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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing the City Theatre 2017-18 Season:

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center of New York City by Halley Feiffer

The Old Man and The Old Moon: A New Musical Folktale by PigPen Theatre Co.

The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey by James Lescene

Citizens Market by Cori Thomas

The White Chip by Sean Daniels

Nomad Motel by Carla Ching

Vibrant storytelling, vital characters, and two world premieres complete City Theatre’s 2017-18 Season, which includes locally-raised PigPen Theatre Co.

Pittsburgh, PA (April 25, 2017) – **Artistic Director Tracy Brigden** has announced the 2017-18 City Theatre season. Fulfilling the arts organization’s mission to introduce new plays to Pittsburgh, these selections embrace vibrant storytelling and wholly original characters created by visionary contemporary playwrights. Of the six plays, all are Pittsburgh premieres; three are by women; two are world premieres; and one has homegrown roots: PigPen Theatre Co. will present its original fable, *The Old Man and The Old Moon: A New Musical Folktale*.

The upcoming season marks the South Side company’s 43rd and includes something for everyone, with raucous comedies, suspenseful dramas, and inspiring American tales. Performances begin on September 23, 2017 with Halley Feiffer’s *A Funny Thing Happened...* and conclude on June 4, 2018 with *Nomad Motel*, a world premiere by Carla Ching. Other plays include *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey* by James Lescene, *Citizens Market* by Cori Thomas, and *The White Chip* by Sean Daniels, director of the 2016 smash-hit *The Lion*. Full season listing with dates is included below. Season subscriptions are on sale now, and options for flexible ticket packages are available. Single tickets will go on sale August 14, 2017.

“The 2017-18 season embraces all that City Theatre stands for: diverse, entertaining, and powerful stories, told by masterful artists in a highly theatrical way. Each play takes you on an adventurous journey with a unique point of view, style, and tone,” said **Artistic Director Tracy Brigden**. “All that said, I love each play equally!”

"I am thrilled we are able to produce two world premieres by exceptional female playwrights. Carla Ching is a writer I have long admired, and her play **Nomad Motel** is a riveting story that turns the notion of 'disaffected youth' on its head. It paints a portrait of some very disaffected parents who have, for all intents and purposes, abandoned their teenage children to raise themselves," Ms. Brigden continued. "**Citizens Market** brings Cori Thomas back to City Theatre with her hallmark warmth and humor, and quirky and extremely loveable characters. This time we are in a NYC grocery store, an apt metaphor for the American melting pot—a very timely play, to say the least. I am also excited to welcome Halley Feiffer to City for the first time with her play, **A Funny Thing Happened...** Halley could not be more hot right now in the theatre scene, and when you witness her unique voice and sharp sense of the comedy, you'll understand why. It's a meet-cute for millennials and a mother-daughter story for all time."

"Sean Daniels and I have been friends since we presented *The Lion*, which he directed. It turns out, he's a Renaissance man, as now he has written a terrific new play called **The White Chip**. It's a very special story told with heart and humor about battling alcoholism. I feel sure many people will be especially moved and maybe even changed by this brave play. **The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey** left me smiling and laughing and crying all at the same time when I read it. This one-person, multi-character play starts as a detective story but turns into a love fest for a very special boy who marches to his own drummer. A truly theatrical, tour-de-force evening. Finally, I could not be more excited to have arranged to bring the incredible PigPen Theatre Co. back to their college stomping grounds to perform their masterpiece **The Old Man and The Old Moon**. It's my favorite kind of play, combining storytelling, music, puppets, acting, movement—basically the kitchen sink—into a gorgeous and mesmerizing night at the theatre! And it's for any age theatre-goer, which makes it all the more fun."

As the season has come together, some themes have emerged and, as always, they speak right to the current zeitgeist. "Love, family, and home can be found in the least likely places," said Ms. Brigden. "Dreams can come true, so don't stop believing. We hope the community is excited to join us for a season of fresh new voices and extraordinary new plays."

THE 2017-18 CITY THEATRE SEASON:

AN OFF-BROADWAY HIT COMEDY

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center of New York City by Halley Feiffer

September 23 – October 15, 2017

Sparks fly when struggling stand-up Karla meets super-nerd Don after their mothers are assigned to the same room in the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. A wickedly funny tale of finding love—and lust—in the strangest of places, *A Funny Thing Happened...* is a meet-cute for the modern era written by red-hot playwright Halley Feiffer. Don't miss the show *The New York Times* calls "irresistible."

A NEW MUSICAL FOLKTALE

The Old Man and The Old Moon by PigPen Theatre Co.

November 11 – December 3, 2017

Who keeps the moon shining bright? A mysterious disappearance sends the Old Man charged with that task on an epic adventure in this swirling tale of memory and love, set to a wildly imaginative indie-folk soundtrack performed live. Hailed by critics as a one-of-a-kind theatrical experience, *The Old Man and The Old Moon* will enchant audiences of all ages with spellbinding storytelling, ingenious puppetry, and the transformational cast of seven Carnegie Mellon alumni who are PigPen Theatre Co.

A RADIANT SMALLTOWN WHODUNIT

The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey by James Lecesne

January 20 – February 18, 2018

Leonard Pelkey is a fourteen-year-old intent on living life out loud while marooned in a sleepy Jersey shore town. When Leonard suddenly vanishes, a hardboiled detective takes the case, unraveling the mystery with the help of a colorful band of locals. Written by Academy Award-winner James Lecesne, this hilarious and heartwarming one-man show celebrates the power of one person to uplift an entire community.

A WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY ABOUT FINDING HOME

Citizens Market by Cori Thomas

March 3 – 25, 2018

A good New York City supermarket has everything its neighborhood needs, including a charming cast of characters behind the counter. *Citizens Market*, the latest from City Theatre favorite Cori Thomas (*When January Feels Like Summer*), follows a hopeful group of immigrants as they form an unlikely family, working together to master the ups and downs of language, love, and staying afloat in the city that never sleeps. Full of laughter and life, this world premiere celebrates an ever-shifting and eclectic America.

A BRAVE & COMIC LOOK AT THE SCIENCE OF SOBRIETY

The White Chip by Sean Daniels

April 7 – May 6, 2018

Sean is on top of the world: he's married, has good friends, and is steps away from his dream job running one of the hottest theaters in the country. He also happens to be an alcoholic spinning out of control. *The White Chip* follows his life from first sip to first love, critical hit to critical care, all the way to rock bottom where he carves an unusual path to sobriety. This highly entertaining autobiographical tale from Sean Daniels (director of *The Lion*), is a wry and wild theatrical journey to recovery.

A SOARING WORLD PREMIERE ABOUT GROWING UP

Nomad Motel by Carla Ching

May 12 – June 3, 2018

The not-so-sunny side of California is nothing new to Alix: she's bouncing between motel rooms taking care of her twin brothers for her mostly MIA mother. Her classmate Mason is a budding songwriter trying to keep off the radar of his missing father's Hong Kong mafia connections. Together, the savvy teens must learn to scrape by without giving up their dreams. This world

premiere play by newcomer Carla Ching (*Fear the Walking Dead*, Netflix's *I Love Dick*) is a coming-of-age tale about making something out of nothing in the land of plenty.

Momentum Festival '17: New Plays at Different Stages, which runs from **June 1-4, 2017**, will include staged readings of *Citizens Market* by Cori Thomas and *The White Chip* by Sean Daniels, as part of the play development process. Momentum '17 is free and open to the public. Schedule and other readings to be announced.

Also announcing a limited-engagement **City Event**, on sale now for 2017-18 subscribers only:

LATE NIGHT CATECHISM by Maripat Donovan

Featuring Kimberly Richards

September 7-17, 2017

After nearly seven years, the original *Late Nite Catechism* returns to City Theatre for a limited engagement in the Hamburg Studio Theatre. If you've skipped class all these years, now's your chance to see the show that started it all! Grab your rosary, spit out your gum, and get ready for Sister's hilarious mix of comedy, nostalgia, and old school Catholic cool. She's a hard habit to break.

TICKET INFORMATION

Three ways to subscribe:

On-site: City Theatre Box Office, 1300 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh PA 15203

By phone: 412-431-CITY (2489)

Online: Beginning June 1. Visit www.citytheatrecompany.org

Season Subscription Packages:

\$171 Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Wednesday 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m., Thursday 8:00 p.m.,
Saturday 1:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00 p.m.

\$198 Friday 8:00 p.m., Sunday 2:00 p.m.

\$276 Saturday 5:30 p.m., Opening Night 8:00 p.m. (First Friday of each production)

Flex Packages: Choose your own schedule.

\$216 Basic Flex: Six vouchers, good for Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday at 1:00 p.m., Saturday at 9:00 p.m., and Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

\$276 Premium Flex: Six vouchers, good for any performance.

Single tickets for the 2017-18 season will go on sale Monday, August 14. An exclusive pre-sale for *The Old Man and the Old Moon* will begin Friday, August 11, open only to CityM@il subscribers. Sign up to receive CityM@il at www.citytheatrecompany.org.

City Theatre is now in its 42nd season. Located in the historic South Side, City Theatre is Pittsburgh's home for bold new plays, commissioning and producing work by playwrights including Daniel Beaty, Jessica Dickey, Christopher Durang, Michael Hollinger, Willy Holtzman, Tarell Alvin McCraney, and Madeleine George. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tracy Brigden, Managing Director James McNeel, and the 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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