



CONTACT:

Emily Price

Director of Marketing and Communications

City Theatre

412-431-4400 x230

eprice@citytheatrecompany.org

CityTheatreCompany.org

For Immediate Release:

**CITY THEATRE ANNOUNCES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON OF SIX BOLD NEW PLAYS
FILLED WITH INSPIRED STORYTELLING, MUSIC, AND WIT**

Including a Broadway comedy, two world premieres, and more

Playwrights Willy Holtzman, Daniel Beaty, and David Greig return to City

OUTSIDE MULLINGAR by John Patrick Shanley

SMART BLONDE by Willy Holtzman

MR. JOY by Daniel Beaty

ELEMENO PEA by Molly Smith Metzler

OBLIVION by Carly Mensch

MIDSUMMER (A PLAY WITH SONGS) by David Greig and Gordon McIntyre

Plus, two special presentations:

THE PAJAMA MEN

LATE NITE CATECHISM LAS VEGAS: SISTER ROLLS THE DICE

PITTSBURGH, PA (April 25, 2014)—**City Theatre** announces the six-play lineup for its 40th anniversary season, including a wistful Broadway comedy; a music-filled portrait of actress Judy Holliday; a poignant exploration of a Harlem community; a wild “have and have-nots” comedy set in Martha’s Vineyard; an irreverent comic-drama about family, art, and inspiration; and an adventure- and song-filled romp through Edinburgh.

“City Theatre’s 2014-2015 season is branded ‘UP CLOSE’ because each play magnifies the power of the human spirit—often in very comical ways,” says Tracy Brigden, City Theatre’s Artistic Director. “We open the season with ***Outside Mullingar*** by John Patrick Shanley. In the same vein as Shanley’s award-winning film *Moonstruck*, this Irish comedy is a funny, unconventional love story with a magical twist. Next up is ***Smart Blonde***, a City Theatre-commissioned world premiere about Judy Holliday. This brand new work by Willy Holtzman is a warm and often surprising portrayal of a Hollywood actress whose public persona as a ‘dumb blonde’ starkly contrasted her true intelligence and upbringing. From there, we launch into ***Mr. Joy***, a moving world premiere about how a Harlem community comes together in crisis. The script features playwright Daniel Beaty’s unique blend of comedy, poetry, music, and multi-character storytelling. Next, we’ll produce ***Elemeno Pea*** by Molly Smith Metzler. Set on a posh estate in Martha’s Vineyard, this hilarious play is a heightened portrayal of class distinctions. Then, ***Oblivion***; in this sharp play by Carly Mensch, a budding filmmaker helps a Brooklyn couple and their obstinate teenage daughter view their differences through a new lens. We close the season with ***Midsummer (a play with songs)*** by David Greig, the Scottish playwright who gave us 2012’s very special *The Monster in the Hall*. This gritty comedy, interspersed with song, is the rare rom-com that appeals to both sexes with its bawdy humor, crazy plot twists, and unsentimental love story.”

CITY THEATRE 2014-2015 SEASON

OUTSIDE MULLINGAR

by John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Tracy Brigden

October 11 – November 2, 2014 (Mainstage)

A Broadway comedy from the Pulitzer, Oscar®, and Tony®-winning author of *Doubt* and *Moonstruck*

Tony Reilly is getting old. With his wife dead and gone and his own time approaching, he threatens to leave the family's cattle farm to an American nephew instead of his own son and namesake, Anthony. That is, until neighbor Rosemary steps in with a long-held family secret to change Anthony's fate—and her own. Set in the Irish countryside, this is the wistful story of Anthony and Rosemary—loners going on 40, eccentric souls, and, perhaps, just right for each other.

SMART BLONDE

by Willy Holtzman

Directed by Peter Flynn

World premiere commissioned by City Theatre

November 15 – December 21, 2014 (Hamburg Studio)

A music-filled portrait from the author of *The Morini Strad*

New York City, 1964. The tape is rolling when *Born Yesterday* star Judy Holliday lays down a series of tracks about her rise to fame amidst the politics of the 1950s. Memory and song converge as the “dumb blonde” with a genius IQ charts her experiences from Greenwich Village to Broadway and beyond with notable show business alums, including Leonard Bernstein and Marilyn Monroe.

MR. JOY

by Daniel Beaty

World premiere

January 24 – February 15, 2015 (Mainstage)

A poignant solo show from the creator of *Through the Night* and *Breath & Imagination*

What happened to Mr. Joy? A Harlem community is disrupted when the Chinese immigrant's shoe repair shop, a neighborhood pillar for decades, does not open its doors. Nine customers, ranging from 11-year-old Clarissa, a budding shoe designer, to Bessie, a “gangsta granny,” reflect on the shop owner's impact in this moving exploration of one community's efforts to heal in order to dream again.

ELEMENO PEA

by Molly Smith Metzler

Directed by Tracy Brigden

February 28 – March 22, 2015 (Mainstage)

A “have and have-nots” comedy

Blue-collar Buffalo meets beachfront splendor when Devon visits the sprawling Martha's Vineyard estate where her sister Simone is employed as a personal assistant. Simone's new gig is complete with a six-figure salary, a preppy boyfriend with a yacht, and a handsome clothing allowance—all courtesy of trophy wife Michaela, her boss. But when Michaela crashes sisters' weekend, Devon learns the price for the pampered life.

OBLIVION

by Carly Mensch

Directed by Stuart Carden

March 21 – April 26, 2015 (Hamburg Studio)

An irreverent comedy from one of the writers of “Weeds”

Uber-hip Brooklynites Pam and Dixon take pride in their progressive approach to parenting. But when their 16-year-old daughter Julie lies about where she spent the weekend, their cool façade crumbles. With the help of Julie’s friend Bernard, a filmmaker in the making, this smart comedy takes a humorous look at Nietzsche, famed film critic Pauline Kael, and what it means to fight for the ones you love.

MIDSUMMER (a play with songs)

by David Greig and Gordon McIntyre

Directed by Tracy Brigden

May 9 – June 14, 2015 (Hamburg Studio)

A vivid play with songs by the author of *The Monster in the Hall*

Midsummer in Edinburgh turns into a weekend of wild abandon when divorce lawyer Helena meets small-time crook Bob in a wine bar. With a wad of ill-gotten cash in hand and a local gangster on their heels, the unlikely pair goes on an alcohol- and adventure-filled romp, discovering that there *are* second chances at life—and love.

CITY EVENTS

City Theatre’s annual series of limited engagement special presentations

THE PAJAMA MEN

Created and performed by Shenoah Allen and Mark Chavez

August 27 – September 7, 2014 (Mainstage)

Critically-acclaimed comedy duo The Pajama Men bring their trademark style of blink-of-an-eye character switches and sidesplitting humor to Pittsburgh! Originally from Albuquerque, the sketch comedians and masters of improv have become stars of the international comedy circuit, earning five stars from the *London Times* and comparisons to comic luminaries including Abbott and Costello, Monty Python, and “South Park.”

LATE NITE CATECHISM LAS VEGAS: SISTER ROLLS THE DICE

by Maripat Donovan

Directed and performed by Kimberly Richards

September 3–14, 2014 (Hamburg Studio)

The convent needs a new roof, so the order has decided that Sister (with her extensive gambling experience running the church bingo for the last 25 years) will organize a Las Vegas night. The irrepressible Kimberly Richards returns as Sister to tackle topics ranging from show girls and live animal acts to the dangers of drive-through marriage chapels. Don’t forget—what happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas, but God sees everything!

-- more --

TICKETS

Season tickets and flex subscriptions for main season productions are now available by calling 412.431.2489. Online subscription sales begin May 15.

Season tickets:

\$162 (Tuesday 7pm; Wednesday 1pm and 7pm; Thursday 8pm)

\$252 (Friday 8pm; Saturday 5:30pm)

\$189 (Saturday 9pm; Sunday 2pm and 7pm)

Flex packages:

\$216 (six Basic Flex vouchers, good for Tuesday through Thursday performances)

\$276 (six Premium Flex vouchers, good for any performance)

Single tickets for season plays range from \$36 to \$56 and go on sale September 2.

City Events (The Pajama Men and Late Nite Catechism Las Vegas) pre-sale for subscribers is available now by phone, with \$25 discounted tickets. Regular sale begins June 2, with \$35-\$40 tickets (Late Nite, \$40 only).

City Theatre's 40th anniversary season begins this fall. 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.

CityTheatreCompany.org

###