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CITY THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2020-21 SEASON

Frankenstein – by Manual Cinema
Paradise Blue – by Dominique Morisseau
The Sound Inside – by Adam Rapp
Vietgone – by Qui Nguyen
The Garbologists – by Lindsay Joelle – (World Premiere)
Title TBA – by James McManus – (World Premiere)

Pittsburgh, PA (March 1, 2020). City Theatre Company, Pittsburgh’s home for contemporary plays, has announced the details of the theatre’s 46th season of new works.

“Our job as a new works theater is to keep our audience engaged with the national theater landscape.” commented **Artistic Director Marc Masterson**. “We are proud to present a season that brings back City Theatre favorites, introduces new voices, and adds a Pittsburgh story into the American theater canon.”

In addition to a six-play subscription series, the 2020/21 season will also feature the return of THE BASH (City’s signature block party fundraiser on Saturday, September 12, 2020), the Young Playwrights Festival, the Momentum Festival, and the Momentum Reading Series, along with numerous special events and partnership activities through its innovating community engagement initiative, City Connects. City Theatre will also ring in the holidays with an all-new, original show from the creative team behind this year’s hit *Santa’s Ted Talk*. Details to be announced.

ABOUT THE PLAYS:

We launch with *Frankenstein by Manual Cinema* which has been called “a complex visual treat...impressive in scope and execution, entertaining, and absolutely fascinating to watch,” by Chicago on Stage.

The season continues with the return of two City Theatre favorites: **Dominique Morisseau** (*Sunset Baby, Pipeline*), with her play *Paradise Blue*, part of her Detroit trilogy, and **Adam Rapp’s** *The Sound Inside*, which just closed on Broadway starring Mary Louise Parker.

The fourth show takes us on a cross-country motorcycle tour with the partially-true love story *Vietgone by Qui Nguyen*, followed by the world premiere of **Lindsay Joelle’s** *The Garbologists*, which was featured in last year’s Momentum festival; and the world premiere of a new work created right here in Pittsburgh, written by area native James McManus.

“For the final show of our 2020/21 season, City Theatre has been given the amazing opportunity to create a community-engaged work about immigration in Pittsburgh,” commented **Associate Artistic Director Clare Drobot**. “Funded by the Allegheny Regional Asset District’s RADical Impact

Grant and in partnership with nationally acclaimed Cornerstone Theater, and a coalition of Pittsburgh based collaborators, City Theatre is teaming up with director Michael John Garcés and playwright James McManus to create a new work.”

CITY THEATRE'S 2020-21 SEASON:

Frankenstein by Manual Cinema

Sept. 19 – Oct. 11, 2020

Main Stage

A new take on a classic gothic tale, the internationally renowned multi-media company, Manual Cinema, stitches together Mary Shelley's biography with her beloved story of Frankenstein. This highly-acclaimed production deploys cinematic techniques and a live orchestra to capture an unexpected story about the beauty and horror of creation.

Manual Cinema is an Emmy Award-winning performance collective, design studio, and film/video production company founded in 2010 by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman, Julia Miller, and Kyle Vegter. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive stories for stage and screen. Using vintage overhead projectors, multiple screens, puppets, actors, live feed cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a live music ensemble, Manual Cinema transforms the experience of attending the cinema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity, and theatricality.

Paradise Blue by Dominique Morisseau

Nov. 7 – 29, 2020

Main Stage

Returning to City Theatre for a third time, Dominique Morisseau (Pipeline, Sunset Baby) takes us to the Blackbottom neighborhood of a gentrifying Detroit. It's 1949 and club-owner and trumpeter Blue must choose between escaping his demons and the human cost of leaving the only home he's ever known. An exquisite and haunting drama laced with jazz and intrigue, this new play from the MacArthur Genius Grant Award winner meditates on the strains of community change in the name of urban renewal.

Dominique Morisseau is the author of *The Detroit Project* (A 3-Play Cycle) which includes the following plays: *Skeleton Crew* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Paradise Blue* (Signature Theatre), and *Detroit '67* (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem and NBT). Additional plays include: *Pipeline* (Lincoln Center Theatre), *Sunset Baby* (LAByrinth Theatre); *Blood at the Root* (National Black Theatre) and *Follow Me To Nellie's* (Premiere Stages). She is also the book writer on the new musical *Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre). Dominique is an alumna of The Public Theater Emerging Writer's Group, Women's Project Lab, and Lark Playwrights Workshop and has developed work at Sundance Lab, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Eugene O'Neil Playwrights Conference. Her work has been commissioned by Steppenwolf Theater, Women's Project, South Coast Rep, People's Light and Theatre, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Penumbra Theatre. She most recently served as Co-Producer on the Showtime series "Shameless". Awards include: Spirit of Detroit Award, PoNY Fellowship, Sky-Cooper Prize, TEER Trailblazer Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Audelco Awards, NBFT August Wilson Playwriting Award, Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, OBIE Award, Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, and being named one of Variety's Women of Impact for 2017-18.

The Sound Inside by Adam Rapp
Directed by Marc Masterson
Jan. 16 – Feb. 7, 2021
Main Stage

Bella is a 53-year-old literature professor at Yale who receives life-altering news at the same time that she meets her brilliant, yet peculiar, student Christopher. In a few short weeks, their intense encounters quietly build to a stunning and unexpected climax. Adam Rapp makes his long-awaited return to City Theatre in this gripping and provocative new play that explores how little we know about the people around us, what we choose to share, and what we ask of each other.

Adam Rapp is the author of numerous plays, which include *The Sound Inside* (produced on Broadway starring Mary-Louise Parker, Williamstown Theater Festival), *Nocturne* (A.R.T., New York theatre Workshop), *Finer Noble Gases* (Rattlestick, Edinburgh Fringe, Fringe First Award), *Kindness* (Playwrights Horizon), *The Metal Children* (The Vineyard), *The Hallway Trilogy* (Rattlestick), *Blackbird* (The Bush, Edge Theatre), *Stone Cold Dead Serious* (A.R.T., Edge Theatre), and *Red Light Winter* (Steppenwolf, Barrow Street Theatre), for which he won Chicago's Jeff Award, an OBIE, and was named a finalist for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize. His playwriting honors include The Helen Merrill Prize, The Benjamin H. Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Award.

Vietgone by Qui Nguyen
Directed by Oanh Nguyen
Mar. 6 – 28, 2021
Main Stage

Highly theatrical, irreverent, and sexy, Vietgone is an all-American love story about two very new Americans. The year is 1975 and Saigon has fallen. Qui Nguyen's comedy turns convention upside down in his fast-paced, hip-hop infused trip across America that makes us re-think everything we thought we knew—and know—about our history.

Qui Nguyen is a playwright, tv/film writer, and Co-Founder of the OBIE Award-winning Vampire Cowboys, who are often credited as the pioneers of "geek theatre." His plays include *Vietgone* (Premiere by South Coast Rep and Manhattan Theatre Club, 2016 Steinberg New Play Award winner), *She Kills Monsters* (The Flea), and the critically acclaimed Vampire Cowboys productions of *The Inexplicable Redemption of Agent G*, *Soul Samuari*, *Alice in Slasherland*, *Fight Girl Battle World*, *Men of Steel*, and the upcoming *Revenge Song* (Geffen Playhouse). For TV/Film, Qui's written for Marvel Studios, AMC, SYFY, and PBS. He's currently a writer on Netflix's THE SOCIETY and a screenwriter for Walt Disney Animation Studios. He's a proud member of the WGA, The Dramatists Guild, the Ma-Yi Writers Lab and an alumnus of New Dramatists and EST's Youngblood.

***The Garbologists* by Lindsay Joelle**
Apr. 10 – May 16, 2021
Lester Hamburg Studio
World Premiere

This unconventional buddy comedy follows two sanitation workers as they navigate the dirty streets of New York City. First-timer Marlowe and lifer Danny could not be more different. But thrown together in the cab of a nineteen-ton garbage truck and tasked with picking up what the world has discarded, they learn that some things are easier to toss than others.

Lindsay Joelle is a New York-based playwright and librettist. Plays include *The Messengers*, *Trayf* (Theater J, Penguin Rep, New Rep), *The Garbologists* (EST/Sloan Commission), *The Princess of Riverside Drive* (libretto, Vital Theater), and *A Small History of Amal, Age 7* (Forward Flux & Pratidhwani). She has received an Audible Emerging Playwright Commission, Ensemble Studio Theatre/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science & Technology Commission, National New Play Network grant, Irving Zarkower Award, Rita Goldberg MFA Playwriting Prize, two Kilroys List honorable mentions, and has presented work with PlayPenn New Play Conference, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Nashville Repertory Theatre, Curious Theatre, City Theatre, TADA! Youth Theater, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Playwrights Foundation, New Georges, and The Lark. Two-time finalist for the Eugene O'Neill NPC and The Bay Area Playwrights Festival, finalist for American Blues Theatre's Blue Ink Award, The Leah Ryan Prize, JAW Festival, Jewish Plays Project, SPACE on Ryder Farm, BRIClab Residency, UMass New Play Lab, Soho Rep Lab, among others. NNPN 2018/19 Writer-in-Residence at Curious Theatre. Alumna of Nashville Rep's Ingram New Works Lab, the New Georges Jam, the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, Columbia University (BA), and CUNY/Hunter (MFA). Lindsayjoelle.com

A Pittsburgh Immigration Story
By James McManus
Directed by Michael John Garcés
May 15 – June 6, 2021
Main Stage
World Premiere

This homegrown new play features stories of immigration in Pittsburgh. Inspired by story circles and real-life experiences spanning the past, present, and future of the city, this community-built work reflects the countless origin stories Pittsburgh has to offer. Playwright James McManus, a native of Western Pennsylvania, weaves together a new work of fiction exploring the many ways that people have made this city of bridges a home.

Created in conjunction with Cornerstone Theater Company and community partners All for All, ARYSE, Global Minds, Literacy Pittsburgh, and the World Affairs Council and made possible through support from the Allegheny Regional Asset District's RADical Impact program.

James McManus is the author of ten plays: *Radioman*, *Love on San Pedro*, *Dry Bones*, *The Friendly Tavern*, *Full Ride*, *Dorothy 6*, *Morning in America*, *Underground*, *Cherry Smoke*, and *Blood Potato*. His plays have been developed and performed at La Jolla Playhouse, Cornerstone Theater Company, Labyrinth Theater Company, The Road Theatre, Dell'Arte International, Working Theater, Apothecary Theatre Company, The Clockwork Theatre, Glass Umbrella Creative (Sydney), Revolt

Theatre (Melbourne), New Dramatists, The Kennedy Center, Round House Theatre, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Barebones Productions, Irish Repertory Theatre, Son of Semele, The Side Project Theatre Company, The Lark Play Development Center and the August Wilson Center for African American Culture. James was the recipient of the Princess Grace Award in Playwriting for *Cherry Smoke*, which is published by Samuel French. He has also received the Helen Merrill Playwriting Award and is a proud alumnist of New Dramatists.

TICKET INFORMATION

Three ways to subscribe:

On-site: City Theatre Box Office, 1300 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh PA 15203

By phone: 412-431-CITY (2489)

Online: Visit www.citytheatrecompany.org

Subscriptions start at \$150 and are currently available at the box office.

Special subscription series include: Opening Night (\$297), Greenroom: Art & Afterparty (\$150), Preview Week and more.

Single Tickets go on sale August 3, 2020.

ABOUT CITY THEATRE:

Founded in 1975, City Theatre is in its 45th 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, including the upcoming *PerkUp PerKup* by Isaac Gomez and *F*ck7thGrade* by Jill Sobule and Liza Birkenmeier; its renowned Young Playwrights Festival, celebrating its 20th 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.

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