



MARIN THEATRE PRESENTS
RADICAL MASTERPIECE FEATURING ALL-STAR CAST

The Cherry Orchard

By Anton Chekhov

Translation by Paul Schmidt

Directed by Carey Perloff

January 29 – February 22, 2026 (opening night: February 3)

MILL VALLEY, CA (15 December 2025)— **Marin Theatre** rings in 2026 with **Anton Chekhov**'s classic *The Cherry Orchard*. American Conservatory Theater Artistic Director Emerita **Carey Perloff**, who helmed Marin Theatre's wildly successful production of *Waste* last season, directs the Russian playwright's final work. Set at the turn of the 20th century, an aristocratic matriarch returns home to her family's estate, which has fallen into debt. The house and beautiful cherry orchard are set to be auctioned off while the family resists solutions, desperate to preserve their way of life and ignore the changing times. For this production, Perloff has assembled a topflight cast that includes Bay Area theatre veterans **Lance Gardner, Liz Sklar, Anthony Fusco, Danny Scheie, Leontyne Mbele-Mbong, Jomar Tagatac, Howard Swain, Joseph O'Malley, Rosie Hallett, and Anna Takayo**, alongside New York actors **Molly Ranson and Joel Morel**. *The Cherry Orchard* will be performed **January 29 – February 22, 2026** (press opening: February 3) at Marin Theatre, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley. Tickets (\$38-\$89 plus a \$6 handling fee per total order) are available at **MarinTheatre.org** or by calling **415-388-5208**.

Perloff returns to Marin Theatre, where her 2025 production of Harley Granville-Barker's *Waste* received critical acclaim. *San Francisco Chronicle* gave *Waste* its highest rating, lauding it as "eloquent, exhilarating, brilliantly articulated." *Bay City News* said, "Every moment full and rich. A sublime treat," while *Marin Independent Journal* called it "a five star performance." *On a Pacific Aisle*'s Joshua Kosman deem it "hugely rewarding. A suave and skillfully rendered affair." *Stage and Cinema* noted "Director Carey Perloff, armed with a stellar theatrical pedigree, breathes life into this drama."

"*The Cherry Orchard* is one of the most radical and remarkable plays ever written about change," says **Carey Perloff**. "It's about why change is crucial and why we always resist it. It's incredibly funny and incredibly sad, full of narcissistic characters who are sure they're the star of their own story, but fail to realize the damage they're causing to the people around them. And it's about how love is always irrational and surprising. I'm deeply grateful to Marin Theatre for giving all of us the chance to re-explore this big, juicy classic in light of our own times."

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to collaborate with Carey Perloff once again, and thrilled to get to play with these incredible actors on the Marin Theatre stage," said Marin Theatre executive artistic director **Lance Gardner**, who will perform in the production. "I love *The Cherry Orchard* for its delicious characters, who are stubborn, nostalgic, hopeful, longing, overbearing, manipulative, and forgotten. Chekhov's massive personalities draw you in with a gravitational force and propel you on a journey that remains both profound and amusing in Paul Schmidt's lively translation."

Starring as Henry Trebell in last season's *Waste*, **Lance Gardner** (he/him) plays Yermolái Lopákhin, the son of a peasant who has changed his fortune in becoming a businessman. Gardner's Marin Theatre acting credits also include *Skeleton Crew*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Equivocation*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Lovers and Executioners*. An award-winning actor and producer, Gardner took the helm of Marin Theatre in 2023. He is well known to Bay Area audiences for his many leading appearances onstage at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Marin Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, The Magic Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, among others. Gardner recently made his Marin Theatre directorial debut with the Regional Premiere of *Sally & Tom*.

Seen in 11 productions at Marin Theatre including *Waste*, *Mother of the Maid*, and *The Wolves*, **Liz Sklar** (she/her) returns to Marin Theatre as Liubóv Ranyévsckaya, a wealthy estate owner. She has performed with American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco Playhouse, California Shakespeare Theater, Aurora Theatre Company, Marin Shakespeare Company, Shotgun Players, and others.

Molly Ranson (she/her) makes her Marin Theatre debut as Dunyásha, the maid. Ranson was seen on Broadway in *Prayer for the French Republic* (also Off-Broadway at Manhattan Theatre Club), *Plaza Suite*, *Fish in the Dark*, *Jerusalem*, and *August: Osage County* (also at The National Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company). She received nominations for Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, and Drama League Awards for her performance in the titular role of *Carrie* at MCC Theater and was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award for Roundabout Theatre Company's *Bad Jews*. She appeared in *The Honey Trap* at Irish Repertory Theatre and *The Burnt Part Boys* at Playwrights Horizons, Vineyard Theatre, and New York Stage and Film. Her TV and film credits include NBC's "New Amsterdam," "Horace and Pete," and *Love on the Run*.

Anna Takayo (she/her) returns to Marin Theatre as Ánya, Liubóv's daughter. Takayo was featured in last season's *Waste*. She has acted with Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Spooky Action Theater, Devil's Isle Shakespeare Company, Olney Theatre Center, Adventure Theatre, Capital Fringe, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, People's Light Theatre, Hawaii Public Theatre, and Southwark Playhouse in London.

Recently appearing in *Sally & Tom*, **Rosie Hallett** (she/her) returns to Marin Theatre as Varya, Liubóv's adopted daughter. Hallett's other Marin Theatre performances include *Mother of the Maid*, *peerless*, *Native Son*, *The Way West*, and *Thomas and Sally*. She has been featured in productions at American Conservatory Theater, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Center Repertory Company, Shotgun Players, Word for Word, and San Francisco Shakespeare Festival.

Seen in *Waste* and *Marjorie Prime*, **Anthony Fusco** (he/him) returns to Marin Theatre as Leoníd Gáyev, Liubóv's brother and an eternal optimist. Fusco has performed on Broadway in *The Real Thing* and *The Real Inspector Hound* and on television in "The Sopranos" and "Law & Order." He has been featured in productions at many Bay Area theatres including American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, The Magic Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, and California Shakespeare Theater.

Joseph O'Malley (he/him) returns to Marin Theatre as Pétya Trofimov, a perpetual student. O'Malley performed in Marin Theatre's *The Gift of Nothing*, *Waste*, and *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. He has performed with Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Aurora Theatre Company, Marin Shakespeare Company, California Shakespeare Theater, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and La Jolla Playhouse.

Seen in Marin Theatre's *Lady in the Dark*, **Danny Scheie** (he/him) returns as Borís Semyónov-Píshchik, a nearby landowner. Scheie directed Marin Theatre's *Splittin' the Raft* and *The Pavilion*. Scheie's theatre credits include roles at American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, The Magic Theatre, Aurora Theatre Company, Center Repertory Company, South Coast Repertory, Arena Stage, Folger Theater, The Old Globe, Yale Repertory Theatre, Trinity Repertory Company, Arizona Theatre Company, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Actors Theater of Louisville, Pasadena Playhouse, and more. He was artistic director for three seasons at Shakespeare Santa Cruz. Television credits include CBS' "Nash Bridges," Fox's "Almost Family," and Apple TV+'s "Physical."

Seen in *Eureka Day* and *Waste*, **Leontyne Mbele-Mbong** (she/her) returns to Marin Theatre as Carlotta, Ánya's governess. She has performed with American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Marin Shakespeare Company, Aurora Theatre Company, California Shakespeare Theater, TheatreSquared, Shotgun Players, and others.

Also seen in last season's *Waste*, **Jomar Tagatac** (he/him) returns to Marin Theatre as Semyón Yepikhódov, an accountant. Tagatac has been seen on many stages including American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, San Francisco Playhouse, California Shakespeare Theater, New Conservatory Theatre Center, The Magic Theatre, Shotgun Players, and Oakland Theater Project, among others.

Recently featured in *Eureka Day*, **Howard Swain** (he/him) returns to Marin Theatre as Firs, the butler. Swain's Marin Theatre credits include *The Seagull*, *Killer Joe*, and *Pal Joey*, among others. He has appeared onstage at American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, San Francisco Playhouse, Jewel Theatre Company, Aurora Theatre

Company, Center Repertory Company, San Jose Repertory Theatre, TheatreFIRST, California Shakespeare Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Marin Shakespeare Festival. He performed in the national tours of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Love, Janis*. Swain's television roles include "Nash Bridges" and "Hill St. Blues," and films including *Cherry 2000*, *Miracle Mile*, *Teknolust*, and *Night of the Scarecrow*.

Joel Morel (he/him) debuts at Marin Theatre as Yásha, the valet. Morel performed in the national tour of The Jim Henson Company's *Fraggle Rock Live*. He has also acted in Edinburgh Fringe Festival and in readings with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and New York University's Villa La Pietra.

The Cherry Orchard features choreography by **Val Caniparoli**, scenic design by **Nina Ball**, costume design by **Lydia Tanji**, lighting design by **Kate Boyd**, sound design by **James Ard**, illusions/FX design by **Christian Cagigal**, props design by **Jenna Forder**, and wig design by **Jessica Carter**. **Nick Carvalho** is the stage manager, **Morgan Bright** is the assistant stage manager, and **Michael Paller** is the dramaturg.

MORE ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Carey Perloff (Director) is a director, playwright, producer, author, and educator who served as artistic director of Classic Stage Company in New York and American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. She returns to Marin Theatre where she directed *Waste* last season. Among Perloff's significant directorial accomplishments was *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, a world premiere adapted from the best-selling novel by Khaled Hosseini. More recently Perloff has directed *Oedipus* at Off-Broadway at Red Bull Theater, the first American productions of *Leopoldstadt* at Shakespeare Theatre Company and Huntington Theatre Company (she will also direct the Writers Theater production in May 2026), *The Lehman Trilogy* at Huntington Theatre Company and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, *Home? A Palestinian Woman's Pursuit of Life, Liberty & Happiness* at San Francisco Playhouse and Z Space, *As You Like It* at Santa Cruz Shakespeare, *Ghosts* at Seattle Repertory Theatre, and *Private Lives* at the Stratford Festival. As a playwright, Perloff's work includes *Vienna, Vienna, Vienna* (Finalist, Jewish Play Project; 2026 premiere at Six Points Theater); *Edgardo or White Fire* (commissioned by Williamstown Theatre Festival); *If God Were Blue* (Colorado New Play Summit 2025); *Kinship*; *Higher*; *The Fit*. Her books include *Pinter and Stoppard: A Director's View* and *Beautiful Chaos: A Life in the Theater*. In 2008 she was awarded the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres from the French government. She received a 2020 Director Commission from Seattle Repertory Theatre to begin developing a major new staging of the *Oedipus* cycle with John Douglas Thompson, which will premiere at PlayMakers Repertory Company in September 2026. In November 2025, she received a second residency at the Bogliasco Center in Liguria, Italy to write a book-length piece on exploring *Oedipus* in contemporary America.

Anton Chekhov (Playwright) was a Russian playwright and author, one of the greatest writers of short fiction, while his brief career as a playwright produced four classics. Chekhov renounced the theatre after the reception of *The Seagull* in 1896, but the play was revived to acclaim in 1898 by Stanislavski's Moscow Art Theatre, which subsequently also produced Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* and premiered his last two plays, *Three Sisters* and *The Cherry Orchard*, which debuted in January 1904, seven months before Chekhov's death of tuberculosis. These four works

challenged existing theatrical conventions, replacing action with intimate studies that highlighted the vagaries of human nature, everyday events, and the fine line between comedy and tragedy.

Paul Schmidt (Translation) published many books, such as *Arthur Rimbaud: Complete Works* and a four-volume translation of *Velimir Khlebnikov*. Working with a multitude of theatres including Yale Repertory Theatre, American Repertory Theatre and Guthrie Theater, Schmidt translated plays by Euripides, Chekhov, Brecht, Genet, Gogol, Marivaux, and Mayakovski.

ABOUT MARIN THEATRE

Marin Theatre was founded in 1966 as the Mill Valley Center for the Performing Arts (MVCPA). It later changed its name to Marin Theatre Company (MTC) and by 1987 had become a professional theatre company, joining with other Bay Area theatres to negotiate the first regional Actors' Equity contract in the Bay Area. MTC joined the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and the National New Play Network (NNPN) in 2008. Now rechristened **Marin Theatre**, the company is the leading professional theatre in the North Bay and the premier mid-sized theatre in the Bay Area. Executive Artistic Director **Lance Gardner** is well known for his many leading appearances onstage at major theatres around the Bay in the last two decades. Before his tenure beginning at Marin Theatre in 2023, he served as president of the Board of Trustees at Aurora Theatre and worked as a producer on the team that created and launched the live event series at KQED.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Marin Theatre rings in 2026 with **Anton Chekhov's** classic *The Cherry Orchard*. American Conservatory Theater Artistic Director Emerita **Carey Perloff**, who helmed Marin Theatre's wildly successful production of *Waste* last season, returns to direct the Russian playwright's final work. Set at the turn of the 20th century, an aristocratic matriarch returns home to her family's estate, which has fallen into debt. The house and beautiful cherry orchard are set to be auctioned off while the family resists solutions, desperate to preserve their way of life and ignore the changing times. Director Perloff leads a stellar cast of Bay Area theatre veterans including **Lance Gardner, Liz Sklar, Anthony Fusco, Danny Scheie, Leontyne Mbele-Mbong, Jomar Tagatac, Howard Swain, Joseph Patrick O'Malley, Rosie Hallett, and Anna Takayo**, alongside New York actors **Molly Ranson** and **Joel Morel**.

WHEN: **January 29 – February 22, 2026** (*opening night: February 3*)

WHERE: **Marin Theatre, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941**

TICKETS: **\$38-\$89 plus a \$6 handling fee per total order**

INFO: Single tickets and subscriptions for Marin Theatre's 2025/26 season are now available at MarinTheatre.org or by calling **415-388-5208**.

PRESS: Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co. lauren@cb-pr.com

PHOTOS: High-res photos may be downloaded from <https://cbpr.co/press/thecherryorchard>