*)  
Veronica Murphy° (*Macy*)  
Manny Fernandes° (*Alan*)  
Francis Gercke° (*Spencer*)  
Monique Gaffney\* (*Diane*)  
Time West (Carl)  
\* Member of Actors Equity Association, °Resident Artist

**DATES:** Performance: Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:30 pm  
Wine and Appetizer Meet and Greet at 6pm  
Stephen Metcalf and Cast Talk-Back directly following the reading

**PRICE:** \$10 suggested donation

**HOW:** Phone: (619) 337-1525  
Online: [www.cygnettheatre.com](http://www.cygnettheatre.com)  
In Person: Old Town Theatre - 4040 Twiggs St., San Diego, CA 92110

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