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ROUND HOUSE THEATRE'S
PRE-PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLES PRESENT

TEEN TAKEOVER WEEKEND

FEATURING THE

TEEN PERFORMANCE COMPANY

IN THE 21ST ANNUAL SARAH METZGER MEMORIAL PLAY

GIRLHOOD BY DANI STOLLER

AND A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY

THE ROUNDLINGS COMEDY & IMPROV ENSEMBLE

February 17 – 19 in Round House Theatre

Bethesda, Md. (January 24, 2023) – Round House Theatre continues its 2022-2023 season with a weekend featuring both of its teen performing ensembles. Running February 17 – 19, the weekend will consist of three performances of the 21st 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 2023 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 and a former Directing Fellow at Clubbed Thumb, and still leans on the skills learned from the Sarah Play at Round House.

The 21st Annual Sarah Metzger Memorial Play: *Girlhood* by Dani Stoller (world premiere)

A patch of land beneath an abandoned overpass serves as a common, yet sacred, ground for a group of teenage girls as they navigate adolescence. Identity, sexuality, and their unique upbringings all play a part in how they transition from childhood to young adulthood and figure out what comes next. *Girlhood* explores the dreams, fears, humor, and heartache of coming of

age in an intimate series of vignettes, commissioned for the Round House Theatre Teen Performance Company.

Content note: Girlhood is an honest portrayal of the issues and challenges of growing up in our society, and as such includes frank discussion of sexual activity, assault, and bullying, among other topics.

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.”

The 2022-2023 TPC students are working closely with professional artists and practitioners as mentors, including **Sarah Beth Hall (Scenic Design Mentor)**, **Taylor S. Payne (Costume Design**

Mentor), Peter Leibold VI (Lighting Design Mentor), Matthew M. Nielson (Sound Design Mentor), Kelly Colburn (Projections Mentor), Pam Weiner (Props Design Mentor), Ian Anthony Coleman (Cast Mentor), Shana Laski (Dramaturg Mentor) and Che Wernsman (Stage Management Mentor). 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, February 18**, join us for a theatrical production featuring lots of English language puns: a play on words.

Tickets for ***Girlhood*** or **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 (*Girlhood*)

Dani Stoller (Playwright) is a playwright and actor originally hailing from Brooklyn, NY. Her play, *Easy Women Smoking Loose Cigarettes* premiered at the Tony-award winning Signature Theatre, her play, *Accepts with Pleasure*, was featured in Signature's inaugural SigWorks workshop series, and her latest play, *The Voices on Blackwell Island*, will premiere as part of Signature's Signature in the School Series in January 2022. Her play *The Joy That Carries You*, co-written with Awa Sal Secka, premiered at Olney Theatre Center. Her previous Signature in the Schools piece, *Just Great: an adaptation of some book by F Scott Fitzgerald*, was recently published and is available through Playscripts. As an actor, she has performed across the DMV, including roles at Arena Stage, Folger Theater, Studio Theatre, 1st Stage, Keegan Theatre, Olney

Theatre, and The Kennedy Center. Education: BFA Ithaca College; @danidanerstoller
DaniStoller.com

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Girlhood

By Dani Stoller

Directed by Eva Lee

TPC CAST LIST:

Lillian Aguirre as Tiny

Fin Davis as Liz/Gemma

Noah E. Green as Sully/Deacon

Isabella Guagenti as Lila/April

Isabelle Jones as Marlene

Sammi Jones Quartey as Hazel/Mouse

Emerson Labovich as Jane/June

Natali Lopez as Katie

Atiah Can Ozturk as Willow/Missy

Quinn Parker as Skyler/Callie

Jed Sadqi as Billy

Julia Schroeder as Hailey

Giorgia Toti as King/Miranda

TPC CREATIVE TEAM LIST:

Director: Eva Lee

Costume Designer: Alexina Costen

Lighting Designer: Frankie Grimaldi

Sound Designer/Composer: Lucinda Chase

Projections Designer: Benjamin Pallansch

Properties Designer: Grayson Aasheim

Stage Manager: Isabelle Strauss-Riggs

Assistant Stage Managers: Ana Lucia Ewachiw and Nava Klar

Dramaturg: Temitope Ibrionke

Run Crew: Alana Adelman and Iris Maas

THE ROUNDLINGS:

Director/Improv Leader: Kevin Corbett

Teacher: Erin Pipes

Ensemble:

Timothy Bingenheimer
Ana Lucia Ewachiw
Zeke Fraser-Plant
Vincent Felix
Lark Jeffers
Ellis Kashatus
Elena Kotschoubey
Charlie Landis
December (any month) Lidz
Jasper Murray
Kamil Owoyemi
Benjamin Pallansch
Jack Sadow
Aedan Shiffman
Jo Valadez
Gus Vanskike
Otto 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:

Girlhood runs from February 17 to 19, 2023. Performances are Friday through Saturday at 8 pm, and Sunday at 2 pm. **The Roundlings** ensemble will perform on Saturday, February 18, 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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