

# Emerson Theater group has 'Doubt'

MYSTIC – John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer Prize winning play "Doubt: A Parable" will be the opening production of the Emerson Theater Collaborative, a new professional theatre company based in southeastern Connecticut.

The play will be performed at the Union Baptist Church at 119 High St., on Thursday, Aug. 21, Friday, Aug. 22, and Saturday, Aug. 23. All performances are at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18 (\$16 for students and seniors) and can be obtained by calling (860) 705-9711.

Profits will benefit Noank Baptist Group Homes, Inc., serving the youth of southeastern Connecticut. Additional information is available at [EmersonTheatreCollaborative.org](http://EmersonTheatreCollaborative.org).

The Rev. Stacy E. F. Emerson of Union Baptist Church says of the project, "We are pleased to host the inaugural production of the Emerson Theater Collaborative. Doubt makes a significant comment on the power of suggestion and the subtle and possibly insidious effect it can have on self and others. Shanley's work is not only profound psycho-

logically and spiritually but relevant to the ongoing life of churches and of our communities."

Emma Palzere-Rae, Stephen Daniel Sherman, Heidi Harger, and Camilla Ross are featured in the drama. Albert Cremin directs the play.

The play is set in the St. Nicholas Church School in The Bronx during the fall of 1964.

Emerson Theater Collaborative serves youth, underrepresented communities, and artists with an emphasis on diversity by producing innovative and exhilarating theater in southeastern Connecticut. By exploring timely themes and issues through original works and modern theatrical classics, ETC develops and nurtures emerging and professional artists by collaborating with the Emerson College network of alumni and students.

The company of Doubt features Emma Palzere-Rae (Sister Aloysius). She has more than 20 years experience working in all areas of professional theater including performance, artistic administration, playwrighting, and producing.

Stephen Daniel Sherman

(Father Flynn) appeared off-Broadway in Tony N' Tina's Wedding. Touring productions include The Who's Tommy, Aladdin, and Cheap Sunglasses. Stephen was seen last month in Madhatter Production's inaugural mounting of Chicken Bone Beach in NYC.

Heidi Harger plays Sister James. Most recently she was seen in Michael R. McGuire's dysfunctional family drama Sometimes I Feel Like I Missed the Train. Other professional roles include Georgie in The Country Girl at the Majestic Theater in Massachusetts; Sara Jane Moore in Assassins at Spirit of Broadway in Norwich; and Rosalind in As You Like It, Olivia in Twelfth Night, and Cassandra in Agamemnon with Flock Theater in New London. Her New York credits include Six Characters in Search of an Author, Elvis is Dead, and various original works with the Weird Sisters writing group.

Camilla Ross (Mrs.

Muller) is the current president of the Emerson Theater Collaborative, drawing on more than 20 years of theatrical experience, ranging from commercials to regional theater. She is the theatrical advisor and acting coach for the SPAG Players at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. She sings with the Connecticut Lyric Opera of New London, and was seen locally in The Laramie Project, directed by Van Farrier.

Doubt is being produced under a Special Appearance contract with Actors' Equity Association. Palzere-Rae, Sherman, and Harger are Equity actors.

Albert Cremin who works regularly as an actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, director, producer, teacher, coach, and designer directs Doubt. As an acting company member of Plays for Living in NY, he has played many roles in its touring productions; stage managed, directed, and was production manager for a number of their tours.