



CONTACT:

Andy Weier
Director of Marketing & Communications
City Theatre
412-431-4400 x230
aweier@citytheatrecompany.org
CityTheatreCompany.org

For Immediate Release:

**CITY THEATRE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, TRACY BRIGDEN, NAMED A
FINALISTS FOR THE 2014 ZELDA FICHANDLER AWARD**

Pittsburgh, PA (October 3, 2014) – City Theatre is proud to announce Artistic Director, Tracy Brigden, as a finalist for the 2014 Zelda Fichandler Award. The award is presented by the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation, and acknowledges an outstanding director or choreographer who is transforming the regional arts landscape through imaginative, brave work in theatre.

Now in her fourteenth season as Artistic Director, Brigden was selected as one of five finalists from sixty-three original nominees in part for her work in maintaining City Theatre's mission – providing an artistic home for the development and production of contemporary plays of substance and ideas that engage and challenge a diverse audience.

"I am thrilled to be included in this prestigious group for this important award," said Brigden. "Zelda Fichandler is a major source of inspiration for all of us working in the regional theatre, especially female Artistic Directors. Of course, I am enormously grateful to have spent the last thirteen years making theatre in a community like Pittsburgh where new work is not only supported, but embraced."

The winner of this year's Zelda Fichandler Award was Joseph Haj, Producing Artistic Director of PlayMakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

According to Sharon Ott, Chair of the Selection Committee; "The Eastern region is rich with theatre and we were pleased to be able to acknowledge five significant directors as finalists." The 2014 finalists were: Tracy Brigden, Artistic Director of City Theatre, Steven Cosson, Artistic Director of The Civilians, Kwame Kwei-Armah, Artistic Director of Center Stage, Preston Lane, Artistic Director of Triad Stage, and Bonnie J. Monte, Artistic Director of The Shakespeare Theatre. "The committee considered each to be a strong candidate for this award for different reasons: (including) Ms. Brigden for her transformation of the Pittsburgh theatre scene..." said Ott.

In establishing this award named after Zelda Fichandler, a founder of the American regional theatre movement, SDCF recognizes the profound impact of the founders of regional theatre and honors their legacy. This award is given annually within rotating regions of the U.S. The Fichandler Award serves as a complement to the "Mr.

Abbott" Award presented in recognition of lifetime achievement in theatre and the Joe A. Callaway Award for excellence in direction and choreography in New York City. The Zelda Fichandler Award will be presented alongside the Joe A. Callaway Awards this year on November 3 in New York City.

City Theatre is now in its 40th anniversary season. Located on Pittsburgh's historic South Side, City Theatre specializes in new plays, commissioning and producing work by playwrights including Daniel Beaty, Jessica Dickey, Christopher Durang, Michael Hollinger, Willy Holtzman, Tarell McCraney, and Theresa Rebeck. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tracy Brigden, Managing Director Mark R. Power, and a 45-member Board of Directors, 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.

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