




Photo Flash: First Look at Antaeus' THE LAIR in New Adaptation by David Ives

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Wildly clever and a bit naughty, brimming with wordplay and swordplay, [David Ives'](#) English-language adaptation of [Pierre Corneille's](#) *The Liar* is next up at Antaeus. [Casey Stangl](#) directs the Los Angeles premiere of this delightfully ingenious and irreverent update of a classic French romp at the Antaeus Theater in NoHo. BroadwayWorld has a first look at the cast in action below!

In the Antaeus tradition best known as "partner casting," two actors once again share every role, working together throughout the rehearsal process to enrich the creative experience for both cast and audience. *The Liar* is the hilarious tale of Dorante ([Nicholas D'Agosto](#) / [Graham Hamilton](#)), a charming young man newly arrived in Paris who has but a single flaw: he cannot tell the truth. In quick succession he meets Cliton ([Rob Nagle](#) / [Brian Slaten](#)) a manservant who cannot tell a lie, and falls in love with Clarice ([Kate Maher](#) / [Jules Willcox](#)), whom he unfortunately mistakes for her friend Lucrece ([Ann Noble](#) / [Joanna Strapp](#)). What our hero regrettably does not know is that Clarice is secretly engaged to his best friend Alcippe ([Joe Delafield](#) / [Bo Foxworth](#)). Nor is he aware that his father ([Robert Pine](#) / [Peter Van Norden](#)) is trying to get him married to Clarice - whom he thinks is Lucrece. Add to the mix identical twin maid servants Isabelle and Sabine ([Gigi Bermingham](#) / [Karen Malina](#) White, each playing both roles), and a script written entirely in rhyming couplets - and the result is a sparkling urban romance as fresh as the day [Pierre Corneille](#) wrote it, brilliantly adapted for today.

Written in 1643, *Le Menteur* (*The Liar*) was based on a Spanish story of adventure written by Juan Ruiz de Alarcón y Mendoza that Corneille fashioned into a comedy of manners. Corneille's *The Liar* depended less on thrill and more on verbal repartée, the follies of modern courtship and Parisian life than its Spanish precedent. In writing *The Liar*, Corneille invented the comedy of manners, which he described as "the portrayal of social intercourse among persons of good breeding."

Scenic design for *The Liar* is by [Keith Mitchell](#); lighting design is by François-Pierre Couture; costume design is by Angela Balogh Calin; sound design and original compositions are by Peter Bayne; props design is by [Adam Meyer](#); fight direction is by [Bo Foxworth](#); and the production stage manager is Lara E. Nall.

[David Ives](#) is probably best known for his evenings of one-act plays called *All in the Timing* and *Time Flies*. Recent shows include *New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza*; [Irving Berlin's](#) *White*

Christmas; Is He Dead? (adapted from [Mark Twain](#)); and Venus in Fur. He is the author of three young-adult novels, Monsieur Eel, Scrib, and Voss. He is a graduate of Yale School of Drama and a former Guggenheim Fellow in playwriting.

[Casey Stangl](#) directed Antaeus' Ovation and LA Weekly Award-winning production of Peace In Our Time. Other recent projects include Citizen Twain, starring [Val Kilmer](#) at the [Kirk Douglas](#) Theater; Lombardi, a co-production with [Cleveland Playhouse](#) and Arizona Theater Company; Mrs. Packard for USC School of Dramatic Art; The Car Plays for Moving Arts at [La Jolla Playhouse](#) and the Segerstrom Off Center Festival; and many projects for [South Coast Repertory](#) including the award-winning production of In the Next Room (or the vibrator play). Nationally Casey's work has been seen at Humana Festival/Actors Theatre of Louisville, Guthrie Theater, Denver Center, Woolly Mammoth, Portland Stage, [Alabama Shakespeare Festival](#) and many others. Casey was the artistic director of Eye of the [Storm Theatre](#) in Minneapolis for which she was named Minnesota Artist of the Year. As a Fellow at AFI's prestigious Directing Workshop for Women Casey directed the short film C U @ ED'S, which screened at film festivals across the country and won numerous awards.

Antaeus is a cooperative theater ensemble founded to empower the actor and to bring classical theater to Los Angeles. The company exists to create a family of artists and audiences and is dedicated to exploring stories with enduring themes. Taking their company name from the Titan who gained strength by touching the Earth, Antaeus members - many of whom are familiar to film and television audiences - regain their creative strength by returning to the wellspring of their craft: live theater. Members of the company span a wide range of age, ethnicity and experience; they have performed on Broadway, at major regional theaters across the country, in film, television and on local stages, and are the recipients of numerous accolades including Tony, Los Angeles and New York Drama Critics Circle, Ovation, LA Weekly, and Back Stage Garland nominations and awards. Audiences, who rarely see an understudy due to Antaeus' trademark "partner casting," frequently return to see the same play in the hands of an equally excellent but very different set of actors.

Performances of The Liar continue on Thursdays and Fridays @ 8 pm; Saturdays @ 2 pm and 8 pm; and Sundays @ 2 pm (no matinee performance on Saturday, Oct. 12, dark Thursday, Nov. 28); T Tickets to the Opening Night performances on Oct. 10 and Oct. 11 are \$34, after which all tickets are \$30 on Thursdays and Fridays and \$34 on Saturdays and Sundays. The Antaeus Company is located at 5112 Lankershim Blvd in North Hollywood, CA 91601. Parking is available for \$7 in the lot at 5125 Lankershim Blvd. (west side of the street), just south of Magnolia. The theater is air-conditioned and wheelchair accessible. For reservations and information, call 818-506-1983 or go to www.antaeus.org.

Photo Credit: [Geoffrey Wade](#)



Nicholas D'Agosto as Dorante, [Kate Maher](#) as Clarice, [Gigi Bermingham](#) as Isabelle



Jules Willcox as Clarice, [Ann Noble](#) as Lucrece



[Kate Maher](#) as Clarice, [Joanna Strapp](#) as Lucrece



[Bo Foxworth](#) as Alcippe, Jonathon Lamer as Philiste



[Graham Hamilton](#) as Dorante. [Karen Malina White](#) as Isabelle



[Rob Nagle](#) as Cliton, [Graham Hamilton](#) as Dorante



Nicholas D'Agosto as Dorante



[Robert Pine](#) as Geronte, [Rob Nagle](#) as Cliton



Nicholas D'Agosto as Dorante, [Bo Foxworth](#) as Alcippe



[Graham Hamilton](#) as Dorante, [Joe Delafield](#) as Alcippe