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DALLAS THEATER CENTER Announces 2011-2012 Season

DALLAS (March 4, 2011) – Dallas Theater Center Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty announced today the theater's 2011-2012 season for the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre at the AT&T Performing Arts Center and the historic Kalita Humphreys Theater. DTC's 53rd season will include four regional premieres, three comedies, two classic novels brought to life on stage, a Shakespearean romance and a Texas-sized musical that will be the biggest in Dallas Theater Center's 53-year history.

"From heartwarming classics to brand new stories, this is going to be a season everyone is talking about," says Moriarty. "Our goal is to invite everyone in the community to come in and join the conversation. We are deeply committed to being a theater for all of Dallas. With this season, we're going to increase our accessibility for everyone by rethinking the traditional experience of live theater, taking advantage of the unique performance spaces of our venues and expanding our community involvement and education initiatives."

The 2011-2012 season is comprised of a fall Classics Season (*Giant*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Tempest*) and a spring Contemporary Season (*God of Carnage*, *Next Fall*, *Tigers be Still*).

"We're not only producing great plays, we're doing so in the most surprising and meaningful ways we can imagine," says Moriarty. "From the breathtaking flexibility of the Wyly Theatre, which we'll reconfigure for each production, to the intimate Studio Theatre, where every seat is just a few rows away from the action, to the historic and warm Kalita Humphreys Theater, at DTC audiences are close to the action and feel the play vividly. We can't always promise exactly where your seat will be – since it will change from show to show – but we can promise that you'll feel inside the play and be swept away by its immediacy."

The productions will be presented as follows: In the Potter Rose Performance Hall at the Wyly Theatre – ***The Tempest*** (Sept. 9 – Oct. 9); ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** (Oct. 21 – Nov. 20, a co-production with Fort Worth's Casa Mañana Theatre); ***Giant*** (Jan. 18 – Feb 19, a co-production with New York's Public Theater). In the Studio Theater in the Wyly Theatre – ***Tigers be Still*** (March 2 – April 15). In the Kalita Humphreys Theater – ***God of Carnage*** (April 26 – May 20); ***Next Fall*** (April 26 – May 20). DTC will also produce Dallas' favorite holiday tradition – ***A Christmas Carol*** (Nov. 25 – Dec. 24) in the Kalita Humphreys Theater.

In the 2011-2012 season, DTC will partner for the first time with Casa Manana Theatre in Fort Worth to co-produce ***To Kill a Mockingbird***, which will be presented in both Fort Worth and Dallas. Additionally, the theater will host a community-wide read of the novel and produce community involvement activities throughout the Dallas Arts District's month-long Art in October celebration. "At Dallas Theater Center, we believe we are stronger when we come together as a community," says Moriarty.

After the success of *The Good Negro* in 2008, DTC and the Public Theater in New York are again joining forces, this time to co-produce a new musical based on Edna Ferber's classic novel, ***Giant***. Written by Tony Award nominated writers, Michael John LaChiusa (music and lyrics) and Sybille Pearson (book), ***Giant*** will be directed by three time Tony Award nominated director Michael Greif (*Rent*, *Grey Gardens*, *Next to Normal*). The epic production will be the largest in DTC's history.

Rounding out the Classics Season, **The Tempest** will mark the third time for Moriarty to direct a Shakespearean play in three seasons, following *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2009) and *Henry IV* (2010). According to Moriarty, "DTC returns to Shakespeare again because of the size and scope of his vision as a writer, the theatricality of his plays and as a celebration of the unique flexibility of the Wylie Theatre and the collaboration of DTC's Brierley Resident Acting Company with outstanding national artists and students from our partnerships with SMU's Meadows School of the Arts and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts."

The Contemporary Season will introduce Dallas audiences to three regional premieres, each having recently appeared to critical acclaim in New York. "All three of these plays are comedies, but each is quite different from each other," says Moriarty. "From the Tony-Award winning, laugh-out-loud wildly energetic humor of **God of Carnage**, to the quirky characters and witty insights of **Tigers be Still**, to the deeply moving Broadway play, **Next Fall**, each of these plays will surprise and delight our audiences and inspire lots of interesting conversation."

To increase access to theater for the widest possible audiences, DTC will offer full subscription packages for as little as \$90. "We're lowering the price of our most affordable subscription for the 2011-2012 season," says Moriarty. Additionally, DTC will continue to expand its popular Pay-What-You-Can program. Patrons will be able to purchase tickets online effective immediately – for as little as \$0.01 – anytime during the week leading up to the first public performance of every Dallas Theater Center production in addition to purchasing them at the box office the day of the performance.

During the 2011-2012 season, DTC will continue the popular Stay Late series. After each performance, cast members return to the stage to participate in a brief, post-show discussion with patrons, focusing on the play, the production and its themes. In addition, for the 25th year, Dallas Theater Center will partner with area schools for the Project Discovery program, which provides free tickets and bus transportation to students at area high schools.

ABOUT DALLAS THEATER CENTER:

One of the leading regional theaters in the country, Dallas Theater Center (DTC) performs to an audience of more than 90,000 North Texas residents annually. Founded in 1959, DTC is now a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and presents its Mainstage season at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre, designed by REX/OMA, Joshua Prince-Ramus and Rem Koolhaas. DTC also presents productions at its original home, the Kalita Humphreys Theater, the only freestanding theater designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. The mission of DTC is to engage, entertain and inspire our diverse community by creating experiences that stimulate new ways of thinking and living. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty, DTC produces a six-play subscription of classics, musicals and new plays and an annual production of "A Christmas Carol;" extensive education programs including Project Discovery, Summer Stage and partnerships with Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts; and community outreach efforts including leading the DFW Foote Festival and collaborations with the Dallas Holocaust Museum, North Texas Food bank and Dallas Black Dance Theater. Throughout its history, DTC has produced many new works, including "The Texas Trilogy" by Preston Jones in 1978, Adrian Hall's "All the King's Men" in 1986 and recent premieres of "The Trinity River Plays" by Regina Taylor, the revised "It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman" by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, Charles Strouse and Lee Adams, "Give it Up!" by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Finn, "Sarah Plain and Tall" by Julia Jordan, Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin and "The Good Negro" by Tracey Scott Wilson.

DTC gratefully acknowledges the support of our season sponsors: American Airlines, The Dallas Morning News, Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, Lexus, National Endowment for the Arts, TACA, TCA, Texas Instruments and WFAA.

2011-2012 Season Lineup*

*Production information subject to change

THE TEMPEST

Sept. 9 – Oct. 9

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Kevin Moriarty
Potter Rose Performance Hall, Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

There could scarcely be a more provocative start to the season - or a more vivid way to experience Shakespeare's beloved final play. Unique staging that transports you deeply into spectacle, music and dance. Immortal themes such as the power of forgiveness and the bond between parent and child. And a cast that includes our Brierley Resident Acting Company and actors from SMU's MFA program. Talk about a conversation starter!

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Oct. 21 – Nov. 20

Adapted for the stage by Christopher Sergel
Based on the novel by Harper Lee
Directed by Wendy Dann
A co-production with Casa Mañana Theatre
Potter Rose Performance Hall, Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

Scout. Atticus. Jem. Boo Radley. Jim Robinson. Their story has changed countless lives. See it through fresh eyes yourself. And bring it to life for a new generation with your children and grandchildren. Presented in partnership with Casa Mañana and staged in the Wyly Theatre, this production is the centerpiece of a region-wide community collaboration to introduce North Texas children to the story and its themes of courage, tolerance and justice.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Nov. 25 – Dec. 24

By Charles Dickens
Adapted by Richard Hellesen
Music by David de Berry
Directed by Joel Ferrell
Choreographed by Joel Ferrell
Kalita Humphreys Theater

From tiny tots to young-at-heart seniors, for a lot of North Texans it just wouldn't be the holidays without DTC's festive production of the Dickens classic. It's a lot like Christmas itself. Magical and moving and colorful and filled with laughter and song (including favorite carols and newer originals).

GIANT**Jan. 18 – Feb. 19**

Music and Lyrics by Michael John LaChuisa
Book by Sybille Pearson
Based on the novel by Edna Ferber
Directed by Michael Greif
A co-production with the Public Theater
Potter Rose Performance Hall, Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

Sprawling story, larger-than-life characters, Texas-size musical numbers — Giant not only lives up to its name, it goes down in history as Dallas Theater Center's biggest production ever. Co-produced with the Public Theater and directed by three-time Tony nominee Michael Greif (*Rent*, *Angels in America*), this classic tale of ambition, love and West Texas crude comes to the stage with song after memorable song by Michael John LaChiusa.

TIGERS BE STILL**March 2 – April 15**

by Kim Rosenstock
Directed by Hal Brooks
Studio Theatre, Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

Say hello to Kim Rosenstock, one of America's most engaging young playwrights. Her quirky-charming-funny *Tigers Be Still* puts the fun in dysfunction with endearingly neurotic characters, pop-culture high jinks (*Top Gun*, anyone?) and, yes, escaped carnivorous cats. You'll be delighted you're acquainted with the work of the talented Ms. Rosenstock. DTC has commissioned this formidable rising star to write a new play for a future season. So no you know. Get your tickets while you can.

GOD OF CARNAGE**April 17 – May 20**

By Yasmina Reza
Directed by Joel Ferrell
Kalita Humphreys Theater

Two 11-year old boys have had a run-in on the playground and some very bad behavior ensues... by their parents. When four supposedly civilized adult and definitely pretentious upper-middle class individuals gather to discuss their sons' little dust-up, they raise smugness, pettiness and meanness to heady new heights of hilarity. You'll have endless fun repeating their deliciously snarky remarks. In jest, of course. Always in jest.

NEXT FALL**April 26 – May 20**

By Geoffrey Nauffts
Directed by Kevin Moriarty
Kalita Humphreys Theater

On the surface it's a quick-witted ensemble comedy. But *Next Fall* never stays "surface." Nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play in 2010, it's the story of Luke and Adam, a most unlikely couple. Luke's a hard-core Christian; Adam's a hard-core atheist. When circumstances bring Luke's Southern parents into the picture, *Next Fall* shines as what the New York Times calls "an intellectual stealth bomb," asking a big question: How do you profoundly love someone you profoundly disagree with?

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