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ROUND HOUSE THEATRE RETURNS TO
THE AMERICAN CENTURY CYCLE WITH

AUGUST WILSON'S RADIO GOLF

DIRECTED BY REGINALD L. DOUGLAS

June 7 – July 2 at Round House Theatre

Bethesda, Md. (May 3, 2023) – Round House Theatre continues its 2022-2023 Season with August Wilson's *Radio Golf*, the final play of his American Century Cycle, directed by **Reginald L. Douglas**. Press Night is Monday, June 12, 2023. **Please see below for complete program details and ticket information.**

Following productions of *Two Trains Running* (2014) and *Gem of the Ocean* (2018), Round House returns to Pittsburgh's Hill District, where Harmond Wilks is redeveloping the struggling neighborhood with business partner (and golf enthusiast) Roosevelt Hicks while running to become the city's first Black mayor. With a shiny new high-rise planned and Whole Foods set to move in, one house stands in the way: 1839 Wylie Avenue, home of Wilson's renowned Aunt Ester. As Roosevelt aims to win the game that has been set against him all his life, Harmond reaches a crossroads as history and progress collide. "Surprising, suspenseful, and crowd-

rousing” (*New York Times*), *Radio Golf* concludes this stunning cycle of plays portraying 20th-century Black life by one of America’s most influential playwrights.

Radio Golf has demanded conversation on relevant issues since its premiere in 2005: police violence, gentrification, the intersection of class and race, and questions of division and solidarity within the Black community. “This is a play that has gained in relevance with time, and I’m thrilled to bring it back to DC audiences with such a brilliant team of artists,” says **Artistic Director Ryan Rilette**. “We can’t wait to return to August Wilson with the phenomenal Reg Douglas at the helm.”

Director Reginald L. Douglas is looking forward to magnifying the joyful moments throughout *Radio Golf*. “This is a play about friendship, men dreaming in a world that told them never to dream, and to me, that’s a joyful reason to come to the theatre,” says Douglas. “This story inspires us to look at where we’ve been, and where we could go together.”

The cast includes **Ro Boddie** (*The Tempest* at Round House Theatre and *Socrates* at Public Theater), **JaBen Early** (*Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2, and 3)* at Round House Theatre and *Harriet* on HBO Max), **Kevin Mambo** (*The Tempest* at Round House Theatre and *Rustin* [upcoming] on Netflix), **Craig Wallace** (Round House Theatre’s *Homebound* webseries and *King Lear* at Shakespeare Theatre Company), and **Renee Elizabeth Wilson** (*Nollywood Dreams* at Round House Theatre and *Intimate Apparel* at Theatre J). Understudies for this production include **Brock Brown**, **Eli El**, and **Gislaine Hoyah**.

The cast is joined by a brilliant creative team that includes Scenic Designer **Meghan Raham**, Costume Designer **Moyenda Kulemeka**, Lighting Designer **Harold F. Burgess II**, Sound Designer **Matthew M. Nielson**, Properties Coordinator **Chelsea Dean**, Casting Director **Sarah Cooney**, Dramaturg **Shana Laski**, 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

Reginald L. Douglas (Director) is a director, producer, and educator dedicated to creating new work and supporting new voices and serves as the Artistic Director of Mosaic Theater in Washington, DC. He has directed at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, TheaterWorks Hartford, Contemporary American Theater Festival, Everyman Theatre, Weston Theater Company, La Jolla Playhouse, Audible, Bard at the Gate, Profile Theatre, Playwrights Realm, The Kennedy Center, Pittsburgh CLO, Arizona Theatre Company, Barrington Stage, Cape Cod Theatre Project, Negro Ensemble Company, TheatreSquared, Playwrights' Center, McCarter Theatre Center, Florida Rep, The Lark, New York Theatre Workshop, City Theatre (where he served as Artistic Producer), Studio Theatre (where he served as Associate Artistic Director), and many other national companies. Reginald has developed and directed work by nationally-recognized writers including Psalmayene 24, Dominique Morisseau, Suzan-Lori Parks, Cori Thomas, Angelica Chéri, Lynn Nottage, Nikkole Salter, Dael Orlandersmith, Kemp Powers, Jen Silverman, Ngozi Anyanwu, R. Eric Thomas, Brian Quijada, Matt Schatz, Amy Evans, Zakiyyah Alexander, Imani Uzuri, Dave Harris, Francisca Da Silveira, Khalil Kain, Chisa Hutchinson, Tarrance Chisholm, Josh Wilder, Larry Powell, Kareem Fahmy, Harrison David Rivers, Idris Goodwin, and Donja R. Love. A member of the Board of Directors of Theatre Washington and of the National New Play Network, Reginald received the National Theatre Conference's Emerging Professional Award in 2020.

CAST INFORMATION (ALPHABETICAL)

Ro Boddie (Roosevelt Hicks) returns to Round House Theatre, where he previously appeared in *The Tempest*, *A Boy and His Soul*, and *"Master Harold" ...and the Boys*. Select DC credits include *Pipeline*, *Three Sisters*, and *No Sisters* at Studio Theatre; Off-Broadway credits include *Socrates* at the Public Theater and *Seize the King* at Classical Theatre of Harlem. Select

regional credits include *Windfall* at Bay Street Theater; *A Play is a Poem* at Mark Taper Forum; *Blueprints to Freedom* at La Jolla Playhouse; *The Mountaintop* at Cleveland Playhouse; and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* at Baltimore Center Stage. Television credits include *Godfather of Harlem*, *Run the World*, *The Good Wife*, *Elementary*, and *Person of Interest*. Ro is an alum of University of the North Carolina School of the Arts and recipient of the 2016 Actor of the Year Craig Noel Award.

JaBen Early (Harmond Wilks) Previous credits include *All the Way* at Lincoln Theatre; *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and *We Are Proud to Present ...* at the Guthrie Theater; *Toni Stone*, *Junk*, *The Great Society*, *All the Way*, and *Ruined* at Arena Stage; *Death of a Salesman* at Ford's Theatre; *Macbeth* at Shakespeare Theatre; *Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2, and 3)* at Round House Theatre; *Unexplored Interior* at Mosaic Theater Company; *The Convert* at Woolly Mammoth; *Julius Caesar* at Folger Shakespeare Theatre; *F*cking A* at Studio Theatre; *Titus Andronicus* at Molotov Theatre; *Native Sun* at American Century Theater; *The Convert* at Marin Theatre Company; and *The Death of Bessie Smith* at Liberty Free Theatre. Training: M.F.A., Sarah Lawrence College; B.F.A., Morehouse College; BADA program at Magdalen College, University of Oxford.

Kevin Mambo (Sterling Johnson) returns to Round House Theatre after previously performing in *The Tempest*. Broadway, Off-Broadway, and tour credits include *The History of Empires* at La Mama; *Fela!*, *The Color Purple*, and *The Book of Mormon* National Tour (Helen Hayes nomination); *Fortress of Solitude* at Dallas Theatre Center and the Public Theater (Lortel nomination); *Mlima's Tale* at the Public Theater; *Ruined* at Goodman Theatre and Manhattan Theatre Club; *The Convert* at Kirk Douglas Theatre, Goodman Theatre, and McCarter Theatre Center; *Venus and Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek* at Signature Theatre; *Seven Guitars* and *Pericles* at Two River Theater; *The Last Detail* at Lucille Lortel Theatre; and *Once Around The Sun* at Zipper Factory Theater. Film credits include *Rustin*, *Nina*, *Cadillac Records*, *Rebel in the Rye*, *Payback*, *One of Us Tripped*, *Firing Squad*, *Selah and the Spades*, *The Southside*, *Henchman of Notre Dame* (Best Actor), *Trooper*, and *Man in the Mirror*. Television credits include *Guiding*

Light (two Emmys, three nominations), *Hit & Run*, *Luke Cage*, *Saint X*, *High Maintenance*, *The Good Doctor*, *Blacklist*, *Happyish*, *Soul Food*, *One Life to Live*, *Law & Order* (Original/Deadline/SVU/Trial by Jury/Criminal Intent/Reboot), *Spin City*, *Elementary*, *Any Day Now*, *Mistresses*, *Family Matters*, *Freshman Dorm*, and *Great Performances*.

Craig Wallace (Elder Joseph Barlow) is excited to return to Round House Theatre for *Radio Golf*. In addition to directing *A Boy and His Soul* by Colman Domingo for the 2020-2021 Virtual Season, Craig's past performances at Round House include the *Homebound* webseries; *A Doll's House, Part 2*; *How I Learned to Drive*; "Master Harold" ...and the Boys; *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2, and 3)*; *Stage Kiss*; *Permanent Collection*; and *The Little Prince*. Local credits include performances at Ford's Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, and others. Regionally, Craig has been on stages all over the country, including Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz. Craig has a BFA from Howard University and an MFA from Penn State University.

Renee Elizabeth Wilson (Mame Wilks) is beyond ecstatic to be back at Round House Theatre with *Radio Golf*. Previous Round House credits include the regional premiere of *Nollywood Dreams*. Selected DC credits include *Intimate Apparel* at Theater J; *Moon Man Walk* at Constellation Theatre Company; *Native Son* and *Milk Like Sugar* at Mosaic Theatre Company; *Ain't No Mo'* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre; *Skeleton Crew* at Studio Theatre; and *The Hula Hoopin Queen* at Imagination Stage. Renee is an American actress and NASM certified personal trainer. She is a graduate of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and has a BFA in Drama from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Instagram: @actpoetic88 and @bodied_by_renee

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

AUGUST WILSON'S RADIO GOLF

Directed by Reginald Douglas

June 7 – July 2, 2023

CAST LIST (alphabetical order):

Ro Boddie: Roosevelt Hicks

JaBen Early: Harmond Wilks

Kevin Mambo: Sterling Johnson
Craig Wallace: Elder Joseph Barlow
Renee Elizabeth Wilson: Mame Wilks

UNDERSTUDIES:

Brock Brown: Harmond Wilks and Roosevelt Hicks *
Eli El: Sterling and Old Joe*
Gislaine Hoyah: Mame Wilks

* - *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:

Following *Two Trains Running* (2014) and *Gem of the Ocean* (2018), Round House returns to Pittsburgh's Hill District, where Harmond Wilks is redeveloping the struggling neighborhood with business partner (and golf enthusiast) Roosevelt Hicks while running to become the city's first Black mayor. With a shiny new high-rise planned and Whole Foods set to move in, one house stands in the way: 1839 Wylie Avenue, home of Wilson's renowned Aunt Ester. As Roosevelt aims to win the game that has been set against him all his life, Harmond reaches a crossroads as history and progress collide. "Surprising, suspenseful, and crowd-rousing" (*New York Times*), *Radio Golf* concludes this stunning cycle of plays portraying 20th-century Black life by one of America's most influential playwrights.

August Wilson's Radio Golf is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

DATES AND TIMES:

Radio Golf runs from June 7 to July 1, 2023. Performances are Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday at 7:30 pm, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm.

Audio described performance: Saturday, June 17, at 2:00 pm

Open captioned performance: Saturday, June 24 at 2:00 pm

Relaxed performance: Saturday, July 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-TheHouse or email Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org.
- **Pay-What-You-Can performances:** 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 available for performances on Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, June 10 at 2:00pm and 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 of *Radio Golf*, all seats are buy one, get one free. 2-for-1 Tuesday tickets are available online or by phone (9240.644.1100) with promo code TWOFORONE. 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 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

As of February 2023, Round House Theatre no longer requires that audience members wear masks for most performances in our theatre. However, masks are required for certain performances and for events in other Round House spaces, including our Event Room. We continue to strongly recommend masks as the best way for individuals to protect themselves from COVID-19 and other seasonal viruses, and we ask our audience members to respect the choices of others.

Round House will offer a limited number of mask-required performances for audience members who may prefer a fully masked environment. **Masks are required for performances on June 10, 15, 17, 23, 24, and 29.**

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 213 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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