Best of Ontario Theater
August 6 - 14, 2015
with Professor Murray Biggs
English and Theater Studies

25th Anniversary!

New for 2015 - stay at the sparkling Parlour Inn in downtown Stratford
For this 25th consecutive year (!) of our flagship theater program, we’ve scheduled the usual stimulating mix of Shakespeare at Stratford and modern works at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, benefitting from seven theaters operated by the Festivals.

In Stratford we’ve booked *Hamlet* with Jonathan Goad; *The Taming of the Shrew* with Canada’s favorite stage (and real-life) couple, Deborah Hay and Ben Carlson; Ben Jonson’s Jacobean cash comedy *The Alchemist*; and the recent Canadian piece, *Possible Worlds*. Also available will be *Carousel* and *The Sound of Music* (Stratford being famous for its musicals).

In Niagara the slate consists of two surefire Bernard Shaw comedies, *Pygmalion* and *You Never Can Tell*; Henrik Ibsen’s vivid rarity, *The Lady from the Sea*: contemporary British Caryl Churchill’s most effective play, *Top Girls*; and the little-known one-act by J.M. Barrie, *The Twelve-Pound Look*.

The first half of the program will be set at the sparklingly renovated Parlour Inn in pleasantly walkable downtown Stratford, the second at the elegant Queen’s Landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Stratford Festival is home to the premier Shakespeare theater productions on the continent, the Shaw to their equivalent in modern work. Niagara-on-the-Lake, the former colonial capital of Upper Canada and beautifully maintained, is a half-hour drive from Niagara Falls. With its unique climate, the Niagara Peninsula also boasts several world-class vineyards.

Sincerely,

Murray Biggs,
Special YET Lecturer

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**Preliminary Schedule**

**Thursday, August 6**
Independent arrival at the Parlour Inn hotel in Stratford. Welcome reception and dinner at the Parlour Inn.

**Friday, August 7**

**Saturday, August 8**

**Sunday, August 9**
Morning discussion. Afternoon performance of *The Alchemist* by Ben Jonson. Optional dinner at Rundles restaurant, followed by an evening showing of *Possible Worlds* by John Middleton.

**Monday, August 10**
Morning discussion followed by departure for Niagara-on-the-Lake by bus (or in your own car). Visit to Langdon Hall with lunch and garden tour en route. Afternoon arrival at Queen’s Landing.

**Tuesday, August 11**
Morning discussion. Afternoon performance of *The Lady from the Sea* by Henrik Ibsen. Dinner on your own. Evening showing of Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion*.

**Wednesday, August 12**

**Thursday, August 13**
Morning discussion. Lunch on your own, followed by an afternoon performance of *You Can Never Tell* by Bernard Shaw. Farewell dinner at the Queen’s Landing Hotel.

**Friday, August 14**
Independent departure following breakfast.
Enclosed is my check for $_____________ ($1,000 deposit per person) to hold ___ place(s) on the Best of Ontario Theater Seminar, August 6-14, 2015. I (we) understand that final payment is due on May 15, 2015. Please make your check payable to Yale University.

I would like single accommodations; a $945 supplement will be included in my final payment.

Please send all program materials to me at:
Name as on Passport                                             Yale Affiliation(s)               Birth date (mm/dd/yy) 

Name as on Passport                                             Yale Affiliation(s)               Birth date (mm/dd/yy) 

Address 
City                                                                 State                                 Zip Code 

Telephone (Day)                                                        Telephone (evening) 

Email

Why Theater with Yale Educational Travel?
“With the strong encouragement of Professor Biggs to read all the play texts before beginning the tour and to participate actively in the morning discussion sessions, I related to the tour as similar to taking a theater course at Yale with Professor Biggs, but without the burden of tests or papers. This is an educational experience I very much enjoyed.”
- Donna McCampbell 
2013 London Theater Participant

Murray Biggs, retired Adjunct Associate Professor of English and Theater Studies at Yale, is known throughout the campus and with alumni everywhere for his dynamic teaching style that inspires great enthusiasm and active participation. He has led week-long theater seminars in various locations: most often in London, but also at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario, and the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake; as well as in Ireland and the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. He has also offered theater weekends in major cities in the U.S., most regularly in New York City.

Professor Biggs was born in England, brought up in South Africa, and returned to England as a Rhodes Scholar to take his second degree (in English) at Oxford, where he afterwards taught for two years. He later studied acting and for a time performed professionally in Boston. He worked at MIT for ten years, mainly as founder and first Director of the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble. He also taught at Wellesley, Berkeley, and the University of Connecticut before joining the Yale faculty in 1986. He has published many articles and reviews, especially about Shakespeare and his contemporaries in performance. In 1991 he edited a collection of essays, The Arts of Performance in Elizabethan and Early Stuart Drama. He has directed over 40 plays, a third of them from the English Renaissance.
Since 1991, this eight-day program has sampled the very best plays from two internationally acclaimed Canadian theater festivals: The Stratford Festival in Stratford and the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Only with Yale.