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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PITTSBURGH PLAYHOUSE / CITY THEATRE COLLABORATION PRODUCES FIVE 10-MINUTE PLAYS THAT RESPOND TO THE CURRENT MOMENT**

**Pittsburgh, PA (July 21, 2020):** Point Park University’s Pittsburgh Playhouse and City Theatre Company have launched a new initiative titled *Homegrown Stories* designed to support artists and alumni. In June, the theaters commissioned five playwrights to write ten-minute plays for a digital medium in response to our current world. With a company of Point Park alumni and Pittsburgh-based artists, they will now present a **one-night only digital reading** of the resulting works followed by a talkback with the creative team.

**The performance will take place Thursday, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm as part of City of Asylum’s The Show Must Go On(online) Series.** Tickets are free, but registration is required. More information can be found at [alphabetscity.org/show](http://alphabetscity.org/show), [pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://pittsburghplayhouse.com) and [citytheatrecompany.org](http://citytheatrecompany.org).

“City Theatre and Point Park University’s Pittsburgh Playhouse have crossed the bridge in many ways and many times over the decades in the spirit of collaboration and are linked by history,” said **Monteze Freeland, Associate Producer at City Theatre and Point Park alumnus.** “This moment is curated specifically to boast the varied talents of alumni, staff, and current students far and wide who have made City and Point Park an artistic home. As an alum and current producer at City Theatre, I believe in the good of both institutions, and I believe now is the time to uplift artists who have taken the bold leap to create in the face of chaos and uncertainty.”

Featured playwrights include: **Ngozi Anyanwu, Matt Pelfrey, Tammy Ryan, Mark Clayton Southers, and Marcus Stevens.** Production Creative Team includes: **Britton Mauk** (Digital Design), **Howard Patterson** (Sound Design), **James Ogden III\*** (Production Management), **Clare Drobot** (Producer), and **Monteze Freeland** (Producer).

**ABOUT THE PLAYS:**

*I Wanna Say*

A Zoom Play By Ngozi Anyanwu  
 Directed by Raecine Singletary  
 Featuring Hope Anthony\* and Melessie Clark\*

*When Things Get Bad, At Least We Have Each Other*

A Zoom Play by Matt Pelfrey  
 Directed by Kyle Haden  
 Featuring: Hazel LeRoy, Caroline Nicolian\*, and Quinn Patrick Shannon\*

*Helicopters*

A 10-minute play for Zoom by Tammy Ryan  
 Directed by Rachel Stevens  
 Featuring: Daina Griffith\*, Daniel Krell\*, and Zoey Myers

*Under*

A One-Act play by Mark Clayton Southers  
 Directed by Kyle Haden  
 Featuring: Richard McBride and Caroline Nicolian\*

*In the Macro*

A 10-minute Zoom Play By Marcus Stevens

Directed by Rachel Stevens

Featuring: Hope Anthony\*, Melessie Clark\*, and Quinn Patrick Shannon\*

\*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association

### **ABOUT CITY THEATRE:**

*Founded in 1975, City Theatre is closing its 45<sup>th</sup> season as Pittsburgh's home for bold new plays. Located in the historic South Side on its four-building cultural campus, the company produces a season of regional and world premieres; its renowned Young Playwrights Festival, celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year; a season-long reading series of new works in progress; and the annual Momentum Festival. City Theatre's mission is to provide an artistic home for the development and production of contemporary plays of substance and ideas that engage and challenge a diverse audience. With an annual average operating budget of \$3 million, City is the largest performing arts organization not located in Pittsburgh's downtown Cultural District and is a constituent and core member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and the National New Play Network (NNPN). Marc Masterson returned as Artistic Director in July 2018, after an 18 year absence, to join Managing Director James McNeel as co-leaders of the organization.*

*Like all almost all arts organizations, City Theatre was forced to halt its 2019-2020 season in the middle of March due to the Covid-19 national crisis. It is currently in planning and preparations for its 46<sup>th</sup> season, scheduled to begin in the fall.*

### **ABOUT THE PITTSBURGH PLAYHOUSE:**

*The award-winning Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park University, reopened in the Fall of 2018 in a new 90,411 square-foot center for arts and entertainment that serves as an artistic laboratory for the prestigious Conservatory of Performing Arts (COPA) and Downtown Pittsburgh's newest home for arts and entertainment. The Playhouse is comprised of professional, artist educators dedicated to an approach to training that enables students to pursue careers as professionals. COPA includes Departments of Theatre, Dance, and Cinema.*

*The four-story, state of the art facility, located in Downtown Pittsburgh at 350 Forbes Avenue, features the 550-seat PNC Theatre whose backstage and inner workings are visible from the street, resulting in an intentional glimpse into performing arts classes and production; the 200-seat Highmark Theatre; and the 99-seat Rauh Theatre.*

*The new Pittsburgh Playhouse was designed to be both a learning laboratory for all Point Park students and cultural asset for the community. The Playhouse provides experiential learning opportunities and collaborates with the University's Rowland School of Business and Center for Media Innovation on events, lectures and related programming. [pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://pittsburghplayhouse.com)*

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