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**ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE ANNOUNCES LINEUP
FOR 39th HUMANA FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN PLAYS**

March 4 – April 12, 2015

FEATURING WORLD PREMIERES BY

Jeff Augustin

Erin Courtney

Colman Domingo

Diana Grisanti

Cory Hinkle

Charles Mee

Gregory S Moss and Pig Iron Theatre Company

Jen Silverman

Charise Castro Smith

Louisville, KY – Actors Theatre of Louisville Artistic Director Les Waters and Managing Director Jennifer Bielstein are proud to announce the lineup for the 39th Humana Festival of New American Plays. A highlight of the cultural calendar for theatergoers, playwrights and industry professionals across the country, the Humana Festival runs **March 4 through April 12, 2015**.

This year's festival program will feature six world premieres, including (in order of opening):

- ***The Roommate*** by Jen Silverman
- ***Dot*** by Colman Domingo
- ***I Will Be Gone*** by Erin Courtney
- ***The Glory of the World*** by Charles Mee

- ***That High Lonesome Sound*** by Jeff Augustin, Diana Grisanti, Cory Hinkle, and Charise Castro Smith
- ***I Promised Myself to Live Faster*** directed by Dan Rothenberg, text by Gregory S Moss and Pig Iron Theatre Company, conceived and created by Pig Iron Theatre Company

In addition, a bill of **three ten-minute plays** will also premiere as part of the scheduled lineup. Ten-minute plays and playwrights will be announced in January. For more information on individual plays, see below.

Actors Theatre has the incredible privilege—and unique challenge—of bringing together the combined talents of playwrights, actors, directors, designers and technicians to shape a festival that currently boasts 98 performances within a five-week period. The Humana Festival has a proud legacy of launching a dynamic catalogue of works into the American theatre repertoire each year. In its almost 40-year history, Actors Theatre has premiered nearly 450 plays during the Festival, showcasing the work of more than 370 playwrights.

“We are delighted to be celebrating the 39th Humana Festival with an exciting and aesthetically diverse range of new work,” **said Les Waters, Actors Theatre’s artistic director.** “New work is in Actors Theatre’s DNA, and we champion writers by providing the resources, space and support necessary for them to fully realize their visions. Our unwavering commitment to full production as the most vital component of new play development continues to attract writers to the Festival. The result is, and always has been, a richly varied program of performances, showcasing some of the most innovative voices in American playwriting.”

“With the generous support of the Humana Foundation, Actors Theatre is proud to bolster the economic and social prosperity of our city through its commitment to the creation of groundbreaking theatre,” **said Jennifer Bielstein, Actors Theatre’s managing director.** “We continue to draw local, national and international attention and attract arts professionals and theatre enthusiasts from across the country. While they come for the main theatrical attraction, the Humana Festival, they are simultaneously introduced to the city’s unmatched hospitality and thriving culinary scene. In 2014, we welcomed nearly 36,000 attendees representing 43 states and 4 countries.”

The plays will premiere in rotating repertory in three theatres located in Actors Theatre's downtown Louisville complex—the 633-seat Pamela Brown Auditorium, 318-seat Bingham Theatre and 159-seat Victor Jory Theatre. The 2015 Humana Festival schedule also features two special Industry Weekends—which include networking opportunities, discussions, and parties—and a weekend of enrichment events for college students, making Louisville the place to be in American theatre this spring.

Weekend packages and single tickets for the 2015 Humana Festival of New American Plays are on sale to the public on Wednesday, November 12. Actors Theatre's Season Ticket Holders can purchase tickets single tickets during a special pre-sale on Tuesday, November 11. For more information, please visit **HumanaFestival.org** or call **502.584.1205**. For Festival Package reservations, please call 502.561.3344.

Actors Theatre celebrates the 39th Humana Festival with underwriter the Humana Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Humana, Inc. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust.

Editor: The involvement of the Humana Foundation in the Humana Festival of New American Plays is very important to us. We would greatly appreciate inclusion of its participation in your coverage. The Humana Festival represents the largest and longest-running active partnership between a corporation and a theatre in the United States.

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Detailed information for each of the plays in the 39th Humana Festival of New American Plays follows, in order of opening:

The Roommate

by Jen Silverman

directed by Mike Donahue

March 4 – April 12, 2015

in the Bingham Theatre

Recently divorced and living in an old house in Iowa, Sharon finds a sensible roommate like herself—a woman in her fifties—to make ends meet. But she quickly learns that Robyn, a vegan from the Bronx, couldn't be further from the ladies in her book club. Hell-bent on getting to know Robyn despite their differences, Sharon deploys her friendly Midwestern charm at full force. Their sensibilities are humorously mismatched, but turning over a new leaf can have unintended consequences.

Jen Silverman's work includes *The Dangerous House Of Pretty Mbane* at InterAct Theatre Company; *Crane Story*, produced Off-Broadway by The Playwrights Realm; *Phoebe in Winter*, produced Off-Off Broadway by Clubbed Thumb; and *That Poor Girl and How He Killed Her*, commissioned and produced by Playwrights Horizons Theatre School. Silverman is an affiliated artist with New Georges, Ars Nova, and the Lark Play Development Center, and has developed work with Playwrights Horizons, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Williamstown Theatre Festival, PlayPenn, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, New York Theatre Workshop, and The New Harmony Project. *The Hunters* was selected for the Cherry Lane Mentor Project (mentor: Lynn Nottage), and *Still* won the Yale Drama Series Award and was published by Yale University Press. Silverman holds a B.A. from Brown University, an M.F.A. from the Iowa Playwrights Workshop, and attends The Juilliard School. For more information, visit www.jensilverman.com.

The Roommate was developed in part with assistance from SPACE on Ryder Farm (www.spaceonryderfarm.com).

Dot

by Colman Domingo

directed by Meredith McDonough

March 10 – April 12, 2015

in the Pamela Brown Auditorium

part of the Brown-Forman Series

In the Shealy family home just a few days before Christmas, Dotty and her three middle-aged children gather with so much more than the holidays on their minds. Their anxieties go far beyond finding a suitable blue spruce for the living room: this wild and moving dark comedy, served with a large helping of the crackling humor that only families can incite, grapples with aging parents, midlife crises, and the heart of an inner city neighborhood.

Colman Domingo is the author of *Wild with Happy*, which has garnered productions at The Public Theater, Center Stage and TheatreWorks, and *A Boy and His Soul*, which played at The Tricycle Theatre (London), Brisbane Powerhouse (Australia), Vineyard Theatre (New York), and Thick Description (San Francisco), among others. Domingo has been honored with Olivier, Tony, Drama Desk and Drama League nominations. His work has won him Obie, Lucille Lortel, GLAAD, Connecticut Critics Circle, Bay Area Theater Critics Circle and Internet Theater Bloggers Awards. Domingo has received fellowships and/or residencies from The Sundance Institute Theatre Lab, People's Light and Theatre Company, and the Banff Playwrights Colony. His play *The Brother(s)* will premiere at American Conservatory Theater.

Dot received support from the New York Theatre Workshop Annual Usual Suspects Summer Residency at Dartmouth College.

I Will Be Gone

by Erin Courtney

directed by Kip Fagan

March 13 – April 12, 2015

in the Bingham Theatre

Seventeen-year-old Penelope goes to live with her Aunt Josephine in a small town in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains after her mom dies. Everyone in this small town—built right next door to a ghost town—is haunted by something or someone, and no one knows how to behave. Filled with apparitions, earthquakes, and strange attempts to mourn, this play explores the beauty and awkwardness of living with the knowledge that everything ends.

Erin Courtney's *A Map of Virtue* was produced by 13P in New York City in 2012. Directed by Ken Rus Schmoll, the play won an Obie Award. She has co-written two musicals with Elizabeth Swados, *Kaspar Hauser* and *The Nomad*, both commissioned and produced by The Flea Theater. Ms. Courtney's other plays include *Honey Drop*, *Black Cat Lost*, *Alice the Magnet*, *Quiver and Twitch*, and *Demon Baby*. Her work has been produced and developed by Clubbed Thumb, New York Stage and Film, Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep., The Vineyard, and The Flea. She was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. Courtney is a member of New Dramatists and is an affiliated artist with Clubbed Thumb. She teaches playwriting at Brooklyn College.

I Will Be Gone was workshopped as part of the Creativity Fund, a program of New Dramatists, and was developed with Clubbed Thumb through the Clubbed Thumb Writers' Group.

The Glory of the World

by Charles Mee

directed by Les Waters

commissioned by Actors Theatre of Louisville

March 20 – April 12, 2015

in the Pamela Brown Auditorium

part of the Brown-Forman Series

A series of toasts to Thomas Merton on the occasion of his 100th birthday erupts into a raucous party. Inspired by myriad points of view on the Kentucky-based Trappist monk, writer and social activist—or pacifist, Buddhist, Catholic, Communist, and more, depending on who you ask—Mee's exuberant play considers how we can live fully in all our contradictions, and leap into the unknown. A wildly theatrical meditation on happiness, love, the values of solitude and of engagement with the world, and seeking heaven on earth.

Charles Mee has written five plays—now six—that have premiered at the Humana Festival: *Big Love*, *Limonade Tous les Jours*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *Under Construction*, and *The Glory of the World*. Mee's plays have been performed at the Signature Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York Theatre Workshop, The Public Theater, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, American

Repertory Theater, and other theatres around the country as well as in Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Vienna, Istanbul and elsewhere. All his plays are available on the Internet at www.charlesmee.org. Among other awards, Mee is the recipient of an Obie and the Lifetime Achievement Award in drama from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Commission supported by the 50th Anniversary NCTF/Ford Foundation Fund for New Work.

The Glory of the World was developed at the 2014 Perry-Mansfield New Works Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Actors Theatre of Louisville presents
in association with Pig Iron Theatre Company
I Promised Myself to Live Faster
directed by Dan Rothenberg
text by Gregory S Moss and Pig Iron Theatre Company
conceived and created by Pig Iron Theatre Company

March 27 – April 12, 2015

Victor Jory Theatre

Tim's out trolling for a good time when an order of intergalactic nuns charge him with a quest: retrieve the Holy Gay Flame from the clutches of the evil emperor to save the race of Homosexuals and restore the balance of power in the universe. But when he's captured by the fabulously androgynous Ah-Ni, Tim's chances look bleak. Infused with a Charles Ludlam-esque theatricality and a delirious sci-fi sensibility, *Live Faster* paints a 21st-century allegory of epic proportions. (*For mature audiences.*)

Pig Iron Theatre Company has been creating original performance works in Philadelphia since 1995, making plays about live music, dead people, neuroscience and thwarted love affairs. A unique method of performance research and collaborative creation, plus a signature physical approach to character, has led to 29 plays, cabaret-ballets, hoaxes and installations over two decades. Past collaborations include work with the legendary director Joseph Chaikin, playwright Toshiki Okada, choreographer David Brick, and composer Cynthia Hopkins. Pig Iron's work has been presented by FringeArts in Philadelphia, and by theatres and festivals

around the world. The company has won two Obie Awards, a Total Theatre Award, and eight Barrymore Awards. For more information, visit www.pigiron.org.

Gregory S Moss is a playwright from Newburyport, Massachusetts. His work has been seen at South Coast Repertory, the Guthrie Theater, Ensemble Studio Theatre/Los Angeles, Soho Rep. and Steppenwolf Theatre Company. Moss is a 2012 MacDowell Fellow, a Core Writer with The Playwrights' Center, a 2010-2011 Jerome Fellow and a 2011-2012 McKnight Fellow. His work is published by *Play: A Journal of Plays, n+1*, Playscripts, and Overlook Press. He's currently working on a new musical based on the life and work of Hunter S. Thompson for La Jolla Playhouse. He is the Head of the M.F.A. Dramatic Writing program at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Recent productions: *Reunion* at South Coast Repertory (winner, "Best New Play," *OC Weekly*), *punkplay* at Capital T Theatre (Austin, Texas), and *La Brea* with Clubbed Thumb (New York City). More information can be found at www.gregorysmoss.com.

Major support for I Promised Myself to Live Faster has been provided by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

That High Lonesome Sound

by Jeff Augustin, Diana Grisanti, Cory Hinkle, and Charise Castro Smith
directed by Pirronne Yousefzadeh
performed by the 2014-2015 Acting Apprentice Company
commissioned by Actors Theatre of Louisville

March 27 – April 12, 2015

in the Bingham Theatre

Bluegrass has a long and winding history, from Scottish ballads to African-American work songs, from Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys to the *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* soundtrack. In a lively theatrical album of scenes created for the Acting Apprentice Company, four writers respond with playfulness and poignancy to the signature sounds, inherited stories, and cultural impact of this very American—and very Kentucky—music tradition.

Jeff Augustin's play *Cry Old Kingdom* premiered at the 2013 Humana Festival. His play *Little Children Dream of God* will have its world premiere at the Roundabout Theatre Company, where he's a Playwright-in-Residence. His work has been produced or developed at the Eugene

O'Neill National Playwrights Conference (*Little Children Dream of God*), The Ground Floor at Berkeley Repertory Theatre (*The Last Tiger in Haiti*), American Conservatory Theater (*in the crowding darkness*), and Western Washington University (*Corktown*). Augustin is a New York Theatre Workshop 2050 Fellow, a recipient of the Barrie and Bernice Stavis Playwriting Award, and a two-time recipient of the Lorraine Hansberry Award. He is under commission from Manhattan Theatre Club and Roundabout. Augustin holds a B.A. from Boston College and an M.F.A. from the University of California, San Diego.

Diana Grisanti's short play *Post Wave Spectacular* was produced in the 2010 Humana Festival. Her play *River City* is midway through a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere at Actor's Theatre of Charlotte, the Phoenix Theatre (Indianapolis), and Borderlands (Tucson). Her play *The Guilt and Anxiety Workshop* (formerly *INC.*) was workshopped during Playwrights' Week at The Lark and the nuVoices Festival at Actor's Theatre of Charlotte. She was a Core Apprentice at The Playwrights' Center, the inaugural recipient of the Marsha Norman Spirit of Achievement Lilly Award, and a runner-up for the Leah Ryan Prize. Her serialized play *The Stranger and Ludlow Quinn* (co-written with Steve Moulds) was commissioned and produced—in 15-minute installments—by Theatre [502] in Louisville, where she is a Playwright in Residence. Grisanti is an Al Smith Fellow through the Kentucky Arts Council, and a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers at The University of Texas at Austin.

Cory Hinkle co-wrote *Fissures (lost and found)*, which premiered in the 2010 Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville. His play *Little Eyes* was produced at the Guthrie Theater in a Workhaus Collective production. His other plays have been produced or developed at the American Repertory Theater, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Summer Play Festival, New York Theatre Workshop, Ars Nova, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and The Southern Theater in Minneapolis, among others. Hinkle is the recipient of a McKnight Advancement Grant, two Jerome Fellowships, and a Jerome Travel and Study Grant, and he is a former MacDowell Colony Fellow. He is an affiliated writer at The Playwrights' Center and a member of the Playwrights Union, and he earned his M.F.A. in Playwriting from Brown University.

Charise Castro Smith is a playwright and actor from Miami. Playwriting credits include *Feathers and Teeth* (The Goodman Theatre's New Stages), *Boomcracklefty* (Miracle Theatre Group), *The Hunchback of Seville* (Brown Trinity Playwrights Rep/Washington Ensemble Theatre), and *Estrella Cruz [The Junkyard Queen]* (Ars Nova's ANT Fest/Yale

Cabaret). Smith is currently working on commissions from Trinity Repertory Company and Soho Rep. Acting credits include *Antony and Cleopatra* (Royal Shakespeare Company/Gablestage/The Public Theater), *Tartuffe* (Westport Country Playhouse), *An Enemy of the People* (Baltimore Center Stage), *The Good Wife*, and *Unforgettable* (CBS). Smith is an alumna of Ars Nova's Play Group and a 2012-1013 Van Lier Fellow at New Dramatists. She holds an M.F.A. from the Yale School of Drama and a B.A. from Brown University.

About Actors Theatre's Apprentice/Intern Company

Now in its 43rd year, the Apprentice/Intern Company is one of the nation's oldest continuing pre-professional resident training companies. The A/I Company is comprised of two distinct parts whose members work together on productions and projects throughout the season.

Each year, over 2,000 young artists audition for only 20 spots in the Acting Apprentice Company. This one-of-a-kind bridge program is designed to transition recent college graduates into professional careers by teaching the practical skills necessary to be competitive in major markets, as well as methods for creating their own work. Apart from Actors Theatre's mainstage season, the Acting Apprentice Company performs its own five-show season, which culminates in a specially commissioned work in the Humana Festival of New American Plays.

Members of the Intern Company work directly with department managers and staff, receiving hands-on training in administrative, technical, and/or artistic leadership. Internships are vital positions, as they take leadership roles in the development and production of A/I Company projects throughout the season and are directly involved in mainstage season productions.

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Press Openings:

Friday, March 6, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

The Roommate by Jen Silverman

Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Dot by Colman Domingo

Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

I Will Be Gone by Erin Courtney

Sunday, March 22, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

The Glory of the World by Charles Mee

Friday, March 27, 2015 at 11 p.m.

That High Lonesome Sound by Jeff Augustin, Diana Grisanti, Cory Hinkle, and Charise Castro Smith

Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Pig Iron Theatre Company's ***I Promised Myself to Live Faster***

Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 9 p.m.

The Ten-Minute Plays

39th Humana Festival of New American Plays Weekend Schedule:

New Play Getaway (March 20-22 and March 27-29, April 3-5 and April 10-12):

Packages offer you a unique opportunity to see a variety of Humana Festival plays over a weekend. Whether you are looking for a leisurely weekend in Louisville, a marathon of theatergoing, or something in-between, Actors Theatre has a package for you. For more information, contact Sarah Peters at 502.585.1210 or speters@ActorsTheatre.org.

College Days (March 27-29): An energizing opportunity to enjoy fresh new work during this educational weekend that hosts the theatre professionals of tomorrow. The weekend includes panel discussions, master classes, workshops and networking events. You can also take advantage of package perks such as guaranteed reserved seating and great hotel discounts. For more information, contact Sarah Peters at 502.585.1210 or speters@ActorsTheatre.org.

Theatre Industry Weekends:

Join us for one of two customized weekends for industry professionals, press, producers, directors and agents—the ultimate experience of the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Receive the best available seats, exclusive benefits, and Actors Theatre of Louisville's exceptional hospitality. There is no better place to gain inspiration through a continuing conversation with

your peers. The Festival creates an atmosphere of exchange, stimulation and devotion to new writing that makes it one of the nation's great theatrical events.

Industry Weekend 1 (April 3 – 5): An engaging theatre retreat, this is an intimate weekend with theatre professionals and enthusiasts. Meet others who share your interest in great theatre and take advantage of the many exclusive Festival benefits, including networking events, shuttle service and discounted hotel rates.

Industry Weekend 2 (April 10–12): A marathon weekend of world premieres that attracts theatre industry guests from around the country. It's fast-paced playgoing at its finest, with Festival benefits including networking events, shuttle service, discounted hotel rates and the closing Bash. Don't miss your chance to take part in this thrilling theatre weekend!

For more information or to purchase an Industry Weekend package, call **502.561.3344**.

**Please note that The Ten-Minute Plays are running April 11 & 12 only.*

Tickets

Humana Festival single ticket prices start at \$25, and tickets will be on sale beginning at **10 a.m. on November 12**. For more information or reservations call 502.584.1205 or 1.800.4.ATL.TIX, or visit Actors Theatre's website at ActorsTheatre.org.

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The Humana Festival of New American Plays

The Humana Festival is an internationally acclaimed event that has introduced nearly 450 plays into the American and international theatre's general repertoire, including three Pulitzer Prize winners—*The Gin Game* by D. L. Coburn, *Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley and *Dinner with Friends* by Donald Margulies—as well as Marsha Norman's *Getting Out*, John Pielmeier's *Agnes of God*, Charles Mee's *Big Love*, Naomi Iizuka's *Polaroid Stories* and *At the Vanishing Point*, Jane Martin's *Anton in Show Business*, Rinne Groff's *The Ruby Sunrise*, Theresa Rebeck's *The Scene*, Gina Gionfriddo's *After Ashley* and *Becky Shaw*, UNIVERSES' *Ameriville*, Rude Mechs'

The Method Gun, Jordan Harrison's *Maple and Vine*, Will Eno's *Gnit*, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *Appropriate*, and Lucas Hnath's *Death Tax* and *The Christians*. More than 380 Humana Festival plays have been published in anthologies and individual acting editions, making Actors Theatre a visible and vital force in the development of new plays.

The Humana Festival is the premier event of its kind in the nation, drawing theatre lovers, journalists, and film and stage producers from around the world. About 36,000 patrons attend the five weeks of plays and associated events, including students from 40 colleges and universities. The Festival culminates in two Industry Weekends which bring together a collection of amazing new plays with one-of-a-kind panels, cocktail parties, discussions and networking events. It is the perfect opportunity to see new work, make new connections, and support the creation of new American theatre.

About Actors Theatre of Louisville

Les Waters, Artistic Director

Jennifer Bielstein, Managing Director

Now in its 51st season, Actors Theatre of Louisville, the State Theatre of Kentucky, is the flagship arts organization in the Louisville community. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Les Waters and Managing Director Jennifer Bielstein, Actors Theatre serves to unlock human potential, build community, and enrich quality of life by engaging people in theatre that reflects the wonder and complexity of our time.

Actors Theatre presents more than 400 performances annually and delivers a broad range of programming, including classics and contemporary work through the Brown-Forman Series, holiday plays, a series of free theatrical events produced by the Apprentice/Intern Company, and the Humana Festival of New American Plays—the premier new play festival in the nation, which has introduced nearly 450 plays into the American theatre repertoire over the past 38 years. In addition, Actors Theatre provides more than 17,000 arts experiences each year to students across the region through its Education Department, and boasts one of the nation's most prestigious continuing pre-professional resident training companies, now in its 43rd year.

Over the past half-century, Actors Theatre has also emerged as one of America's most consistently innovative professional theatre companies, with an annual attendance of 150,000.

Actors Theatre has been the recipient of some of the most prestigious awards bestowed on a regional theatre, including a Tony Award for Distinguished Achievement, the James N. Vaughan Memorial Award for Exceptional Achievement and Contribution to the Development of Professional Theatre, and the Margo Jones Award for the Encouragement of New Plays. Actors Theatre has toured to 29 cities and 15 countries worldwide, totaling more than 1,400 appearances internationally. Currently, there are more than 50 published books of plays and criticism from Actors Theatre in circulation—including anthologies of Humana Festival plays, volumes of ten-minute plays and monologues, and essays, scripts and lectures from the Brown-Forman Classics in Context Festival. Numerous plays first produced at Actors Theatre have also been published as individual acting editions, and have been printed in many other anthologies, magazines and journals—making an enduring contribution to American dramatic literature.

www.actorstheatre.org

ENDS