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ROUND HOUSE THEATRE CONTINUES SEASON WITH
KATORI HALL'S OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING PLAY

THE MOUNTAINTOP

DIRECTED BY DELICIA TURNER SONNENBERG

October 11 – November 5 at Round House Theatre

Bethesda, Md. (September 12, 2023) – Round House Theatre continues its 2023-2024 Season with Katori Hall's Olivier Award-winning *The Mountaintop*. Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, this production is an intimate reimaging that weaves historical fact with surrealist fantasy to show us Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis's Lorraine Motel. Press Night is Monday, October 16, 2023. **Please see below for complete program details and ticket information.**

The night before his untimely death, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. returns to his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis after delivering a speech to local sanitation workers. While waiting for room service, he is visited by a mysterious and beautiful maid, Camae, with whom he begins a humorous and flirtatious conversation that progresses into a soul-searching discussion about their mutual hopes and fears. When Camae reveals her true identity, Dr. King must reflect on his legacy and the challenges facing the civil rights movement. "Audacious [and] inventive" (*Associated Press*), the Olivier Award-winning play offers an intimate and empathetic portrait of

one of history's most consequential figures.

"We're thrilled to bring this timeless play, written by the groundbreaking playwright Katori Hall, to the Round House stage," says **Artistic Director Ryan Rilette**. "We hope audiences will enjoy the eclectic mix of Martin Luther King's historical legacy and the magical execution from a stellar cast and creative team."

Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg is delighted to magnify the insightful and humorous moments throughout *The Mountaintop*. "I am looking forward to directing Katori Hall's magical imagining of Dr. King's last night on earth. With humor, insight, and flair, the play gives us a look at Dr. King wrestling with his mortality and the work he urgently wants to be continue," says **Turner Sonnenberg**. "It invites us to examine his legacy and our own willingness to continue his work of moving our country forward."

The brilliant cast includes **Ro Boddie** (*August Wilson's Radio Golf* at Round House Theatre and *Socrates* at Public Theater) and **Renea Brown** (*Nollywood Dreams* at Round House Theatre and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Folger Shakespeare Theatre).

The cast is joined by an exceptional creative team that includes Scenic Designer **Paige Hathaway**, Costume Designer **Brandee Mathies**, Lighting Designer **Sherrice Mojgani**, Sound Designer **Nick Hernandez**, Projections Designer **Zavier Taylor**, Dialect Coaches **Nathan Crocker** and **Dawn-Elin Fraser**, Magic Coordinator **Ryan Phillips**, Properties Coordinator **Luke Hartwood**, Casting Director **Sarah Cooney**, Dramaturg **Naysan Mojgani**, Intimacy Consultant **Megan Behm**, and Production Stage Manager **Dante Fields**.

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

Katori Hall (Playwright) Memphis native Katori Hall is a Pulitzer Prize- and Olivier Award-winning playwright and television creator/producer. A two-time Tony Award nominee, she won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play, *The Hot Wing King*. Her other works include *The Mountaintop*, *Our Lady of Kibeho*, *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning*, *The Blood Quilt*, *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, and *Hurt Village*, which is being developed into a feature film. She's also the executive producer and showrunner of *P-VALLEY*, the critically acclaimed and groundbreaking Starz drama based on her play *Pussy Valley*. Katori is an alumna of Columbia University, A.R.T. at Harvard University, and Juilliard. Katori has been published in *The Boston Globe*, *The Guardian*, and *The New York Times*. Katori's other awards include the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, Lark Play Development Center Playwrights of New York (PONY) Fellowship, two Lecompte du Nouy Prizes from Lincoln Center, Fellowship of Southern Writers Bryan Family Award in Drama, NYFA Fellowship, the Columbia University John Jay Award for Distinguished Professional Achievement, National Black Theatre's August Wilson Playwriting Award, and the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award. She is a proud member of the Ron Brown Scholar Program and the Coca-Cola Scholar Program.

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg (Director) has directed plays for The Old Globe Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival, Utah Shakespeare Festival, San Diego REP, and Center Rep, among many others. She is a founder and the former Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre, which she helmed for 12 acclaimed seasons, where she received the Des McAnuff New Visions Award for "Risk Taking Leadership and Body of Work" and "2015 Director of the Year" from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle. She is currently a Resident Artist at the Old Globe Theatre, and serves proudly on the Board for La Jolla Playhouse. Some honors include: Theatre Communications Group's New Generations Program, San Diego Theatre Critics Circle awards, KPBS Theatre awards, NAACP awards, a Women's International Living Legacy Award, Van Lier Fund Fellowship (Second Stage Theatre) and the New York Drama League's Directors Program.

CAST INFORMATION (ALPHABETICAL)

Ro Boddie (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) returns to Round House Theatre, where he previously appeared in August Wilson's *Radio Golf*, *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.

Renea S. Brown (Camae) is excited to return to Round House Theatre! Previous Round House credits include "Dede" in *Nollywood Dreams* and Assistant Director on *The Tempest*. DC credits include *Our Verse in Time to Come* and *A Midsummer Nights Dream* at Folger Shakespeare Theatre; *Change Agent* at Arena Stage; *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* at Shakespeare Theatre Co; *Love Actually* at the Kennedy Center; *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth* at Chesapeake Shakespeare Theatre; *Macbeth* and *Cymbeline* at Theatre Prometheus. Regional Credits include *The Wolves* at McCarter Theatre; *Othello*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Twelfth Night* at Island Shakespeare Festival (first Black woman to perform), *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A King and No King* at American Shakespeare Center. MFA: Academy of Classical Acting. Instagram/TikTok: @Therealdarklady

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

The Mountaintop

Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg
October 11 – November 5, 2023

CAST LIST (alphabetical order):

Ro Boddie: Martin Luther King, Jr.
Renea S. Brown: Camae

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:

The night before his untimely death, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. returns to his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis after delivering a speech to local sanitation workers. While waiting for room service, he is visited by a mysterious and beautiful maid, Camae, with whom he begins a humorous and flirtatious conversation that progresses into a soul-searching discussion about their mutual hopes and fears. When Camae reveals her true identity, Dr. King must reflect on his legacy and the challenges facing the civil rights movement. "Audacious [and] inventive" (*Associated Press*), the Olivier Award-winning play offers an intimate and empathetic portrait of one of history's most consequential figures.

DATES AND TIMES:

The Mountaintop runs from October 11 to November 5, 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, October 21 at 2:00 pm

Open captioned performance: Saturday, October 28 at 2:00 pm

Relaxed performance: Wednesday, November 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, October 11 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, October 14 at 2:00 pm 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 *The Mountaintop*, 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. 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

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 of *The Mountaintop* on October 31 and November 4 (matinee).**

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 42, 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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