

**SOUTHERN REP PRESENTS
THE REGIONAL PREMIERE OF JULIA CHO'S SPINE TINGLING PLAY
THE PIANO TEACHER**

New Orleans — Southern Rep finishes its 23rd season with the regional premiere of the Off-Broadway hit *The Piano Teacher*.

The play begins as the story of a sweet, lonely, cookie-loving piano teacher but becomes a chilling mystery that keeps you guessing until the very end. Mrs. K lives alone, in a world of her own creation, but when she has the impulse to call her former piano students, two of them respond in a way she does not expect. It is a subtle and complex play that takes us down dark corridors with a woman who just wants to imagine a life that has always been simple and happy.

An effective chiller! Julia Cho has constructed her play with a keen sense of suspense. — New York Times

Featuring a stunning tour de force by actress Peggy Walton-Walker as Mrs. K, joined by recent Big Easy Nominees Michael Aaron Santos and Veronica Russell, *The Piano Teacher* will have you on the edge of your seat as the story unfolds.

40 year veteran actress, Peggy Walton-Walker, playing Mrs. K, returns to Southern Rep having last appeared as Ana in *The Clean House*, for which she won an Amby Award. Veronica Russell is a 15 year veteran of the New Orleans performance community, who has worked as an actress, costume designer, musician, and variety performer. *The Piano Teacher* is her fifth show at Southern Rep. Michael Aaron Santos is local actor, director, producer, writer, designer, teacher and the Managing Director for InSideOut Productions.

This cast is fantastic. I am thrilled to be here, as part of the Southern Rep staff, directing this regional premiere. Southern Rep feels like home to me. Peggy Walton-Walker, Michael Santos, Veronica Russell, and our design team are having a ball plumbing the depths of this play. — Mark Routhier

Previews begin May 19th, with Opening Night May 21st, running through June 13th. Tickets are \$20 - \$29 with discounts available to teachers, students, military and theatre professionals with ID. Southern Rep is located at The Shops at Canal Place, 3rd Floor. Tickets are available online at www.SouthernRep.com or through our Box Office – 504-522-6545.

ON STAGE NOW ... Southern Rep's co-production with Le Petit Theatre of GREY GARDENS. LIMITED RUN May 6th – May 23rd. Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets for the preview performance on May 6th are \$23-32. Opening night tickets range from \$45-60. Regular performances are \$29-45. \$25 tickets are available for students, military and theatre professionals with ID. Performances are at Le Petit Theatre.

Southern Rep celebrates its 23rd season as the region's premiere professional theatre, continuing to produce bold world and regional premieres under the artistic leadership of Aimée Hayes, with Managing Director, Marieke Gaboury. In addition to its exciting Mainstage offerings; Southern Rep continues to offer educational programs such as free student matinees, \$10 student rush tickets and Academy SRT; "Free Night of Theatre"; as well as providing an artistic home to new works in development in the *New Play Bacchanal*.

Southern Rep continues to show that it is staging the most important, challenging, and downright mesmerizing pieces of theater New Orleans audiences are graced to experience. - Theodore P. Mahne, The Times-Picayune Lagniappe

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