

**RESONANCE ENSEMBLE**  
**TO PRESENT THE NEW YORK PREMIERE OF**

**CHARLES L. MEE'S**  
**TIME TO BURN**

**IN REPERTORY WITH THE PLAY THAT INSPIRED IT,**

**MAXIM GORKY'S CLASSIC**  
**THE LOWER DEPTHS**

**BEGINNING JUNE 4 AT MANHATTAN ENSEMBLE THEATER**

Resonance Ensemble (Eric Parness, Artistic Director; Rachel Reiner, Managing Director) will present a rare off-Broadway revival of Maxim Gorky's *THE LOWER DEPTHS*, directed by Mr. Parness, in repertory with the New York premiere of Charles L. Mee's *TIME TO BURN* directed by Leland Patton, at Manhattan Ensemble Theater (55 Mercer Street at Broome), beginning performances June 4<sup>th</sup> and continuing through June 27<sup>th</sup> only.

*Time to Burn* is a contemporary response to Gorky's play by Obie Award-winning playwright Charles L. Mee. In *The Lower Depths*, Gorky presents a grimly realistic view of a desperate circle of lost souls. The play, penned in 1902, offers a revealing look at the social atmosphere that led to the Russian Revolution of 1917. *Time to Burn*, which Mee describes as “a conversation with Maxim Gorky about what he hoped for when he wrote that play...and what has happened since,” explores the violent clash of Black, Eastern European, Mediterranean and Western cultures in contemporary American society.

Resonance Ensemble's goal is to weave a thread between the theatre's past, present, and future. By encouraging playwrights to study history's master dramatists, Resonance Ensemble nurtures timeless and universal new works that *resonate* today. *Time to Burn* and *The Lower Depths* will feature scenic design by Robert R. Sweetnam, costume design by Sidney Shannon, lighting design by Aaron J. Mason, and musical composition/sound design by Nick Moore.

The casts of *The Lower Depths* and *Time To Burn* feature Christopher Burris, Kristin Stewart Chase, Al Choy, Sean Dill, Loris Diran, Ledger Free, Nicole Godino, Tran T. Truc Hanh, Emily Laochua, Aaron Lisman, Patrick Melville, Ian Pfister, Annette Previti, Stu Richel, Lou Tally, Elisa Terrazas, Martha Tompoulidou, Martin Treat, Stewart Walker, James T. Ware, Gameela Wright, Maxwell Zener and Evan Zes.

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Mr. Mee's *Wintertime* has performed at La Jolla, Long Wharf, the Guthrie, the Wilma, and at Second Stage, among other theatres. *bobrauschenbergamerica* was performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music Next Wave Festival last fall and will be in the Bonn Festival this summer. *Snow in June* performed at American Repertory Theatre this past December. *Big Love*, directed by Les Waters, played in the Next Wave Festival at BAM just two years ago. It has also been performed at La Jolla Playhouse, Long Wharf, Berkeley Rep, the Goodman Theatre, ACT Seattle, Dallas Theater Center, the Wilma Theatre in Philadelphia and elsewhere. *True Love*, directed by Daniel Fish, played at the Zipper Theatre in New York, and in the Holland Festival in Amsterdam. *First Love*, directed by Erin Mee, played at New York Theatre Workshop and the Magic Theatre in San Francisco. *Vienna: Lusthaus* performed at New York Theatre Workshop and then toured to the Kennedy Center and elsewhere. His complete works are available on the Internet at [www.charlesmee.org](http://www.charlesmee.org). His work is made possible by the support of Jeanne Donovan Fisher and Richard B. Fisher.

Maxim Gorky was born Aleksei Maksimovich Peshkov, in 1868 in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, a city later to be renamed Gorky in his honor. The first of Russia's great writers from the proletarian class, Gorky drew on his own experiences to portray the wretched lives of those in Russia's lowest social echelon. By 1892 he had published his first piece under his pseudonym, meaning Maxim the Bitter. His first major work, *Chelkash*, was published in 1893, and his first novel, *The Man Who Was Afraid*, appeared in 1899. Gorky's first play, *The Petty Bourgeois*, was produced in 1902 at the Moscow Arts Theatre, and later that year, *The Lower Depths* premiered to enormous acclaim. In 1904, three more of his plays appeared on the stage: *Summer Folk*, *Children of the Sun*, and *Barbarians*. Gorky then became active in the 1905 revolution, and supported the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. After the revolution he wrote his autobiographical trilogy: *My Childhood*, *In the World*, and *My Universities*. His other plays include *Enemies* (1906), *The Last Ones* (1908), *Vassa Zheleznova* (1910), *Somov and Others* (1931), and *Dostigaev and Others* (1933). Gorky died on June 14, 1936, under suspicious circumstances and amid speculation that he was assassinated.

Tickets, which will be \$15, will be available for purchase online at [www.ResonanceEnsemble.org](http://www.ResonanceEnsemble.org), or by calling (646) 263-6673. Repertory schedule attached.

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## Resonance Ensemble's Summer Performance Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	June 1	2	3	4 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> Preview 8pm	5 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> Preview 8pm
6 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> Preview 7pm	7 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> Preview 8pm	8	9 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> Opening 8pm	10 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> Opening 8pm	11 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 8pm	12 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 2pm  <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 8pm
13 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 2pm  <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 7pm	14 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 8pm	15	16 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 8pm	17 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 8pm	18 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 8pm	19 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 2pm  <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 8pm
20 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 2pm  <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 7pm	21 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 8pm	22	23 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 8pm	24 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 8pm	25 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 8pm	26 <b>THE LOWER DEPTHS</b> 2pm  <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 8pm
27 <b>TIME TO BURN</b> 2pm	28	29	30	July 1	2	3