FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 3, 2014

CONTACT: Dafina McMillan
dmcmillan@tcg.org | 212-609-5955
Gus Schulenburg
gschulenburg@tcg.org | 212-609-5941

New from TCG Books:

The Quality of Mercy: Reflections on Shakespeare
by Peter Brook

NEW YORK, NY – Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is pleased to announce the publication of Peter Brook's The Quality of Mercy: Reflections on Shakespeare, in which one of the world's most revered theatre directors reflects on the world’s most revered playwright.

In this sequence of essays—all but one published here for the first time—Peter Brook debates such questions as who was the man who wrote Shakespeare’s plays, why Shakespeare is never out of date and how actors should approach Shakespeare’s verse. He also revisits some of the plays which he has directed with notable brilliance, such as King Lear, Titus Andronicus and, of course, A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Taken as a whole, this short but immensely wise book offers an illuminating and provocative insight into a great director’s relationship with our greatest playwright.

"Contains within its scintillating reflections the essence of all that Peter Brook has learned over a lifetime. Whoever imagined that a book about Shakespeare could also be such fun?"
—John Heilpern, Wall Street Journal

Peter Brook is one of the world’s best-known theatre directors. Outstanding in a career full of remarkable achievements are his productions of Titus Andronicus with Laurence Olivier, King Lear with Paul Scofield, and Marat/Sade and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Since moving to Paris and establishing the Centre International de Créations Théâtrales at the Bouffes du Nord, he has produced a series of events which push at the boundaries of theatre, such as The Conference of Birds, The Ik, The Mahabharata and The Tragedy of Hamlet. His films include Lord of the Flies, King Lear and The Mahabharata. His books, especially The Empty Space, have been hugely influential.
For over 50 years, **Theatre Communications Group** (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, has existed to strengthen, nurture and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. TCG’s constituency has grown from a handful of groundbreaking theatres to nearly 700 Member Theatres and Affiliate organizations and more than 12,000 individuals nationwide. TCG offers its members networking and knowledge-building opportunities through conferences, events, research and communications; awards grants, approximately $2 million per year, to theatre companies and individual artists; advocates on the federal level; and serves as the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute, connecting its constituents to the global theatre community. TCG is North America’s largest independent trade publisher of dramatic literature, with 13 Pulitzer Prizes for Best Play on the TCG booklist. It also publishes the award-winning *American Theatre* magazine and ARTSEARCH®, the essential source for a career in the arts. In all of its endeavors, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field and promote a larger public understanding of, and appreciation for, the theatre. [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org).

---

**The Quality of Mercy: Reflections on Shakespeare**
By Peter Brook
Paperback 128 pages
$15.95  978-1-55936-483-6
October 2014

Other titles by Peter Brook, available from TCG:

**The Shifting Point**
$17.95  978-1-55936-081-4

**Conversations with Peter Brook**
$16.95  978-1-55936-350-1

**Evoking and Forgetting Shakespeare**
$8.95  978-1-55936-221-4

TCG books are exclusively distributed to the book trade by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution. Orders: 800-283-3572. SAN number: 63170X. Individuals may call 212-609-5900 or visit our online bookstore at [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org). For postage and handling, please add $6.50 for the first book and $1.00 for each additional copy.
Yet, God offers them mercy, NOT justice Slide 9 The Quality of Mercy is not Straind, its abundant Psalm 86 - a time of trouble for David Psalm 86:14 O God, arrogant men have risen up against me, And a band of violent men have sought my life, And they have not set You before them. Psalm 86:15-16 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.Â The Quality Of Mercy: Reflections On Shakespeare By Peter most pertinent speech in this entire scene, however, is Portia's reflection on the nature of mercy and justice. The quality of mercy is not strained. Documents. Our God is Mercy Our God is mercy, our God is mercy If your heart is heavy, Documents. THE NAME OF GOD IS MERCY - St. Peter Catholic Church? “The quality of mercy” is a quote by Portia in William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice; it occurs during Act 4, Scene 1, set in a Venetian Court of Justice. It is the speech in which Portia begs Shylock for mercy. The speech is regarded as one of the great speeches in Shakespeare, and it is an example of the esteem Shakespeare held for those who showed mercy. It is not a question he addresses directly in these reflections. They are the musings of an Old Master that often illuminate in few words. On the actors he has known, his perceptions can be striking. Gielgud was well known for his gaffes. Brook maintains that they come from the same source as his gift for verse speaking: “he was a unique neurological phenomenon.” What Brook rejects is worth recording here: “Any scene in Shakespeare can be vulgarised almost out of recognition with the wish to have a modern conceptâ€”(84). The director must strive towards quality and form, realising that A play of Shakespeareâ€™s must be played as one great sinuous phraseâ€”(26). To achieve this phrase is the highest form of wisdom. [End Page 120].