



**BoHo Theatre**  
P.O. Box 409267,  
Chicago, IL 60640  
773-791-2393  
[www.BoHoTheatre.com](http://www.BoHoTheatre.com)

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CONTACT: Peter Blair, Executive Director  
[peter.blair@bohotheatre.com](mailto:peter.blair@bohotheatre.com)

## **BOHO THEATRE TAKES A FRESH LOOK AT A CLASSIC SATIRE WITH THEIR STEAMPUNK *TARTUFFE***

CHICAGO—BoHo Theatre brings laughs and style to the stage this January with Ranjit Bolt's contemporary translation of Molière's *Tartuffe*, the classic tale of sex, money, and the power of persuasion. *Tartuffe* runs January 13<sup>th</sup> through February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Avenue, and is directed by BoHo's Associate Artistic Director Peter Robel. By using the anachronistic mashup genre called steampunk, director Robel seeks to highlight the machinations of the wicked Tartuffe as he uses one man's fear of change to his advantage, a fear all too familiar today.

In the midst of societal upheaval, when the lines between church and state are being drawn between those for whom religion is the bedrock of society and a younger generation eager to accept change, comes the charlatan Tartuffe. Masquerading as a man of God, Tartuffe worms his way into the life of pious family patriarch Orgon and is soon trying to make off with the man's wealth, his daughter, and even his wife! Though the rest of the family goes to hilarious lengths to show Orgon the error of his ways and expel Tartuffe from their home, the con man always seems to be one step ahead of them.

By using steampunk (a scifi subgenre that mixes Victorian history and aesthetic with futuristic steam-powered technology) as a backdrop, BoHo's production mirrors the tumultuous societal landscape of 17<sup>th</sup> century France as a world that at once seems both familiar and alien, when old and new exist side by side. Without losing any of Molière's wit, BoHo's *Tartuffe* makes it obvious why a man would desperately believe the lies of a swindler over the word of his own family. Continuing our season-long exploration of the Bohemian pillars of truth, beauty, freedom, and love, *Tartuffe* explores the pillar of truth through the eyes of a liar.

### **LISTING INFORMATION**

#### *Tartuffe*

By Molière, Translated by Ranjit Bolt

Directed by Peter Robel

Scenic Design by Chad Bianchi

Costume Design by Kate Setzer Kamphausen

Lighting Designer by Nick Belley

Prop Design by Cassy Schillo

Dramaturgy by Ariel Trocino

Featuring Christa Buck, Chris Ballou, Luke Daigle, Daria Harper, Andrew Marikis, Michael Mercier, Saren Nofs-Snyder, Devan O'Mailia, Sean Thomas, and Jeremy Trager.

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## LISTING INFORMATION (con't)

January 13 – February 12, 2012

Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm.

**Opening Night is Saturday, January 14, at 8:00pm.**

Theater Wit

1229 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago

For tickets, call the Theater Wit Box Office at 773-975-8150 or visit [www.BoHoTheatre.com](http://www.BoHoTheatre.com)

**Tickets on sale now**

Opening weekend (January 13-15) ticket price: \$18, Regular run ticket price: \$20-25

## BIOS

**Molière** (Playwright)

A French playwright, actor, and director, Moliere was the son of a prosperous upholsterer. He left home to become an actor in 1643, joining forces with the Béjart family. He cofounded the troupe known as the Illustre Théâtre and toured the French provinces (1645 – 58), writing plays and acting in them. After his troupe was established in a permanent theatre in Paris under the patronage of Louis XIV, he won acclaim in the court and among bourgeois audiences for his comedy *The Affected Young Ladies* (1659). His other major plays include *The School for Wives* (1662), *Tartuffe* (1664; initially banned by religious authorities), *The Misanthrope* (1666), *The Miser* (1669), *The Bourgeois Gentleman* (1670), and *The Imaginary Invalid* (1673). His plays compose a portrait of all levels of 17th-century French society and are marked by their good-humored and intelligent mockery of human vices, vanities, and follies. Despite his success, he never ceased to act and direct. Taken ill during a performance in 1673, he died of a hemorrhage within a day and was denied holy burial. He is considered the greatest French dramatist and the father of modern French comedy.

**Ranjit Bolt** (Translator)

Ranjit Bolt is a British playwright and translator. Born in Manchester, raised in Cambridge, and educated at Perse School and at Balliol College, Oxford, he worked as a stockbroker for eight years before entering the world of play translation in 1990. His modern-language translations include *The Real Don Juan* from *Don Juan Tenorio* by José Zorrilla y Moral; *Lysistrata* from the play by Aristophanes; *Cyrano de Bergerac* from the play by Edmond Rostand; *Hercules* from the work by Seneca; *The Art of Seduction* from *La Double Inconstance* by Marivaux; *The Marriage of Figaro* from the play by Pierre Beaumarchais; and *Mirandolina* from the play by Carlo Goldoni; as well as many translations of Molière's works including *The Idiot* from *L'Étourdi*, *Scapin* from *Les Fourberies de Scapin*, *The School for Wives*, *The Sisterhood*, *The Grouch* from *Le Misanthrope*, and *Tartuffe*. As well as his plays, he has published a novel in verse, *Losing It*, and a verse translation for children of the fables of La Fontaine, *The Hare and the Tortoise*. He was awarded the OBE in 2003 for services to literature.

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**Peter Robel** (Director)

The holder of a BA in Biological Sciences from the University of California - Santa Barbara, Peter has worked professionally with theaters such as Court Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Chicago Opera Theater, Illinois Theatre Center, Theatre At The Center, New American Theater, Circle Theatre, Wagon Wheel Theatre, American Girl Theatre, and Borealis Theatre. He was also featured on the Original Cast Album for *Circle of Friends: An American Girl Musical*. As a director, he was awarded a 2008 After Dark Award for Outstanding Direction for BoHo's *The Merchant of Venice*. Most recently, he appeared with BoHo as Charlotte von Mahlsdorf in the critically acclaimed production of *I Am My Own Wife*. Peter is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, and is honored to have served as BoHo's Associate Artistic Director since the company's inception in 2003.

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**BoHo Theatre** structures each of its seasons around the four pillars or Bohemian philosophy: Truth, Beauty, Freedom, and Love. BoHo's 2011/2012 mainstage season features *Pippin* by Stephen Schwartz and Roger O. Hirson, *Tartuffe* by Moliere in a translation by Ranjit Bolt, *The Rainmaker* by N. Richard Nash, and *Floyd Collins* by Adam Guettel and Tina Landau.

**BoHo Theatre** seeks to challenge convention through literary originality and eclectic expression while fostering an ever-evolving artistic environment in which people are inspired to learn, think, dream, and feel; to teach others and ourselves how to expand, create, and present art through theatre while reveling not only in the process, but also in the journey.