

## C.S. Lewis' THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS Returns to Chicago

Submitted by [heronpr](#) [1] on December 8, 2011 - 1:22pm

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Chicago, IL -THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS, the smart, provocative and wickedly funny theatrical adaptation of the C.S. Lewis novel about spiritual warfare from a demon's point of view, will return to Chicago for two limited engagements. The production will be presented at the McAninch Arts Center Mainstage at College of DuPage, 525 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, Friday, March 16 through Sunday, March 18 and at the Paramount Theatre, 63 East Galena Boulevard, Aurora, Saturday, May 19.

The National Tour of THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS kicked off after a hit nine-month run at the Westside Theatre in New York where it played 309 performances. Prior to that, the Chicago Tribune described THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS as the "most successful show in the history of Chicago's Mercury Theater" where it ran for six months. It was, also, a hit at The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. where it played for ten sold out weeks.

Now in second smash year, THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS' National Tour continues to break box office records and has played to sold-out houses in numerous cities including Los Angeles, San Diego, Atlanta and Houston.

Associated Press calls the production "Devilishly funny!" The Chicago Sun-Times hails THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS as "Smart, sizzling entertainment!" The National Review described it as "Pure Genius!"

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS creates a topsyturvy morally inverted universe set in an eerily stylish office in hell, where God is called the "Enemy" and the devil is referred to as "Our Father below."

The play follows His Abysmal Sublimity Screwtape, Satan's top psychiatrist, played by award winning actor Max McLean, and his creature-demon secretary Toadpipe, as they train an apprentice demon, Wormwood, on the fine art of seducing an unsuspecting human "patient" down the "soft, gentle path to hell."

Along with The Chronicles of Narnia (including The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe), The Great Divorce and Mere Christianity, THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS is still one of Lewis' most popular and influential works. The book's piercing insight into human nature and the lucid and humorous way Lewis makes his readers squirm in self recognition made it an immediate success. When first published in 1942 it brought worldwide fame to this little-known Oxford don including the cover of Time Magazine.

The idea for Screwtape first came to Lewis after listening to Hitler's Reichstag Speech on July 19, 1940, while it was simultaneously translated on BBC Radio. Lewis wrote "I don't know if I'm weaker than other people, but it is a positive revelation to me how while the speech lasts it is impossible not to waver just a little... Statements which I know to be untrue all but convince me...if only the man says them unflinchingly."

Lewis dedicated it to his close friend J. R. R. Tolkien who had expressed to Lewis that delving too deeply into the craft of evil would have consequences. Lewis admitted as much when he wrote "Though I had never written anything more easily, I never wrote with less enjoyment ... though it was easy to twist one's mind into the diabolical attitude, it was not fun, or not for long. The work into which I had to project myself while I spoke through Screwtape was all dust, grit, thirst, and itch. Every trace of beauty, freshness, and geniality had to be excluded."

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS is produced by New York City based Fellowship for the Performing Arts. Max McLean serves as Artistic Director. Executive Producer and General Manager is Ken Denison of Aruba Productions. Scenic Design is by Cameron Anderson, Costumes by Michael Bevins, Lighting Design by Jesse Klug, and Original Music and Sound Design by John Gromada.

The performance schedule for THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS at the McAnich Arts Center Mainstage at College of DuPage is Friday, March 16 at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 17 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 18 at 3 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit [www.ScrewtapeonStage.com](http://www.ScrewtapeonStage.com) [3], call 630.942.4000, or visit MAC Box Office, 525 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, Mondays from 6 p.m. until 9p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The performance schedule at the Paramount Theatre is Saturday, May 19 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit [www.ScrewtapeonStage.com](http://www.ScrewtapeonStage.com) [3], call 630.896.6666, or visit the Paramount Box Office, 63 East Galena Boulevard, Aurora, open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and two hours prior to show time. Tickets range from \$29 - \$59. There are a limited number of premium seats available for \$89. For groups of 10 or more (including student groups) call 866.476.8707.

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