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ROUND HOUSE THEATRE'S
PRE-PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLES PRESENT

TEEN TAKEOVER WEEKEND

FEATURING THE

TEEN PERFORMANCE COMPANY

IN THE 22ND ANNUAL SARAH METZGER MEMORIAL PLAY

SPRING BREAK BY JOE CALARCO

AND A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY

THE ROUNDLINGS COMEDY & IMPROV ENSEMBLE

March 15–17 in Round House Theatre

Bethesda, Md. (February 14, 2024) – Round House Theatre continues its 2023-2024 season with a weekend featuring both of its teen performing ensembles. Running March 15 – 17, the weekend will consist of three performances of the 22nd Annual Sarah Metzger Memorial Play by the **Teen Performance Company**, a free pre-professional program for up-and-coming theatre artists, as well as a performance by **The Roundlings** comedy and improv ensemble, a pre-professional program for the next generation of funny artists.

Please see below for complete history, program, and ticket information for the 2024 Sarah Play and The Roundlings.

History of The Sarah Metzger Memorial Play

The Sarah Play honors the memory of Sarah Emily Metzger, an active member of the theatre community in her school and at Round House, who was killed in an automobile accident during her freshman year of college. One of the Round House family's lasting memories of Sarah is that, while still a high school student, she independently mounted a full-scale theatre production. Sarah worked to raise funds, secure facilities and a production staff, market and promote her production and direct a full-length play.

After her passing, Sarah's family worked with Round House to create the Sarah Metzger Memorial Fund as a tribute to the inspiring young woman. Through the generosity of many contributors, the fund provides the financial resources each season for similarly passionate and motivated high school students to create a fully realized production with a professional theatre company.

"The Sarah Play hit me at a really particular time in my life where I had a little bit of experience directing," explained former TPC student Joan Sergay. "I still think about some of the things my mentors told me as they watched some of my rehearsals and gave me feedback." Sergay is currently a New Georges Affiliated Artist, a 2023-24 Audrey Resident at New Georges, a 2023 New York Theatre Workshop Adelphi Resident, and a former Directing Fellow at Clubbed Thumb, Playwrights Horizons, Manhattan Theatre Club, and Actors Theatre of Louisville. Joan still leans on the skills learned from the Sarah Play at Round House.

The 22nd Annual Sarah Metzger Memorial Play: *Spring Break* by Joe Calarco

On the first night of spring break, 19 teenagers celebrate friendships, nurse broken hearts, and challenge assumptions as they search to find their unique place in the world. With empathy and

humor, this candid dramedy examines the seemingly small moments that lead to life-changing decisions as each character learns who they really want to become.

About the Teen Performance Company

The Round House Theatre Teen Performance Company is a pre-professional program for the next generation of theatre artists. Each company member is exposed to all the elements that are required to bring a professional production to the stage through master classes and special events, as well as gaining behind-the-scenes access to Round House Theatre shows. The season-long program culminates in the Sarah Metzger Memorial Play, which is directed, designed, stage managed, and performed by the Teen Performance Company, working with professional mentors to help guide them through the process. This program is entirely underwritten by donors and is free to students. “The Teen Performance Company and Sarah Metzger Memorial Play really epitomize what Round House Theatre and its education programs are about—encouraging young artists to develop their own voices as theatrical artists, while at the same time teaching important life skills,” said Director of Education Danisha Crosby. “The structure of the program, including working with professional artists who mentor the students, allows the students to have a truly unique experience.”

“I just found the mentorship really astonishing,” said former TPC student Kari Barclay, who is now Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre at Oberlin College. “As a high school student, you get to witness all different stages of a professional production.” Barclay’s newest play *STONEWALLIN’* is the winner of the Southern Queer Playwriting Festival and is under a yearlong development process in Richmond, VA.

The 2023-2024 TPC students are working closely with professional artists and practitioners as mentors, including **Ryan Rilette and Danisha Crosby (Director Mentors)**, **Taylor S. Payne and Jessica Utz (Costume Design Mentors)**, **Peter Leibold VI (Lighting Design Mentor)**, **Matt Neilson (Sound Design Mentor)**, **Hailey LaRoe (Projections Design Mentor)**, **Joseph Musemeci (Properties Design Mentor)**, **Naysan Mojgani (Dramaturg Mentor)**, **Ian Anthony Coleman**

(Cast Mentor), Che Wernsman and Margaret Warner (Stage Management Mentors), and Delaney Bray and Chris Hall (Crew Mentors). This program is entirely underwritten by donors and is free to students.

About The Roundlings

Begun in 2019, Round House Theatre's youth comedy and improv ensemble, **The Roundlings**, is a pre-professional program for the next generation of funny artists. Led by professional Wookie impersonator and part-time couch insurance salesman **Kevin Corbett** (member of DC's Reflecting Fools and former member of The Capitol Steps), The Roundlings focus on developing stand-up comedy routines, writing sketch comedy, and enhancing their skills at performing improvisation. On **Saturday, March 16**, join us for a theatrical production featuring lots of English language puns: a play on words.

Tickets for **Spring Break** and **The Roundlings** performances 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.

PLAYWRIGHT INFORMATION (Spring Break)

Joe Calarco (Playwright) is a multiple award-winning director and playwright. Off-Broadway credits include Patrick Barlow's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* (Drama Desk nomination); the world premieres of *Boy* and *In Transit* (Drama Desk nomination) at Primary Stages; *The Burnt Part Boys* and *Floyd and Clea Under the Western Sky* at Playwrights Horizons; the world premieres of *The Summer of the Swans* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall* at the Lucille Lortel; the world premiere of *The Mistress Cycle* for The New York Musical Theatre Festival; the world premiere of *Fugitive Songs*; and the first New York revival of *Bury the Dead* and *The Memory Show* for The Transport Group. He is the adaptor/director of *Shakespeare's R&J*, which ran for a year Off-Broadway and earned him a Lucille Lortel Award.

Regionally, Joe has won Best Director Barrymore Awards for both *Ordinary Days* at 11th Hour Theatre Company and *The Light in the Piazza* at Philadelphia Theatre Company. Other shows at PTC include *The Last Five Years* (Barrymore Award Best Musical), *Elegies* (Barrymore nomination), and *M. Butterfly*. At Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia, he has directed *Assassins* (Helen Hayes Award), the world premiere of *Nijinsky's Last Dance* (Helen Hayes Award), *Side Show* (Helen Hayes Award), *Urinetown* (Helen Hayes Award), *Gypsy* (Helen Hayes nomination), *God of Carnage*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Flick*, and *John*, among others and the world premieres of *Nest*, *The Gulf*, *The Boy Detective Fails*, and *Cake Off*, as well as the world premieres of his own plays *Walter Cronkite is Dead* and *In the Absence of Spring*, which premiered in New York as the inaugural production of Second Stage's New Plays Uptown series under his own direction. Other regional work includes the world premiere of *Lincolnesque* as well as *The Glass Menagerie* at the Old Globe; the world premieres of the musicals *The Burnt Part Boys*, *The Memory Show*, and *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* (also book writer), as well as *Kiss Me Kate*, *Breaking the Code*, *Romance in Hard Times*, *Ragtime*, *A Doll's House Part 2*, *Into The Woods*, *Sister Sorry* (world premiere), *Waiting For Godot* (Berkshire Critics Association Award), and *A New Brain* at Barrington Stage Company where he is an Associate Artist; *The Circus in Winter* and *LMNOP* at Goodspeed; the world premiere of *Short Order Stories* for Charter Theatre in Virginia; and the world premiere of *The Religion Thing* at Theater J in Washington D.C. At the O'Neill Musical Theatre Conference, he has directed *Broadcast*; *The Toymaker*; *Sarah, Plain and Tall*; *In Transit*; *Picnic at Hanging Rock*; and *The Shadow Sparrow*. He is the director of *Twice Charmed: an original twist on the Cinderella story* for Disney Creative Entertainment, and his reworking of *Ring of Fire: the music of Johnny Cash* toured the U.S for over a year.

As a writer, his published work includes *Separate Rooms* (TRW and included in the Best Stage Monologues of 2020), *A Measure of Cruelty* (TRW and included in the Best Stage Monologues of 2013 and nominated for a Carbonell Award as Best New Work), *Walter Cronkite is Dead*, *Shakespeare's R&J* (DPS), and *In The Absence of Spring* (Playscripts and included in The Best

Stage Scenes of 2004). He has written a number of plays for teens, including *Winter Break* (DPS), *Spring Break* (DPS), *17 and 18* (Playscripts), *Signature in the Schools Volumes 1&2* (Concord Theatricals), and the soon to be published *295N*, *Smile Lines*, *12 Million Footsteps*, *The Spoken Word*, and *UnResigned*, all for TRW. Other adaptations include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare Theater Company), which he has reworked once again for eight actors as *Well Met by Moonlight* and will soon be published by TRW, and *Antigone Renewed*, which had its first workshop at the National Theater in London.

He is the book writer for the musicals *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* with composer Chris Miller and lyricist Nathan Tysen, which had its West End premiere in conjunction with Mercury Musical Development and its U.S. premiere at Barrington Stage Company, for *Golden Gate* with composer/lyricist Richard Pearson Thomas (developed at Second Stage and Lincoln Center), and he was a contributing book writer of the Drama Desk Award nominated *The Audience* (The Transport Group). His current work in development includes *The Circus in Winter* with composer/lyricist Ben Clark, and *A Rhythmic Me* with collaborators Jared Grimes and Mark Meadows.

He served as Director of New Works at the Tony Award-winning Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia, as resident playwright at Expanded Arts, Inc. for two years, and as Resident Director at Barrington Stage Company. He has been a Joseph Papp artist in residence at Second Stage, sat on the Executive Board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), is one of New York Theatre Workshop's "usual suspects," is a Drama League directing fellow, and is a member of The Dramatists Guild.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Spring Break

By Joe Calarco

Directed by Soa Andriamanjara

TPC CAST LIST:

Scout Amakali as Cody/Quinn

Oli Baker as Brett
Kathryn Batitto as Jesse/AJ
Syd Riva-Clement as Pi
Allison Evans as Andie
Noah Green as Corey
Aster Kuklova as Kai
Lark Jeffers as Finn/Charlie
Isabelle Jones as Sam/Frankie
Joshua Pinchback as Ricky/Cam
Rosie Robertson as Dylan/Jules
Evvaleen Robinson as Krys/Ty

TPC CREATIVE TEAM LIST:

Director: Soa Andrianmananjara
Costume Designer: Eve Cintron
Lighting Designer: Abigail Graef
Sound Designer: Lucinda Chase
Projections Designer: Ana Ewachiw
Properties Designer: Myla Leung
Dramaturg/Assistant Director: Maya Morales
Stage Manager: Zoe Becker
Assistant Stage Managers: Georgia Parry and Stevie Lewis
Run Crew: Grayson Aasheim, Lois Proeller, and Myla Leung

THE ROUNDLINGS:

Director/Improv Leader: Kevin Corbett
Teacher: Erin Pipes

Ensemble:

Timothy Bingenheimer
Ana Lucia Ewachiw
Vincent Felix
Ellis Kashatus
April Lidz
Kamil Owoyemi
Zeke Fraser-Plant
Jack Sadow
Aedan Shiffman
Jasmine Valadez
August Vanskike

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/.

DATES AND TIMES:

Spring Break runs from March 15 to 17, 2024. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, and Sunday at 2 pm. **The Roundlings** ensemble will perform on Saturday, March 16, at 2 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
- 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.
- 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.

ABOUT ROUND HOUSE THEATRE EDUCATION

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 age 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. Round House Theatre Education inspires creativity, exercises imaginations, and promotes artistic risk-taking, while developing critical thinking, cooperation, and confidence. We believe every child is an artist and encourage them to explore all aspects of theatre—acting, movement, design, and play creation—and the unique ways to tell stories through theatre. All our students experience the joy of creating and sharing theatre.

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