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For Immediate Release

**CITY THEATRE PRESENTS – SMART BLONDE
BY WILLY HOLTZMAN**

November 15 – December 21, 2014

Pittsburgh, PA (October 13, 2014) – **City Theatre** continues its 40th anniversary season with a world premiere, commissioned play. *SMART BLONDE*, by Willy Holtzman, directed by Peter Flynn, will run in City Theatre’s Hamburg Studio **November 15 – December 21, 2014**.

From the author of *The Morini Strad*, this music-filled portrait tells the story of Judy Holliday, star of *Born Yesterday*. Set in New York City, 1964 – the tape is rolling as Holliday lays down a series of tracks about her rise to fame amidst the politics of the 1950’s. 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.

“Judy Holliday was an incredible woman who led an extraordinary life; far beyond her label as the classic dumb blonde from movies like *Born Yesterday*.” says City Theatre Artistic Director, Tracy Brigden. “When playwright Willy Holtzman first told me the story of Judy’s life, I was amazed at all she had accomplished at a time when women in show business rarely called the shots. I also love the vivid setting: mid-century Manhattan, replete with smoky jazz clubs, Broadway openings and the McCarthy trials. And of course there’s also the music: standards from the era sung by the incomparable Andréa Burns who is playing Judy.”

After producing the premiere of his work *The Morini Strad* in 2011, City Theatre welcomes back playwright Willy Holtzman for this world premiere staging of *SMART BLONDE*. An American playwright and screenwriter – Holtzman has received two Pulitzer Prize nominations, a Humanitas Prize, a Writers Guild Award, a Peabody Award, as well as an HBO Award at the O’Neill National Playwrights Conference for his work, which often focuses on theatrical representations of actual historical events.

Peter Flynn also returns to City Theatre to direct *SMART BLONDE*, after directing *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall, last season.

SMART BLONDE features, **Andréa Burns**, **Adam Heller**, and **Jonathan Brody** – each making their City Theatre debut. The creative team includes **Tony Ferrieri** (Scenic), **Ryan Rumery** (Sound), **Ann Wrightson** (Lighting), and **C.T. Steele** (Costume).

This production is recommended for high school and older audiences.

PRESS / OPENING NIGHT: Friday, November 21 at 8pm

Performance Schedule

Tuesdays at 7pm

Wednesdays at 1pm and 7pm

Thursdays and Fridays at 8pm

Saturdays at 5:30 and 9pm

Sundays at 2pm

There will be no performances on Wednesday, November 26, or Thursday, November 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Sipping Sunday – November 16

Sunday Talkbacks - November 23, December 7 & 14

Greenroom Young Professional's Night – December 5

Where: City Theatre, 1300 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 (South Side)

Tickets: \$36 to \$56

Box Office: 412.431.CITY (2489) or citytheatrecompany.org

Audiences under 30 may reserve \$15 tickets in advance for all performances except Fridays 8pm and Saturdays 5:30pm. On Fridays and Saturdays, rush tickets are available two hours prior to show time and based on availability.

Seniors age 62 and older may purchase \$22 rush tickets at the Box Office beginning two hours before show time. Based on availability.

Groups of 10 or more are eligible for discounts. Call Kari Shaffer at 412.431.4400 x286.

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. CityTheatreCompany.org

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