

SCENE

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT...

PRINCESS DIANE

BORN IN NEW YORK AND RAISED IN THE THEATER, **DIANE LANE** IS BACK ON BROADWAY AS A VERY CHEKHOVIAN ARISTOCRAT IN *THE CHERRY ORCHARD*.

BY OUSSAMA ZAHR

Why did you sign on for this new production? "It was a conversation with Ralph Fiennes that did it for me, because he is so enamored of Simon Godwin [the show's director]." **But what personally made you say "yes"?** "Well, I tend to respond to dares. People don't know that, and that's fine—because I don't want people to dare me all the time!" **You're actually returning to Broadway in the same show that provided your debut as an 11-year-old.** "There's something kind of magical about reaching back in time to your childhood self. I remember looking up at Irene Worth freaking out the night that Helen Hayes came to the show. Raúl Juliá was one of the sweetest men ever, and he played jacks with me at intermission almost every show." **Your father taught acting. Did he mentor you?** "The cobbler's children have no shoes. I mean, he tried, bless his heart. I would never want to rehearse with him or prepare for auditions with him. I would hide. I was mortified!"

Where were you living at the time? "I was on 55th and Broadway in a hotel with my dad. I used to walk down to the Colony record store [on 49th and Broadway] to get blank tapes to record off the radio. You remember mixtapes? I'd try to do it in between the commercials. It was just ridiculous. But that's what I did!" *Previews begin September 15 at American Airlines Theatre, 227 W. 42nd St., 212-719-1300; roundabouttheatre.org* ■

Square deal: Diane Lane is excited to return to the New York theater scene, but don't expect many Times Square sightings. "You could lose your clothes in the crowd and not even know where they went!" laughs the native New Yorker. "Keep your mouth shut so your teeth stay in! It's intense."

