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PRESS RELEASE

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New City Stage Company announces 2014-15 season: *Ripples of Hope Festival featuring 12 brand new plays & special events*

New City Stage Company is thrilled to announce its 2014-15 season, ***Ripples of Hope: Honoring the work of Robert F. Kennedy***. New City Stage will be in residence at the **Adrienne Theater** for the fifth year in a row, located at **2030 Sansom Street** in center city Philadelphia. This is the company's ninth full season and includes a special fundraising event coinciding with the mid-term election, a festival of new works curated from 12 different theatre artists and companies, and the brief return of our hit show *RFK*, before it heads to New York. We will also be featuring a batch of new works from our educational program, the Voices for a New City Ensemble. **Tickets for the fundraiser and festival passes are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting www.NewCityStage.org or by calling the box office at (215) 563-7500.** Tickets for *RFK* go on sale November 1, 2014. Individual tickets to events in the ***Ripples of Hope Festival*** go on sale February 1, 2015.

The Ripples of Hope Season

Inspired by our most successful production to date, *RFK*, New City Stage has devised an entire season around the work of the late senator and attorney general. As we prepare for an off-Broadway production of *RFK*, we wanted to create a special season here in our home of Philadelphia. We were inspired by this quote, from a speech Robert F. Kennedy gave at the University of Capetown in South Africa on June 6, 1966:

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

In the spirit of inclusiveness, New City Stage is using this season to invite other artists and production companies to present their work and create a meaningful dialogue through their artistic endeavors. Robert Kennedy noted that "the path of innovation is never easy" and we are excited to bring even more risky and innovative theatre to Philadelphia by partnering with other like-minded artists.

Events:

The Best of Kennedy v. Nixon: *Highlights from the 1960 Debates*

A special New City Stage Company event

November 2 and 3, 2014

Franklin Inn Club

205 S. Camac Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Doors open at 7 PM

Vote for great theatre this November! For 2 nights only New City Stage Company will present highlights from the 1960 Presidential debates, a press conference with our "new" President, and live musical entertainment. This event will also feature previously unreleased Kennedy family home videos, the opportunity for attendees to meet the candidates, and a full buffet and cash bar.

Dan Olmstead (*Frost/Nixon*) will be reprising his Barrymore Award-nominated role as **Richard Nixon** and New City Stage Producing Artistic Director **Russ Widdall** (*RFK*, *Frost/Nixon*) will be **John F. Kennedy**. The event will also feature performances from Ginger Dayle (Pat Nixon in *Frost/Nixon*, *Hinckley* playwright) and Lizzie Spellman (*Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*), performing Marilyn Monroe's act from the 1959 hit movie *Some Like It Hot*, named the greatest American comedy film of all time by the American Film Institute.

Performing at the historic Franklin Inn Club in center city, this special event will kickstart New City Stage's unique new approach to producing high quality professional theatre.

All proceeds from *Kennedy v. Nixon* go toward the upcoming *Ripples of Hope Festival*, running April 20 - May 31, 2015 at the Adrienne Theatre.

All of the following 2015 events are performed at the Adrienne Theatre Playground:

The Ripples of Hope Festival

April 20 - May 31, 2015

An entire festival of work inspired by the ideals of Bobby Kennedy. *Ripples of Hope* seeks to honor his life and work through curated pieces that reflect the continued fight for human justice in our everyday lives, the ongoing struggle for civil rights, and the freedom of speech that empowers our professional journalists both here and abroad.

We are accepting applications from individual artists and small production companies from all over the country. A panel of professional artists and writers from the Philadelphia theatre community will review the applications and select 12 pieces to be presented by New City Stage. We will provide the performance venue, production support and public relations, as well as guide the administrative needs of each play so that the artists can focus on their work. Applications will be available on our web site starting Friday, September 5.

RFK

Written by Jack Holmes and directed by Ginger Dayle

Featuring Russ Widdall as Senator Robert F. Kennedy

June 4 -7, 2015

4 performances only!

The hit play that started it all returns to Philadelphia before heading to off-Broadway!

A historically accurate solo performance which chronicles the last four years of politician Robert F. Kennedy's life, from 1964 to 1968, and features music, film and footage from the era. Take a trip back to one of the most turbulent periods in our national history and become familiar with the man who would be the voice of a generation, who used his time in public service "to seek a newer world."

"The history play **RFK** is special in several ways... it's exceptionally well performed by Russ Widdall... and like many single-character shows, shifts back and forth in time, but does so with grace and electricity." —*Philadelphia Inquirer*

"Russ Widdall's portrayal of a man trying to honestly change the world for the better is convincing and, of course, tragic without an awareness of its tragedy. " —*Washington Post*

"Russ Widdall's transformation in **RFK** is seamless... Widdall doesn't act like RFK, he becomes him." —*DCTheatreScene.com*

American Pie: Stories about the American Experience

Voices for a New City Ensemble

June 10 - 14, 2015

Now in its third year, New City Stage's educational program is taking a new approach as well. We've given opportunities to young actors, designers and directors. This year we are going to include young playwrights. We will be accepting submissions from college students in graduate and undergraduate programs as well high school students throughout the season. All of these short plays and monologues will highlight the American experience. A panel of theater professionals will pick the 10 best short plays and they will be helmed by a team of young directors. Early career actors working alongside seasoned professionals will bring these new stories to life in a workshop setting. *All performances by the Voices for a New City Ensemble are free and open to the public.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Interviews and press tickets: Contact Publicist Ginger Dayle at Ginger.Dayle@NewCityStage.org or 215-603-9600

Please request all interviews and complimentary press tickets at least 24 hours in advance.

About New City Stage Company:

New City Stage Company, founded in 2006, is dedicated to presenting high quality professional theatre that engages audiences on a variety of levels; not only entertaining them but also encouraging awareness of issues relevant to the community. We draw our season from contemporary and classical works, with a special focus on including Philadelphia premiers from playwrights whose work and stories are not normally found in the region.

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