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ROUND HOUSE THEATRE KICKS OFF 45TH SEASON
WITH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF WEST END HIT

NINE NIGHT

September 14 – October 9 at Round House Theatre

Bethesda, Md. (August 30, 2022) – Round House Theatre begins its 2022-2023 Season with the American premiere of Natasha Gordon’s *Nine Night*, directed by **Timothy Douglas**. Named “one of the top 20 plays of the 21st Century” by *The Guardian*, originally scheduled for the 2021-2022 Season and postponed due to COVID-19. The production will now run from September 14 – October 9, 2022. Press night is Monday, September 19, 2022. **Please see below for complete program details and ticket information.**

Family matriarch Gloria has died, and her family gathers for the traditional Jamaican Nine Night, a multi-day celebration full of food, revelry, and a nonstop parade of mourners. Natasha Gordon’s debut play—a popular triumph in its 2018 National Theatre premiere and subsequent West End run—explores the tensions of inhabiting two cultures, the inescapable bonds of family, and the many layers of grief in an “exuberantly funny” (*The Guardian*) and profoundly relatable story of the ties that bind. Raved *The Guardian*’s Michael Billington, “Playwrighting debuts don’t come much better than this.”

Director **Timothy Douglas** describes the unpacking of *Nine Night* at Round House Theatre as a continuous revealing relief of the soul. “It is a gift and privilege for me to more deeply anchor and guide the visceral newness of what blackness is by way of the bittersweet joys lived by this UK-Jamaican family's traditions, culture, and spiritual release.”

Nine Night embodies Round House's continued mission to produce new works that foreground artists of color and, by extension, welcome audiences of color. “The number of Black female playwrights represented on America's largest stages is still depressingly small and disproportionate to the number of Black women in our country,” says Round House Theatre **Artistic Director Ryan Rilette**. “We were deeply disappointed that the rise of Omicron forced us to stop production of this brilliant piece last season. This is the first play by a British Black woman to reach the West End, and I am thrilled that we can finally bring it back and give this Jamaican-British story the American premiere it deserves.”

The cast includes **Kim Bey** (previously in *Sleep Deprivation Chamber* in Round House's Adrienne Kennedy festival; *Beneath's Place* at Baltimore Center Stage), **Kaitlyn Boyer** (*School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; *A Christmas Carol* at Actors Theatre of Louisville); **Doug Brown** (*Two Trains Running* at Round House Theatre; *Fences* at Ford's Theatre), **Katie deBuys** (*Small Mouth Sounds* at Round House Theatre; *Winter's Tale* at Folger Theatre), **Joy DeMichelle** (*Aubergine* at South Coast Repertory; *Sweat* at Mark Taper Forum), **Avery Glymph** (*Hamlet* at Shakespeare Theatre Company; *The Skin of Our Teeth* on Broadway), and **Lilian Oben** (*Murder on the Orient Express* at Everyman Theatre; *The Crucible* at Olney Theatre). Understudies for this production include **Kelli Blackwell**, **Christine Goepfert**, **Gislaine Hoyah**, and **Baakari Wilder**.

The cast is joined by a distinctive creative team that includes Scenic Designer **Tim Mackabee**, Costume Designer **April Hickman**, Lighting Designer **Harold Burgess**, Sound Designer **Matthew M. Nielson**, Properties Coordinator **Tim Jones**, Fight Choreographer **Casey Kaleba**, Vocal and

Dialect Coach **Dawn-Ellin Fraser**, Casting Director **Sarah Cooney**, Dramaturg and Round House Theatre Associate Artist for New Plays **Naysan Mojgani**, and Resident Stage Manager **Che Wernsman**.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 240.644.1100 or ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org. Round House Theatre is located at 4545 East-West Highway, one block from Wisconsin Avenue and the Bethesda station on Metro's Red Line.

ARTIST INFORMATION

Natasha Gordon (Playwright) is a playwright and actress of Jamaican descent. Her debut play, *Nine Night*, enjoyed a sold-out run at the National Theatre in April 2018 before transferring to Trafalgar Studios, making her the first black British female playwright to be produced in the West End. Natasha won the Charles Wintour Award for most promising playwright at the 2018 Evening Standard Theatre Awards. As a performer, her stage credits include *Nine Night* at Trafalgar Studios; *Red Velvet* at Tricycle Theatre; *The Low Road* and *Clubland* at Royal Court Theatre; *Mules* at the Young Vic; and *As You Like It* at Royal Shakespeare Company. Film and TV credits include *Dough*, *Line of Duty*, *Class*, and *Danny and the Human Zoo*.

Timothy Douglas (Director) is overjoyed to return to live theatre at his beloved Round House home, where he staged *Gem of the Ocean*, *Father Comes Home from the Wars*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Two Trains Running*, *Permanent Collection*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, and performed the role of "The Teacher" in *Small Mouth Sounds*. Area credits include productions for Arena Stage, Folger Shakespeare, Ford's Theatre, The Kennedy Center, The Phillips Collection, Signature Theatre, Theatre Alliance, and Woolly Mammoth Theatre. He has directed Off-Broadway, nationally, and internationally, including at The Great Theatre of China, and most recently staged Terence Blanchard's *Champion* for Boston Lyric Opera.

CAST INFORMATION (ALPHABETICAL)

Kim James Bey (Maggie) is excited and honored to join Timothy Douglas and Round House Theatre with *Nine Night*. She was previously in Round House's Adrienne Kennedy festival as Suzanne in *Sleep Deprivation Chamber*. Other recent credits include *Raisin in the Sun* at Lyric Repertory Company; *Beneatha's Place* at Baltimore Center Stage; and *Little Foxes* at Arena Stage. Additional acting credits include productions at Second Stage Theater (NY), John Houseman Theater (NY), and The Actors Studio (NY). Regional credits include St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cleveland Play House, and Delaware Theatre Company. Kim is a certified Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework, with multiple credits as a voice and dialect coach. Education: Howard University (BFA), Rutgers University (MFA), British American Drama Academy at Oxford, and The Shakespeare Theatre Fellowship.

Kaitlyn Boyer (Anita) is thrilled to join the cast of *Nine Night* and make her Round House Theatre debut! Her credits include *School Girls; Or The African Mean Girls Play* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Guthrie Theater; *Are You There?, The Sensational*, and *A Christmas Carol* at Actors Theatre of Louisville; *Deux Femmes on the Edge de la Revolution* and *Beyond the Moon* at the Playwrights' Center; *Spring Awakening* with Dangerous Productions; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Oasis Theatre Ensemble; *Seven Guitars* and *In the Blood* with the Guthrie Program. Kaitlyn received her BFA from the University of Minnesota / Guthrie Theater Actor Training Program and was recently in the Professional Training Company at Actors Theatre of Louisville. KaitlynBoyer.com (She/Her)

Doug Brown (Vince) is excited to be returning to Round House Theatre with *Nine Night*. Previous Round House credits include *Two Trains Running*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Pantomime*, *An Asian Jockey in Our Midst*, and *The Petrified Forest*. Other DC area credits include *Fences*, *Jitney*, and *Member of the Wedding* at Ford's Theatre; *Our Lady of 121 Street*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Last Orbit of Billy Mars*, *Homebody/Kabul*, *Day Room*, and *Measure for Pleasure* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre; *Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek*; *The Gin Game*, *The Island*, and *Mooi Street Moves at MetroStage*; *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Hambone*, *The Colored Museum*, *Spit Second*, and

Spunk at Studio Theatre; *Much Ado About Nothing* at The Folger Theatre; and *Otabenga* at Signature Theatre. Regional credits include *Jitney* and *Piano Lesson* at Actor's Theatre of Louisville; *Radio Golf* and *Gem of the Ocean* at The Milwaukee Rep; and *Two Trains Running*, *Jitney*, and *Trip to Bountiful* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Katie deBuys (Sophie) is absolutely elated to return to the Round House Theatre stage for *Nine Night!* Previous Round House credits include *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *The Night Alive*, *Fool for Love*, and *Seminar* (Helen Hayes nomination). Other local credits include *The Winter's Tale*, *Henry V*, *The Conference of the Birds*, and *The Gaming Table* at Folger Theatre; *The How and the Why* at Theater J; *Stupid F***ing Bird* and *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre; *Measure for Measure* at Shakespeare Theatre Company; and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Tchaikovsky: Mad But for Music* with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Regionally, she has performed at Portland Center Stage, Syracuse Stage, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Capital T Theater in Austin, Texas, and at the Texas Shakespeare Festival. Katie holds a B.S. in Theatre from Northwestern University and an M.F.A. in Acting from The University of Texas at Austin.

Joy DeMichelle (Trudy) is thrilled to return to Round House Theatre. Regional credits include *Aubergine* at South Coast Repertory; *Sweat* at Mark Taper Forum; *Raisin in the Sun* at Actors Theatre of Louisville; *Blues for an Alabama Sky* and *Seven Guitars* at Denver Center Theatre; and *Piano Lesson*, *Spirit North*, and *Harriet's Return* at Crossroads Theatre. Select television credits include *Mike*, *Snowfall*, *The L Word: Generation Q*, *I Think You Should Leave*, *Criminal Minds*, *Lie to Me*, *Outlaw*, and *American Gun*, to name a few. In addition to acting, Joy is an Intimacy Director; upcoming shows include *Hedda Gabbler* and *A Winter's Tale* (NY); and *Choir Boy* (CA). As a co-host of *Live at The Lortel*, produced by the Lucille Lortel Theatre, Joy enjoys amplifying the voices of NYC theatre artists. Instagram: @actingwithjoy. JoyDeMichelle.com

Avery Glymph (Robert) is a DC native and proud to make his Round House Theatre debut with *Nine Night*. Area credits include *Coriolanus/Wallenstein*, *The Tempest*, and *Hamlet* with

Shakespeare Theatre Company, and the Baltimore Center Stage/Cincinnati Playhouse co-production of *Shakespeare in Love*. Broadway credits include the recent Tony-winning *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *The Tempest* with Patrick Stewart as Prospero. Off-Broadway credits include roles with Roundabout Theatre Company, New York Shakespeare Festival, and Lincoln Center Theatre, among others. Regional highlights include *One Night in Miami* with Pittsburgh City Theatre, and leading roles with Syracuse Stage, Northern Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, St. Louis Rep, Cleveland Play House, The Old Globe (West Coast premiere of *The Whipping Man*; San Diego Critics Circle Award and NAACP Theatre Award nominations), PlayMakers Rep, Crossroads Theatre (Regional Tony season), and others. Film/TV appearances include the upcoming *Search Party* and *Out and About*, *She's Gotta Have It*, *He Got Game*, *Madam Secretary*, *Law & Order* (original and C.I.), and many more. Education: BFA from The University of North Carolina School of the Arts and MFA from the STC Academy for Classical Acting at the George Washington University. Instagram: @averygoodactor. AveryGlymph.com

Lilian Oben (Lorraine) is thrilled to return to the DMV for *Nine Night* at Round House Theatre. Previous DC credits include *Murder on the Orient Express* at Everyman Theatre; *The Crucible* at Olney Theatre; *The Second Shepherds' Play* at Folger Theatre; *Antigonick* at Taffety Punk Theatre Company; *Melancholy Play: A Contemporary Farce* (2019 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Production and 2019 Helen Hayes Nomination for Outstanding Ensemble), *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *The Arabian Nights* at Constellation Theatre Company; and *Love and Information* at Forum Theatre. Regional credits include *Intimate Apparel* at Orlando Shakes. Film/TV credits include *The Noel Diaries* (Netflix). Writer/playwright credits include *New York Times* "Modern Love"; and *NOW CASTING* and *AETHER* at Keegan Theatre's Womxn on Fire Festival. Represented by The Hell's Kitchen Agency, NYC. LilianOben.com

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Nine Night

By Natasha Gordon

Directed by Timothy Douglas

CAST LIST:

Kaitlyn Boyer as Anita*

Lilian Oben as Lorraine

Kim Bey as Maggie

Doug Brown as Vince

Avery Glymph as Robert*

Katie deBuys as Sophie

Joy DeMichelle as Trudy*

* - *Round House Theatre debut*

UNDERSTUDIES:

Kelli Blackwell (Maggie and Trudy)*

Christine Goepfert (Sophie)*

Gislaine Hoyah (Anita and Lorraine)*

Baakari Wilder (Vince and Robert)*

* - *Round House Theatre debut*

WHERE:

Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway in Bethesda (one block from Wisconsin Ave. and Metro's Bethesda station). For directions, parking, and public transportation info, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/Visit-Us/.

ABOUT THE PLAY:

Family matriarch Gloria has died, and her family gathers for the traditional Jamaican Nine Night, a multi-day celebration full of food, revelry, and a nonstop parade of mourners. Natasha Gordon's debut play—a popular triumph in its 2018 National Theatre premiere and subsequent West End run—explores the tensions of inhabiting two cultures, the inescapable bonds of family, and the many layers of grief in an “exuberantly funny” (*The Guardian*) and profoundly relatable story of the ties that bind. Raved *The Guardian's* Michael Billington, “Playwrighting debuts don't come much better than this.”

DATES AND TIMES:

Nine Night runs from September 14 to October 9, 2022. Performances are Tuesday through

Thursday at 7:30 pm, Friday and Saturdays at 8:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm.

Audio described performance: Saturday, September 24, at 2:00 pm

Open captioned performance: Saturday, October 1 at 2:00 pm

TICKETS:

Tickets can be purchased by calling 240.644.1100, ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org, or visiting the box office. Available ticket discounts include:

- Free Play – free tickets for students ages 13 through college: Round House Theatre’s Free Play initiative ties into our greater strategy to develop theatre audiences of tomorrow by providing rich, meaningful arts experiences today. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/FreePlay or email Education@RoundHouseTheatre.org
- On the House – community ticket access program: Round House’s next step to remove barriers that can make it difficult for some members of our community to experience our work is On the House, which provides complimentary group tickets to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and community-serving organizations with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/On-The-House or email Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org.
- Pay-What-You-Can performances: Wednesday, September 14 at 7:30 pm, and Saturday, September 17 at 2:00 pm. PWYC tickets go on sale online or by phone only (no walk-up sales) beginning one week before the first performance of each show. The patron decides the admission price. Limit of two tickets per order. PWYC tickets are subject to availability.
- Blue Star Theatre Program: Active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their

immediate family qualify for a \$10 discount off the single ticket price. Learn more at RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/Tickets.

- 2-For-1 Tuesday: For all Tuesday performances, all seats are buy one, get one free. 2-for-1 Tuesday tickets are available online or by phone (240.644.1100) with promo code TWOFORONE beginning one week before the first performance of each show. Discounts may not be combined. Not valid on previously purchased tickets.

- Group Sales: Groups of 10 or more can save 10% off the single ticket price and are exempt from single ticket fees. These tickets must be reserved and purchased in advance by calling 240.644.1100 or emailing GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org.

ROUND HOUSE THEATRE MASK REQUIREMENTS

Masks are required for all guests, except while eating or drinking in the lobby café area.

NOTE: This policy is in effect as of September 1, 2022 until future notice. We continue to review current circumstances and CDC and local government recommendations to determine whether the mandate may be lifted or extended. For full health and safety information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/safety.

ABOUT ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

Round House Theatre is one of the leading professional theatres in the Washington, DC area, producing a season of new plays, modern classics, and musicals for more than 40,000 patrons each year at our theatre in Bethesda. Round House has been nominated for 197 Helen Hayes Awards and has won 37, including four Outstanding Resident Play Awards and the Charles MacArthur Award for Original New Play in 2016. Round House's lifelong learning and education

programs serve more than 5,000 students each year at its Education Center in Silver Spring, in schools throughout Montgomery County, and at our Bethesda theatre. Cornerstone programs include Free Play, which provides free tickets for students ages 13-college, the Teen Performance Company, which culminates in the student-produced Sarah Metzger Memorial Play, Summer Camp for students in grades K-12, and a full slate of classes for adults and youth.

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