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PRESS CONTACT:

Alexandria Moreland, 848.482.0462

amoreland@roundhousetheatre.org

ROUND HOUSE THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST & CREATIVE TEAM
FOR UPCOMING WORLD PREMIERE OF INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN'S

A JUMPING-OFF POINT

April 10 – May 5 at Round House Theatre

As part of the annual **National Capital New Play Festival**

Also featuring

DEVELOPMENTAL READINGS OF WORKS BY
**DENMO IBRAHIM, AGYEIWAA ASANTE,
DANI STOLLER, NATE DENDY & AARON POSNER**

Bethesda, Md. (March 5, 2024) – Round House Theatre announces cast and creative teams for Inda Craig-Galván's world premiere play, *A Jumping-Off Point* (directed by Jade King Carroll), presented as part of the third annual National Capital New Play Festival. The festival will also include presentations of developmental readings of works by **Denmo Ibrahim, Agyeiwaa Asante, Dani Stoller, and Nate Dendy & Aaron Posner.**

"The first two years of NCPNF have been received so warmly by our local patrons, as well as by industry peers and press. It's been gratifying to help audiences in the DMV discover the joy and excitement of new plays, says **Festival Producer and Associate Artistic Director Naysan Mojgani.** "This year's Festival features a great mix of familiar artists with local roots and playwrights we're excited to introduce to Round House's community, including our headlining

playwright Inda Craig-Galván, who is also working on an Equal Play Commission for us. These plays represent the best of our current moment, as writers and audiences rediscover the unique excitement of what live performance has to offer here and now.”

Press night for ***A Jumping-Off Point*** is Monday, April 15, 2024. **Please see below for complete program details and ticket information.** (For additional festival information, including details on the developmental readings that join these world premieres on the schedule, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/Festival.)

A Jumping-Off Point

Leslie Wallace is a promising Black writer who has just landed her first deal with HBO. Her celebration is cut short when she gets a surprise visit from Andrew, a white man from her grad school cohort, who accuses her of plagiarizing his script. Their confrontation—and eventual uneasy alliance—forces a reckoning on representation, privilege, and who gets to tell what kinds of stories. Full of humor and complex characters, *A Jumping-Off Point* is a sharp and electric new play from rising star playwright and screenwriter Inda Craig-Galván. (*Part of the National Capital New Play Festival*)

The dynamic cast includes **Danny Gavigan** (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* and *NSFW* at Round House Theatre), **Cristina Pitter** (*it's not a trip it's a journey* at Round House Theatre and *Behind the Sheet* at Ensemble Studio Theatre), and **Nikkole Salter** (*The Great Society* on Broadway and *Confederates* at Mosaic Theater Company). Understudies for this production include Nicole Ruthmarie Watkins and Jacob Thompson.

The cast is joined by a brilliant creative team that includes Scenic Designer **Megan Raham**, Costume Designer **Moyenda Kulemeka**, Lighting Designer **Amith Chandrashaker**, Sound Designer **Michael Keck**, Properties Coordinator **Andrea “Dre” Moore**, Casting Director **Sarah Cooney**, Dramaturg **Naysan Mojjani**, and Production Stage Manager **Che Wernsman**.

Developmental Readings:

Playwrights whose work will receive developmental readings during the festival include **Denmo Ibrahim** (*Brilliant Mind, BABA, Ecstasy / A Waterfable*; forthcoming Audible series), **Agyeiwaa Asante** (*Dainty, The Chosen One Academy* [2025 TPC Commission]), **Dani Stoller** (*Girlhood* [2023 TPC Commission], *Easy Women Smoking Loose Cigarettes, The Joy That Carries You*), and **Nate Dendy** (Ariel and Magic Consultant for *The Tempest*) & **Aaron Posner** (Co-Director for *The Tempest; Stupid Fucking Bird, No Sisters*).

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE & PLAY INFORMATION

APR 10 – MAY 5, 2024 | World Premiere on the Main Stage

A Jumping-Off Point

By Inda Craig-Galván

Directed by Jade King Carroll

Leslie Wallace is a promising Black writer who has just landed her first deal with HBO. Her celebration is cut short when she gets a surprise visit from Andrew, a white man from her grad school cohort, who accuses her of plagiarizing his script. Their confrontation—and eventual uneasy alliance—forces a reckoning on representation, privilege, and who gets to tell what kinds of stories. Full of humor and complex characters, *A Jumping-Off Point* is a sharp and electric new play from rising star playwright and screenwriter Inda Craig-Galván.

ARTIST INFORMATION (*A Jumping Off Point*)

Inda Craig-Galván (Playwright) is a Los Angeles-based playwright and television writer, born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. Her work explores conflicts and politics within the African-American community, grounded in reality, and with a touch of magical realism.

Upcoming: *Welcome to Matteson!* (Orlando Shakes, Fall 2024). Other plays: *The Great Jheri Curl Debate* (East West Players), *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* (Geffen Playhouse), *a hit dog will holler* (Playwrights' Arena/Skylight Theatre), *I Go Somewhere Else* (Playwrights' Arena). Awards:

Kesselring Prize, Jeffry Melnick New Play Award, Blue Ink Prize, Jane Chambers Award, Kennedy Center's Rosa Parks Award for plays focused on social justice and/or civil rights. Commissions: The Old Globe, Round House Theatre, CTG Writers' Workshop. TV: Co-Executive Producer of ABC's *Will Trent*. Previous: *Happy Face*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, and *The Rookie*. Inda is an Adjunct Professor at University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts, where she received her MFA in Dramatic Writing.

Jade King Carroll (Director) Previous credits include *Seven Deadly Sins - Wrath* (Miami New Drama – Drama League Award); *Proof of Love* at New York Theatre Workshop/Audible at Minetta Lane; *Stew* at Ebony Repertory Theater; *New Age* at Milwaukee Rep; *Red Velvet* at Shakespeare Theatre Company; *Detroit '67* at McCarter Theatre (co-production with Hartford Stage); *Intimate Apparel* and *The Piano Lesson* at McCarter Theatre; *The Piano Lesson* at Hartford Stage; *Having Our Say* at Hartford Stage (co-production with Long Wharf Theatre); *Autumn's Harvest* at Lincoln Center Institute; *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* at Syracuse Stage; *Trouble in Mind* at Two River Theater & Playmaker's Rep; *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Whipping Man*, *Native Gardens*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Bad Dates*, *Perseverance*, and *How I Learned What I Learned* at Portland Stage; *The Revolutionists* and *Sunset Baby* at City Theatre; *A Raisin in the Sun* at Perseverance; *Pride & Prejudice* and *The Tempest* at Chautauqua Theater Company; *Seven Guitars* and *The Persians* at People's Light Theatre; *Still Life* at Ancram Opera House; *King Hedley II* at Portland Playhouse; *Fat Ham* at Playmakers Rep; *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Cardboard Piano* at Juilliard; *Laughing Wild*, *Redeemed*, and *Skeleton Crew* at Dorset Theatre Festival; *New Golden Age* at Primary Stages (Susan Smith Blackburn nominated); *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money* at Atlantic Theater (NYT Family Pick). Audio Plays include *Marvel's Wastelanders: Doom* (Marvel, Ambies Nomination for Best Production); *Proof of Love* (Audible); *Redeemed* (Broadway Podcast Network/Dorset Theatre Festival); *The Bleeding Class* (Geva Theater); and *Isolated Incidents* (Broadway Podcast Network). Other credits include Associate Director for Broadway's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, with Blair Underwood and Nicole Ari-Parker; and *The Gin Game* with Cicely Tyson and James Earl Jones. She received the Paul Green Award from the Estate of August Wilson. Upcoming credits include the world premiere

of *The Light and the Dark* (the life and times of Artemisia Gentileschi) at Chautauqua Theater Company. She is the Producing Artistic Director for Chautauqua Theater Company.

CAST INFORMATION (ALPHABETICAL)

Danny Gavigan (Andrew) is grateful to be back at Round House Theatre, where previous credits include *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *NSFW*, *How to Write a New Book for the Bible*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *Double Indemnity*, and *Pride and Prejudice*. DC credits include *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Helen Hayes Award for Best Ensemble) and *Death of a Salesman* at Ford's Theatre; *One Jewish Boy* and *The Admission* at Theatre J; *Describe the Night* and *Detroit* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; and *Really Really* at Signature Theatre. Off-Broadway appearances include *Lucky Star* at 59E59. Regional credits include *Peer Gynt* at La Jolla Playhouse and Kansas City Rep; *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Palm Beach Dramaworks; and *The Rivals* and *Snow Falling on Cedars* at Baltimore Center Stage. Film and television credits include *FBI*, *Unarmed Man* (TIVA DC Award for Best Actor), and *Last Night* (RIFE Award). Danny is a company member at Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, where he has performed in over 20 productions and produced the true crime paranormal podcast *Everyman Theatre's Resident Ghost Company*.

Cristina Pitter (Miriam) is a queer multi-spirit afro-indigenous artist, abolitionist, and alchemist who wants to burn it all down and plant new seeds in the fertile soil. They also have the best laugh ever. Seriously. You may have seen their work at Round House Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Metropolitan Opera, JACK, The Bushwick Starr, Target Margin Theatre, Abrons Art Center, Mabou Mines, 59E59, Ars Nova, New Ohio Theatre, Joe's Pub, The Tank, or Netflix's *Bonding*. Follow their antics at cristinapitter.com. (They/She/Anything said with respect)

Nikkole Salter (Leslie) is thrilled to be making her Round House Theatre debut in *A Jumping Off Point*. DC credits include *Confederates* at Mosaic Theater Company; *Stick Fly* at Arena Stage; *Macbeth* at Shakespeare Theatre Company; and *In the Continuum* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. Regional credits include *The Christians* at Baltimore Center Stage; *The Royale* at

Cleveland Playhouse; *Mud Row* at People's Light Theatre; *Our Daughters Like Pillars* and *Luck of the Irish* at the Huntington Theatre; *Gee's Bend* at Kansas City Rep and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; *Head of Passes* at Berkeley Rep; and *The Old Settler* at Luna Stage. Off-Broadway credits include *Stew* at Page 73; *In the Continuum* at Primary Stages/Perry Street Theatre; *Gloria: A Life* at DR2; and *Inked Baby* at Playwright's Horizons. Broadway credits include *The Great Society* at the Lincoln Center. Film and television credits include *Pride and Glory*, *The Architect*, *Love and Communication*, *Last Night*, *The Unit*, and *Godfather of Harlem*.

DEVELOPMENTAL PLAY READINGS

April 18 at 8pm & April 20 at 2:30 pm | Developmental Reading

Arab Spring

By Denmo Ibrahim

Directed by Lila Rachel Becker

In this dark comedy, two grown siblings must make their peace with each other and with their recently deceased estranged father as they prepare for his funeral.

April 19 at 8pm & April 21 at 2:30 pm | Developmental Reading

Agape, or The Church Play

By Agyeiwaa Asante

Directed by April Monu

Set in Maryland, this play follows a group of young women in an international church as they navigate the overlapping pressures of friendship, faith, and adulthood.

April 25 at 8pm & April 27 at 2:30pm | Developmental Reading

The Prime

By Dani Stoller

Directed by Ryan Rilette

A biting and bloody story of women’s rage—and redemption—as a surgeon hits the glass ceiling and must decide what to do about it.

April 26 at 8pm & April 28 at 2:30pm | Developmental Reading

The Sorcerer’s Apprentice

By Nate Dendy & Aaron Posner

Performed by Nate Dendy

Magic by Nate Dendy

Directed by Aaron Posner

Nate Dendy and Aaron Posner reunite after their smash collaboration with Round House’s 2023 production of *The Tempest* for *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*. In this one man show, Nate Dendy explores his own history with magic and our collective fascination with the art—with more than a few jaw-dropping tricks along the way.

MAIN STAGE PRODUCTION INFORMATION

A Jumping-Off Point

By Inda Craig-Galván

Directed by Jade King Carroll

CAST LIST:

Danny Gavigan as Andrew

Cristina Pitter as Miriam

Nikkole Salter as Leslie*

* - *Round House Theatre debut*

PERFORMANCE DATES AND TIMES:

A Jumping Off Point runs from April 10 to May 5, 2024. Visit RoundHouseTheatre.org for full performance schedule.

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/.

FESTIVAL TICKETS & PACKAGES:

Full festival information, including the event schedule and additional programming, may be found at RoundHouseTheatre.org/Festival. Tickets for the world premiere production of *A Jumping Off Point* are on sale now and can be purchased by calling 240.644.1100, ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org, or visiting the box office. Tickets for the developmental play readings are free and will open for general reservations on March 18, 2024.

- **Industry Weekends (APRIL 20-21 and 27-28):** Our professional colleagues from around the country are invited to join us for Industry Weekends in celebration of these exciting new plays. Each weekend has been planned to allow guests to attend the main stage world premiere, as well as two readings, while leaving plenty of time to catch up with other guests and artists. Contact literary@roundhousetheatre.org for more information.

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:** 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. PWYC dates for *A Jumping Off Point*: Wednesday, April 10 at 7:30pm and Saturday, April 13 at 2pm.
- **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 *A Jumping Off Point*, 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 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 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 of *A Jumping Off Point* for audience members who may prefer a fully masked environment.

- Masks are required for performances on April 30 and May 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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