

**The Menil and EnActe Arts Present
Jean-Claude Carrière's New Telling of**

The Mahabharata

U.S. premiere of new performance piece

Two nights only: Monday, March 11 & Tuesday, March 12, 2013

7:00 p.m., The Menil Collection, Main Foyer

Admission is free, but seating is limited: Doors open at 6:15



Houston, Texas, February 26, 2013 — In partnership with EnActe Arts, a new international theatre company in Houston, the Menil presents the renowned French screenwriter Jean Claude Carrière in the U.S. premiere of his 90-minute distillation of the ancient Sanskrit epic, ***The Mahabharata***.

Following the performance, the audience is invited to participate in a dialogue with Carrière, the Oscar-nominated screenwriter of such landmark films as *The Incredible Lightness of Being*, *The Tin Drum*, *Valmont*, *The Return of Martin Guerre*, and *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*.

Carrière, who collaborated with director Peter Brook on the Brooklyn Academy of Music's celebrated 1985 staging of the nine-hour ***Mahabharata***, has now condensed the epic tale into a 90-minute performance.

The authorship of ***The Mahabharata*** is attributed to Sage Vyasa, who dictated the tale to his scribe, Lord Ganesha. More than 100,000 stanzas in length, the story – a classical canon of Sanskrit verses – is of cosmic significance, rich in lore and legend,

family histories and individual journeys, fable and fact. In this original and personal re-telling, Carrière reminisces about his own years in India as he traces the 2,000-year-old story's roots in ancient civilization and discusses its relevance to our times.

Accompanying Carrière on stage at the museum will be sitarist Amie Maciszewski and student dancers from the Anjali Centre for the Performing Arts.

Protégée of Jacques Tati and longtime collaborator of Luis Buñuel, Carrière is an honored figure in international cinema, winner of BAFTA awards for outstanding screenplay and the Grand Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. An Officer of France's Legion of Honor, Carrière is the founder and president of La FEMIS, the French State Film School.

EnActe Arts

Based in Houston, EnActe Arts presents South Asian Theatre with universal appeal. For more information: www.enacte.org.

2 performances only, presented in the museum's main foyer

Monday, March 11 & Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Free Admission, but seating is limited – Please arrive early.

For more information write to press@menil.org or call 713-535-3170.