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TRINITY REP ANNOUNCES 2018-19 SEASON EPIC RE-IMAGININGS OF FAMILIAR STORIES

PROVIDENCE, RI: Tony Award-winning **Trinity Repertory Company**, under the artistic leadership of Arthur P. Solomon and Sally E. Lapidés Artistic Director Curt Columbus, announced the company's 55th season today. The **2018-19 Season**, which includes a six-play subscription series plus a limited-run special engagement and the 41st annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, is one of the largest the company has ever produced and one of the most diverse. The season will run from October 4, 2018 through June 16, 2019. Casting announcements for the season will begin later this spring.

Though the shows in the season vary both in style and when they were written, they all take stories and characters familiar to audiences and re-examine them in new and exciting ways. The storytelling in next season promises to be highly theatrical and larger than life. This season also represents another step in the company's ongoing commitment to increasing opportunities for women and people of color to be a part of the storytelling process. The 2018-19 Season features the work of at least 11 women and people of color as playwrights and directors, a number that is expected to grow as more directors and designers are contracted for shows.

Columbus selected the season with an eye toward the current mood of the public and a look into the future in an attempt to predict how these stories will resonate with audiences a year from now. He commented, "In difficult times, we always return to the great stories that people tell to each other, stories that offer hope, that speak to what is truly brilliant within us, as humans, stories that acknowledge the eternal spark of our species. That's why we've chosen these plays for this season, because they speak to the indomitable spirit of humankind in surprising, new, and unexpected ways."

The season begins with a new adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* by Kate Hamill. This playful and comedic adaptation of Austen's much-beloved novel runs October 4 – November 4, 2018. The play premiered in 2017 and has quickly become one of the most popular new plays for regional

theaters around the country. The adaptation remains true to Austen's story while infusing a new sense of hilarity and effervescence.

Trinity Rep will then continue its four-decade long tradition of producing Charles Dickens' ***A Christmas Carol***. Helmed by director Mark Valdez, this year's production will begin performances November 8 and run through December 30, 2018. As is the company's custom, the entire production will be completely new from casting to design and theatrical magic. This past season's production became the highest selling show in Trinity Rep history. Tickets for this popular production are currently available only to subscribers and will become available to the general public on July 25.

Following the start of the new year, the company will introduce audiences to Marcus Gardley's ***black odyssey***, in its East Coast premiere from January 3 – February 3, 2019. The play is an epic and glorious reimagining of Homer's classic poem that combines Greek mythology and African-American history of the last fifty years.

Gardley's play will be immediately followed by a limited-run special event that provides audiences a unique opportunity to experience both of Homer's famous works in stunningly contemporary and relatable productions. ***An Iliad*** by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare, a tour de force one-person show, take audiences through familiar tales of gods and goddesses, and wars and battles. The production will run for one week only, February 6 through February 10, 2019, and is available only to subscribers until October 1.

Audiences will then be treated to a masterful production of ***Macbeth***, directed by Curt Columbus, who has long had this play on his short list of plays to direct and produce. Shakespeare's legendary tragedy is a stunning examination of power, ambition, murder, and madness. This production will run January 31 through March 3, 2019.

The company will then pivot to an exciting world premiere by Lauren Yee, which runs March 14 – April 14, 2019. Like the recent hit *Into the Breeches!*, Yee's new play ***The Song of Summer*** was commissioned by Trinity Rep and written for the company's resident actors. Yee was the winner of the National Arts Club's 2017 Kesselring Prize and was awarded the 2018-19 Hodder Fellow at Princeton University's Lewis Center for the Arts. In addition, she was a finalist for the 2018 Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama and the 2018 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Her play introduces us to a pop icon who

abandons his concert tour to return to his hometown where he will make discoveries that change his career and life.

The season continues with the popular and award-winning musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, which runs April 11 through May 12, 2019. The musical was written by the famous duo of Howard Ashman (book and lyrics) and Alan Menken (music) and served as the basis for the 1986 film adaptation. In the sci-fi inspired cult favorite, a strange and unusual plant seems like just the thing to save a struggling Skid Row flower shop, but things get complicated and messy when the plant turns out to feed only on blood.

The season will close with José Rivera's *Marisol*, which runs May 16 – June 16, 2019 in the Dowling Theater. The Obie Award-winning play was first produced in 1992. Its themes remain relevant to contemporary audiences trying to make sense of a world they don't recognize. The fantastical and surreal story centers on Marisol Perez's attempt to find hope among the ruins when she wakes up one day to find her reality displaced by the effect of a war between God and the angels.

Subscription packages for the 2018-19 Season are now available, including the popular 6-Play full season package for the best seats and prices, as well as an opening night package and Flex Pass of up to 10 ticket vouchers that can be mixed and matched throughout the season to create a custom experience. Subscribers may add on tickets at a discount to both *A Christmas Carol* and *An Iliad* before either becomes available to the general public. Subscriber benefits include free ticket exchanges, parking and dining discounts, and invitations to special backstage events. **Packages begin at just \$114 for six plays.** The Trinity Rep box office is located at 201 Washington Street, Providence, RI, and can be reached by calling (401) 351-4242.

Trinity Rep's 2018-19 Season is sponsored by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Southwest Airlines is the official airline of Trinity Rep.

TRINITY REPERTORY COMPANY

Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater, Trinity Rep has created unparalleled professional theater for and with its community since its founding in 1963. Trinity Rep strives to facilitate human connection and has been a driving force behind the creativity that fuels and defines the region for more than 50 years.



Trinity Rep is committed to reinventing the public square and inspiring dialogue by creating emotionally-stimulating live productions that range from classical to contemporary and innovative education programs for all ages and abilities. Its annual production of *A Christmas Carol* has brought families together for 40 years and made memories for over a million audience members.

Pride & Prejudice

By Kate Hamill

Based on the novel by Jane Austen

October 4 – November 4, 2018

The treasured and iconic “will they or won’t they” romance between Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy is infused with fresh vitality and hilarity in this effervescent new comedic adaptation. Mrs. Bennett is determined to find suitable husbands for her daughters, but can’t quite get fiercely independent Elizabeth on board – at least not when it comes to the impossibly arrogant Mr. Darcy. At once both warmly familiar and surprisingly funny, the Bennett family’s shenanigans have never felt so modern.

black odyssey

By Marcus Gardley

Based on Homer’s *Odyssey*

January 3 – February 3, 2019

After Ulysses Lincoln is lost at sea and presumed dead, the Gulf War veteran struggles to find his way back home to his wife and son while unknowingly being controlled by a host of gods – both scheming and benevolent. Along the way, he must confront his ancestral past so that he can embrace his unsettled present. His journey is an epic, breathtaking, and gloriously theatrical reimagining of Homer’s classic that brilliantly combines Greek mythology and African-American history of the last fifty years.

An Iliad – Limited Engagement

By Lisa Peterson and Denis O’Hare

Based on Homer’s *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles

February 6 – 10, 2019

The journey with the great poet Homer continues with this special theatrical event. A captivating lone storyteller recounts the familiar tales of gods and goddesses, wars and battles, and humanity’s unshakeable attraction to violence, destruction, and chaos over the millennia. This limited-run special engagement is sure to sell out and until October 1 will be exclusively available to season subscribers.

Macbeth

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Curt Columbus

January 31 – March 3, 2019

This Shakespearean thriller bursts at breakneck speed with more suspense, murder, and madness than any blockbuster film. Tempted by the eerie visions of three mysterious witches and pushed by his ruthless wife, Macbeth is determined to grab what he wants – the throne of Scotland. Unchecked greed and ambition fuel his bloody rise to power, but his ego ultimately brings about his brutal end, while Lady Macbeth’s guilt and paranoia lead to one of theater’s most riveting descents into madness.

The Song of Summer

By Lauren Yee

Directed by Taibi Magar

March 14 – April 14, 2019

That song on every radio and wedding DJ's playlist – that catchy earworm that's inescapable for an entire summer – the "song of summer" ...there's more to it than everyone knows. There's more to know about its singer, too – like why he snuck away from a concert and traveled hundreds of miles to visit the home of his childhood piano teacher. What – and who – he finds there could change his career and his life. A touching story about how revisiting the past can change our future.

Little Shop of Horrors

Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Music by Alan Menken

Directed by Tyler Dobrowsky

April 11 – May 12, 2019

A perennially-popular, award-winning musical, *Little Shop of Horrors* blends doo-wop, rock and Motown into a charming and totally-twisted must-see Trinity Rep event. A strange and unusual plant seems like just the thing to save a beleaguered Skid Row flower shop and its hapless employees, Seymour and Audrey. But when that plant turns out to feed only on blood and is inclined toward world-domination, well...things get a little messy. This deviously-delicious musical will be fun for the whole family.

Marisol

By José Rivera

May 16 – June 16, 2019

Marisol goes to bed in her New York City apartment, but awakens after a visit from her guardian angel to a surreal and crumbling new reality. The Bronx has become a battlefield as leather-clad angels take up arms against an old and dying God in a war to save the universe. The moon has disappeared, food has turned to salt, and chaos follows Marisol at every turn as she attempts to find hope among the ruins in this primal, poetic, fantastical, and often humorous contemporary classic.

Non-subscription Holiday Programming

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

Original music by Richard Cumming

Directed by Mark Valdez

November 8 – December 30, 2018

Rhode Island's family holiday classic returns to tell the joyful story of Ebenezer Scrooge's journey from solitude to redemption. Inspired by Tiny Tim and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, Scrooge learns lessons that continue to remind us all about the true spirit of the holiday season. Trinity Rep's magical, music-filled production continues its four-decade long tradition of delighting audiences from throughout Southern New England.

Plays, dates, prices, and artists subject to change.