



## MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

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MIT Museum  
presents the New England premiere of

### *Re:Design*

*A Dramatization of the Correspondence of  
Charles Darwin and Asa Gray*

Thursday February 14

7:00 p.m.

Webcast from [web.mit.edu/museum](http://web.mit.edu/museum)

Free admission

Discussion and reception follows performance

Saturday, February 16

2:00 p.m.

Discussion follows performance

Free with Museum Admission

Cambridge, MA—*Re:Design*, a one-act play based on the correspondence between Charles Darwin and his American ‘theological sparring partner’ Harvard botanist Asa Gray, will be webcast from and performed at the MIT Museum in Cambridge, MA.

Written by Craig Baxter, produced by the Darwin Correspondence Project at Cambridge University in Great Britain, and developed by Paul Bourne and the Menagerie Theatre Company, the lively interpretation of previously unpublished letters results from a wide collaboration of science educators and dramatists. Each performance will be followed by an open discussion with the audience, actors, and MIT Museum Director, John Durant along with Darwin scholar, Janet Browne.

“We anticipate great interest in this production,” says Museum director John Durant. The play raises crucial questions about the implications of Darwin's theory of evolution for religious ideas of creation and design - all foreshadowing the ongoing controversy about teaching evolution in American schools.”

The performances at the MIT Museum are co-sponsored by the MIT Technology and Culture Forum.

### **Of Related Interest**

At the MIT Museum -- February 21, 4:00 p.m.

Brown University biology professor, textbook author and lead witness, Kenneth Miller will give a talk: *Darwin, Design and Religion: Lessons from the Dover Monkey Trial*. An informal talk for teachers and community members - questions, answers and discussion about preserving the right to teach evolution in public schools.

[More resources](#) about the NOVA program, *Judgment Day Intelligent Design on Trial*, Evolution, Charles Darwin and Intelligent Design

[Museum Program Calendar](#)

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### **Charles Darwin**

**Birthdate:** February 12, 1809

#### **Charles Darwin to Asa Gray**

“With respect to the theological view of the question: This is always painful to me. I am bewildered. I had no intention to write atheistically, but I own that I cannot see as plainly as others do, and as I should wish to do, evidence of design and beneficence on all sides of us. There seems to me too much misery in the world. I cannot persuade myself that a beneficent and omnipotent God would have designedly created the [Ichneumonidae](#) with the express intention of their feeding within the living bodies of caterpillars or that a cat should play with mice... On the other hand, I cannot anyhow be contented to view this wonderful universe, and especially the nature of man, and to conclude that everything is the result of brute force. I am inclined to look at everything as resulting from designed laws, with the details, whether good or bad, left to the working out of what we may call chance.”