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For Immediate Release:

**CITY THEATRE PRESENTS *VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE*
BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG**

2013 Tony Award® winner for Best Play

"Deliriously funny!" — *The New York Times*

"A witty play with a huge pop culture appetite...

Durang's genius is the ability to write highbrow and low at the same time." — *The Huffington Post*

Directed by Tracy Brigden

October 12 – November 3, 2013

PITTSBURGH, PA (September 11, 2013)—City Theatre opens its 2013-2014 season with the zany Broadway comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, winner of the 2013 Tony Award® for Best Play. Written by **Christopher Durang** and directed by **Tracy Brigden**, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* runs on City Theatre's Mainstage from **October 12 to November 3, 2013**, with an **Opening Night performance on Friday, October 18 at 8pm.**

Vanya and his sister Sonia tolerate the mediocrity of their middle-aged lives in Bucks County, PA, until their movie-star sister Masha returns for a visit that shakes things up. With her boy-toy Spike in tow, Masha incites a madcap family reunion complete with all the comic genius that only Christopher Durang can deliver.

"We're excited to open City Theatre's 39th season with *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, a hilarious mash-up of themes and characters from Chekhov's plays, set in the present in eastern PA," says Tracy Brigden, City Theatre's Artistic Director. "This savvy comedy about a family reunion gone awry will hit a funny bone with everyone as they recognize their own family dynamics (as well as themselves!) in the story. It also marks the return of one of my all-time favorite comic writers to City Theatre. Our audiences will remember Christopher Durang's work from 2002 when we produced the City-commissioned world premiere of *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*. Being one of the first regional theatres to pick up *Vanya*—we booked the show before it won the 2013 Tony Award® for Best Play—is both a thrill and an accomplishment."

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Christopher Durang is a widely produced contemporary American playwright. He has received multiple Obies and a Tony Award® for his work, among many other accolades. Durang is the recipient of the 2012 PEN Master American Dramatist Award and a 2013 inductee to the Theater Hall of Fame. Among his best known plays are *Sister Mary Ignatius*, *Beyond Therapy*, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, *Laughing Wild*, *Betty's Summer Vacation*, the Pulitzer Prize-finalist *Miss Witherspoon*, *Why Torture Is Wrong*, and *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, which was commissioned by City Theatre and had its world premiere in 2002. Characterized by a combination of absurdist humor and raging satire, his style has influenced an entire generation of writers. But even the anger of an *enfant terrible* must recede and he has now given us what is arguably his most enjoyable and commercially viable comedy to date. With sold-out extended runs at the McCarter and Lincoln Center Theater, the critically praised *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* was the perfect vehicle for Durang's return to Broadway.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike features **Harry Bouvy** (*The Clockmaker* at City Theatre, 2010), **Karl Glusman**, **Sheila McKenna** (*The Monster in the Hall*, 2012), **Hayley Nielsen** (*Little Gem*, 2013), **Helena Ruoti** (*Master Class*, 2000), and **Amirah Vann**. The creative team includes **Tony Ferrieri** (Scenic), **Susan Tsu** (Costume), **Andrew David Ostrowski** (Lighting), **Joe Pino** (Sound), **Elsen Associates Inc.** (Wigs), and **Calleri Casting** (Casting).

CITY THEATRE PRESENTS

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

By **Christopher Durang**

Directed by **Tracy Brigden**

When: October 12 – November 3, 2013

Preview Schedule

Saturday, October 12 at 5:30pm

Sunday, October 13 at 7pm

Tuesday, October 15 at 7pm

Wednesday, October 16 at 7pm

Thursday, October 17 at 8pm

PRESS / OPENING NIGHT

Friday, October 18 at 8pm

Regular Run Schedule

Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7pm

Thursdays and Fridays at 8pm

Saturdays at 5:30 and 9pm

Sundays at 2pm

Weekday matinees will be performed on Wednesday, October 23 and Wednesday, October 30 at 1pm.
There will be no evening performance on Wednesday, October 30.

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

Tickets: \$35 to \$55

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 39th season. 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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