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For Immediate Release:

**CITY THEATRE ANNOUNCES THE LINEUP FOR MOMENTUM 2013
A FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS AT DIFFERENT STAGES
MAY 30 - JUNE 2, 2013**

Hope and Gravity

by Michael Hollinger

Holliday with Mulligan

a play with music by Willy Holtzman

Variations on a Theme

by Anna Ziegler

Don't You F*#king Say a Word

by Andy Bragen

PITTSBURGH, PA (May 20, 2013)—**City Theatre** announces four original plays set for MOMENTUM, the theatre's annual festival of new plays at different stages. This year's selection of works highlights the intricacies of human relationships—chance encounters with strangers; a look back at a life lived in the spotlight; serendipity in a lonely city; and competition on and off the playing field.

MOMENTUM is a celebration of new theatrical works featuring readings, workshops, panels, and conversation. The festival is a chance for audiences to not only see four new works in their earliest incarnations, but also to get to know the process of creating new plays and to glimpse inside the minds of the playwrights.

"MOMENTUM is vital to our mission as a home for playwrights and new play development," says Tracy Brigden, City Theatre's Artistic Director. "The festival provides an opportunity for writers to hear their work performed in front of an audience and a creative community, and that has impact. Two years ago, we featured a workshop of Tami Dixon's *South Side Stories*. Subsequently, Tami's first foray into playwriting enjoyed an extended run during City Theatre's main season. In addition, due to popular demand, we're bringing *South Side Stories* back to our stage next January as a special presentation. This progression exemplifies the goal of MOMENTUM—to launch new plays into their next phase of development. This year, we're excited to welcome playwright Willy Holtzman back to City after his success here with *The Morini Strad*. His music-filled play, ***Holliday with Mulligan***, is a City

Theatre commission. In addition, *Opus* playwright Michael Hollinger returns to City with his brand new play, ***Hope and Gravity***. Audiences will have the opportunity to watch this absorbing play progress from a reading at MOMENTUM to a fully-produced show on our Mainstage during the 2013-2014 season. We'll also feature Andy Bragen's play ***Don't You F*#king Say a Word***. Focused on a competitive relationship between two men, but told through the perspective of two women, this script uniquely portrays two sides of the same story. Likewise, Anna Ziegler's ***Variations on a Theme*** addresses the theme of relationships through a variety of lenses. We're thrilled to feature these gifted writers throughout the festival weekend."

PLAYS

Hope and Gravity

by Michael Hollinger

Directed by Tracy Brigden

Featuring Theo Allyn, John Felth, Nick Lehane, Robin Walsh, and David Whalen

Lives overlap and elevators stop on random floors as ten characters are compellingly revealed in this nonlinear comedy about fate. From a backyard squabble to an unlikely hotel hookup, chance encounters and rocky relationships unfold through nine stories and one momentous leap of faith.

Holliday with Mulligan

by Willy Holtzman

Directed by Peter Flynn

Musical direction by Bob Stillman

Featuring Jeffrey Carpenter, Tami Dixon, and Bob Stillman

New York City, 1964. The tape is rolling during an impromptu studio session when Judy Holliday lays down a series of impressionistic tracks about her rise to fame amidst the politics of the 1950s. Memory and song converge as Judy charts her experiences with notable show business alums, including Leonard Bernstein, Marilyn Monroe, and partner and composer Gerry Mulligan.

Variations on a Theme

by Anna Ziegler

Directed by Kim Martin

Featuring Robin Abramson, Ken Bolden, Laurie Klatscher, and Nick Lehane

Married at twenty-three and divorced shortly after, April and Josh navigate their twenties in an isolated city. When an apartment ceiling caves in to the floor below and a subway stops in darkness, the couple reads between the lines, finding signs in life's serendipitous events.

Don't You F*#king Say a Word

by Andy Bragen

Directed by Matt M. Morrow

Featuring Tami Dixon, Tressa Glover, Cameron Knight, and Skyler Sullivan

Two women explore the complexities of their boyfriends' competitive spirits in this new comic drama about relationships—on and off a downtown Manhattan tennis court. Russ has a temper. Brian has been known to cheat. As the opponents' weekly tennis sets play out aggressively on stage, girlfriends Kate and Leslie render their amity and rivalry with sharp observation and wit.

PANELS

Playwrights Panel

Meet the playwrights! All four artists join together for an insightful panel about their writing process and their featured plays.

Something from Nothing: A Workshop in Theatrical Creation

For theatre lovers, theatre makers, novices, and experts alike... learn the process of creating an ensemble-based work. This master class emphasizes generating original material, physicalizing characters and theatrical ideas, and the role music and rhythm play in theatrical creation. Instructor: Charlotte Ford, Pig Iron Theatre Company, Philadelphia.

Writing from Place: An Exploration of Memory, Landscape and Language

This short workshop will discuss and explore the nexus of location and memory. You will overhear conversations that you were never present for and explore techniques for shifting theatrical space via language, enabling an audience to “see with its ears.” Instructor: playwright Andy Bragen

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All readings, classes, and panels take place at City Theatre, 1300 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Thursday, May 30

8:00 pm Reading: *Hope and Gravity*

Friday, May 31

6:30 pm Playwrights Panel
8:00 pm Reading: *Holliday with Mulligan*

Saturday, June 1

2:00-5:00 pm Pig Iron Master Class: “Something from Nothing: A Workshop in Theatrical Creation”
5:30 pm Reading: *Variations on a Theme*
8:00 pm Reading: *Don't You F*#king Say a Word*
9:45 pm Momentum Party

Sunday, June 2

12:00 pm Workshop: “Writing from Place: An Exploration of Memory, Landscape and Language”
2:00 pm Reading: *Holliday with Mulligan*

TICKETS

\$20 four-day pass; \$5 per show

Available by phone at 412.431.CITY (2489) or online at www.citytheatrecompany.org

City Theatre's 39th season begins this fall. Located on Pittsburgh's historic South Side, City Theatre specializes in new plays, commissioning and producing work by playwrights including Adam Rapp, Jeffrey Hatcher, Theresa Rebeck, and Christopher Durang. 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

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