Press Release – For immediate release

Canadian Stage announces 16.17 season
Heart-stopping storytelling and genre-bending performances by Canadian favourites Robert Lepage, Jordan Tannahill, Daniel MacIvor, Marie Chouinard, Cirque Éloize, Jennifer Tarver, Bill Coleman and more; Spotlight Australia; Featured stage works from Quebec in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary

Toronto, ON - Canadian Stage today announced the 18 genre-defying productions comprising the company’s 2016.2017 season. Under the Artistic and General direction of Matthew Jocelyn, Canadian Stage continues to push the boundaries of contemporary Canadian performance practice with an ambitious lineup of productions across its three historic venues: the Bluma Appel Theatre, the Berkeley Street Theatre, and the High Park Amphitheatre.

The company’s 29th season brings to life a rich array of critically-acclaimed and thought-provoking new plays, two groundbreaking circus and premiere dance works, and virtuoso performances by some of the best storytellers from Canada and around the world, including a Spotlight Australia festival, and innovative partnerships with Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, Théâtre français de Toronto, Necessary Angel Theatre Company, Theatre Smash, Suburban Beast, Centaur Theatre Company, Compagnie Marie Chouinard, Coleman Lemieux and Compagnie, and more.

“As we celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary in 2017, Canadian Stage continues to engage our country through the eyes and acts of today’s most innovative artists,” said Artistic and General Director Matthew Jocelyn. “Audiences will have the opportunity to encounter revelatory homegrown creations by Jordan Tannahill, Daniel MacIvor, Jennifer Tarver and Bill Coleman alongside a special Saison du Québec – featuring visually-stunning new works by longtime Canadian Stage collaborators Robert Lepage and Marie Chouinard, and the world-renowned Cirque Éloize. Spotlight Australia will host five cross-disciplinary productions from our mirrored nation of the southern hemisphere, a country whose history and foundation are so very close to, yet so radically different from our own. This season presents infinite possibilities to experience our spaces in new ways, feed your curiosity and share in the untold delight of live performance.”

Opening the season is a new production of Governor General’s Award-winning playwright Jordan Tannahill’s suburban teen thriller Concord Floral, re-created on the Bluma Appel Theatre stage in an intimate actor-audience setting. Audiences will be invited to experience this award-winning re-imaging of Boccaccio’s medieval allegory The Decameron directly on the Bluma stage in the company of the production’s ten youth performers.

Director Jennifer Tarver (Venus in Fur, Hedda Gabler) and Necessary Angel Theatre return to the Berkeley Street Theatre for the third and final year of their Canadian Stage residency with All But Gone: a new work juxtaposing the absurd imagery of Samuel Beckett’s short plays with contemporary operatic music. Canadian opera sensations Kristina Szabó and Shannon Mercer star alongside performer Jonathon Young (This, Betroffenheit) in this evocative hybrid of theatre and music.

Two of Canada’s master storytellers - dancer/choreographer Bill Coleman and playwright/performer Daniel MacIvor – bring their most recent solo works to the Berkeley Street Theatre in Fall 2016. Coleman – a pioneer of
contemporary dance - confronts a series of almost biblical challenges in his cataclysmic new piece Dollhouse - featuring an experimental sound installation by celebrated instrumentalist Gordon Monahan. Daniel MacIvor will channel legendary monologist Spalding Gray in Who Killed Spalding Gray?, a darkly funny and highly personal fiction directed by long-time collaborator Daniel Brooks (RACE, The Other Place).

In November, the five-star romantic drama Constellations by British playwright Nick Payne comes to the Bluma Appel Theatre in a new production directed by Peter Hinton and co-produced with Montreal’s Centaur Theatre Company. A sold-out hit in London and New York, this startlingly original two-hander – hailed as a “singular astonishment” by The New Yorker - explores the infinite possibilities of one relationship against the backdrop of quantum physics.

Internationally acclaimed plays by Chilean playwright Guillermo Calderón and prodigious German author Nino Haratischwili will also be debuted this season. For its second year in residency at the Berkeley Street Theatre, Theatre Smash will join forces with ARC (Actors Repertory Company) and Canadian Stage to present Calderón’s KISS: a provocative and timely exploration of cultural boundaries set in war-torn Syria; while Canadian Stage Artistic and General Director Matthew Jocelyn stages the North American premiere translation of Haratischwili’s superbly crafted suspense-drama Liv Stein at the Bluma Appel in January 2017.

Canadian Stage’s Saison du Québec – presented within the context of Canada’s 150th anniversary celebrations – will showcase prominent artistic voices from French-Canada, kicking off with a premiere work by Quebec’s reigning queen of contemporary dance Marie Chouinard. In Jérôme Bosch: la création, le paradis, le jardin, l’enfer (Jérôme Bosch: Creation, Heaven, Garden, and Hell), the ever-provocative Chouinard and her exquisite ensemble of dancers explore the tantalizing imagery of 15th century Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch on the 500th anniversary of his death.

In an inaugural collaboration with Théâtre français de Toronto, Canadian Stage will present a bilingual production of Five Faces for Evelyn Frost / Cinq visages pour Évelyne Frost by Quebec auteur Guillaume Corbeil, and helmed by award-winning director Claude Poissant. Structured by the verbal architecture of social media, this rapid-fire dramatic quintet - originally created to great acclaim at Montreal’s Théâtre PâP– will see a bilingual cast of five perform for two weeks in English and one week in French at the Berkeley Street Theatre.

The breathtaking acrobatics of world-renowned Quebec circus troupe Cirque Éloize will electrify the Bluma Appel stage in March with Cirkopolis, presented in partnership with the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts. Co-directed by Cirque Éloize Artistic Director Jeannot Painchaud and choreographer Dave St-Pierre, Cirkopolis transforms the classic films Metropolis and Brazil into a virtuosic circus spectacle for the whole family. Also at the Bluma Appel, Quebec theatre giant Robert Lepage will return to Canadian Stage for a third time, closing the Saison du Québec with his dazzling autobiographical creation 887, following a sold-out run at Panamania 2015.

The company’s tribute to Canada’s 150th continues with Spotlight Australia– Canadian Stage’s fourth biennial Spotlight series. The six-week festival dedicated to our sister country of the Southern Hemisphere will highlight the work of five of Australia’s most innovative and outstanding performing arts companies; including famed Brisbane circus troupe Circa and ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, Australia’s leading and longest running Aboriginal theatre company. Past Spotlight series have featured stage works from Italy, Japan and South Africa.

The 34th edition of Shakespeare in High Park will feature the Bard’s greatest tragedy Hamlet and the bold and brilliant romance All’s Well That Ends Well on alternate evenings throughout summer 2016 at Toronto’s picturesque High Park Amphitheatre.

Canadian Stage continues to engage theatregoers and support Toronto’s artistic community through a series of dynamic ancillary activities and artist-training initiatives. Free Pre-Show Chats and Post-Show Talkbacks, and the vibrant pop-up post show discussion series INTERMISSION, will be on offer throughout the 16.17 season to further
illuminate on-stage programming for audiences. Alongside the RBC Emerging Artists Program – a free training and residency program for emerging theatre creators and arts professionals – Canadian Stage continues its collaboration with the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design at York University to offer an MFA Program in Stage Direction, with current candidates Tanja Jacobs and Alistair Newton.

2016.2017 subscriptions are now on sale with flexible four-show packages starting from $124 and a six-play or more subscription package starting from $177. Subscribers who book before February 28, 2016 will save up to 25% off their package price and receive a bonus two preview tickets for free. Subscriptions may be purchased by phone at 416.368.3110 or in person at the Berkeley Street Theatre Box Office (26 Berkeley Street). Single tickets will be on sale April 12, 2016. Full details on the productions and subscription packages are available online at canadianstage.com

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16.17 Season:

Concord Floral Sept 27 – Oct 16, 2016 (Bluma Appel Theatre - audience seated on stage)
Written by Jordan Tannahill
Created and Directed by Erin Brubacher, Cara Spooner and Jordan Tannahill

"The best new play of the year... artfully structured and full of suspense" – The Globe and Mail

A GOTHIC SUBURBAN THRILLER FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD-WINNER JORDAN TANNAHILL
Concord Floral is a one million-square-foot abandoned greenhouse and hangout for neighbourhood teens. When two friends stumble upon a terrible secret buried there, they go looking for answers and set off a chain of events that can’t be stopped. Told by an ensemble of ten teenage performers and set in contemporary Vaughan, Concord Floral re-imagines Boccaccio’s medieval allegory The Decameron, in which ten teens must flee a mysterious plague they have brought upon themselves.

Initially developed at Canadian Stage as part of the 2012 Festival of Ideas and Creation, this 2015 Dora Winner for Outstanding New Play takes on a new life at the Bluma Appel Theatre as we transform the stage for an intimate actor-audience experience.

A Suburban Beast Production presented by Canadian Stage

All But Gone: A Beckett Rhapsody Oct 11 – Nov 6, 2016 (Berkeley Street Theatre)
Featuring short plays by Samuel Beckett
Directed by Jennifer Tarver
Musical Direction by Dáirine Ní Mheadra
A GROUNDBREAKING NEW WORK JUXTAPOSING BECKETT’S SHORT PLAYS WITH TORONTO’S BEST OPERATIC VOICES.
A contemporary musical exploration of the absurd and evocative imagery of Samuel Beckett, All But Gone follows the sold-out hit Beckett: Feck It!, hailed as “entirely engrossing” by The Globe and Mail. Renowned Canadian director Jennifer Tarver (Venus in Fur) reunites with musical director Dáirine Ni Mheadhra for an elegiac and provocative evening of theatre and song featuring performer Jonathon Young (Betroffenheit), and Canadian opera stars Shannon Mercer and Krisztina Szabó.

A Necessary Angel production in association with Canadian Stage

Constellations Nov 8 – 27, 2016 (Bluma Appel Theatre)
By Nick Payne
Directed by Peter Hinton

“A singular astonishment” – The New Yorker

Choice and destiny collide in British theatre luminary Nick Payne’s startlingly original play about the infinite possibilities of love (and the quantum multiverse). A man and a woman’s chance encounter sets off a singular chain of events where each path they might take shapes an entirely different future. Their sweeping and spellbinding romantic journey will defy the boundaries of the world we think we know. Director Peter Hinton brings his award-winning vision to this five-star West End and Broadway hit.

A Canadian Stage and Centaur Theatre Company production

Dollhouse Nov 16 – 20, 2016 (Berkeley Street Theatre)
Conceived, choreographed and performed by Bill Coleman
Music, sound and visuals by Gordon Monahan

“Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie is literally... taking dance to places it has never been before” – Toronto Star

A HEART-POUNDING DANCE SPECTACLE FROM TRAILBLAZING CHOREOGRAPHER BILL COLEMAN.
Prolific Canadian dancer/choreographer Bill Coleman confronts a series of almost biblical challenges in this cataclysmic new tap piece about a man out of sync with his surroundings. Objects fall, shatter and move of their own accord creating a unique soundscape that accompanies one man’s descent into chaos. Coleman, a master performer, plays the role of modern fakir as he navigates through situations, at times verging on the comic, culminating in a hypnotic symphony of sight and sound created and performed in collaboration with celebrated composer Gordon Monahan.

A Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie production presented by Canadian Stage

Who Killed Spalding Gray? Nov 30 – Dec 11, 2016 (Berkeley Street Theatre)
Written and performed by Daniel MacIvor
Directed by Daniel Brooks

“MacIvor transcends Gray” – The Chronicle Herald (Halifax)

DANIEL MACIVOR CHANNELS LEGENDARY MONOLOGIST SPALDING GRAY IN THIS REVELATORY SOLO PERFORMANCE
On the weekend of January 11, 2004, celebrated American monologist Spalding Gray ended his life by jumping off the Staten Island Ferry in New York. That same weekend on the other side of the country, Daniel MacIvor was spending
three days in California in a series of sessions with a man who had offered to save MacIvor’s life. Linking these two real stories is a wholly original fiction about truth, lies and the four most important things in life. Candid and darkly funny, *Who Killed Spalding Gray?* reunites Daniel MacIvor, one of Canada’s foremost playwrights, with long-time collaborator, director Daniel Brooks (2012’s *RACE* and 2014’s *The Other Place*).

Produced by ReWork Productions, presented by Canadian Stage

*Jérôme Bosch: la création, le paradis, le jardin, l’enfer* Dec 7 – 11, 2016 (Bluma Appel Theatre)  
Choreography by Marie Chouinard

**CANADA’S REIGNING QUEEN OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE RETURNS TO CANADIAN STAGE**  
The phantasmagoric and tantalizing imagery of 15th century Dutch iconoclast Hieronymus Bosch is transformed into a visually stunning new dance piece by world-renowned choreography Marie Chouinard (*The Golden Mean, Orpheus & Eurydice*). On the 500th anniversary of the death of the revolutionary painter – best-known for “The Garden of Earthly Delights” – the always-provocative Chouinard and her exquisite ensemble of dancers paint a veritable feast for the senses that will shock and delight.

A Compagnie Marie Chouinard Production presented by Canadian Stage

*Liv Stein* Jan 24 – Feb 12, 2017 (Bluma Appel Theatre)  
Written by Nino Haratischwili  
Translated from German by Birgit Schreyer Duarte  
Directed by Matthew Jocelyn  
**North American premiere**

**AN INCANDESCENT MEDITATION ON ART, OBSESSION AND FICTION.**  
Music is the only thing that matters in the life of celebrated concert pianist Liv Stein. When her son Henri dies, she gives it all up - the piano, her career, her marriage, herself. But the unexpected visit of a young promising piano student claiming to know Henri’s most intimate thoughts forces Liv to face past demons she is trying to forget. A pact is made that seems to reawaken Liv’s will to live... Canadian Stage Artistic and General Director Matthew Jocelyn directs this exquisitely crafted and hauntingly poetic drama by one of the most prodigious young voices in German theatre.

A Canadian Stage production

*Five Faces for Evelyn Frost / Cinq visages pour Évelyne Frost*  
Feb 14 – March 5 (English), March 21 – 25, 2017 (French) (Berkeley Street Theatre)  
By Guillaume Corbeil  
Translated (from French) by Steven McCarthy  
Directed by Claude Poissant  
**“A stroke of genius” – *La Presse* (Montreal)**

**A BRILLIANTLY CRAFTED DRAMATIC QUINTET BOUND BY THE VERBAL ARCHITECTURE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Five friends vie to increase their online status by revealing their innermost secrets on the Internet – but at what cost? In this unique collaboration between Canadian Stage and Théâtre français de Toronto we are taken to the deepest and darkest corners of virtual reality and the incisive imagination of virtuoso Quebec auteur Guillaume Corbeil. With performances in both English and French, this electrifying multimedia production features five bilingual performers propelled by the pulse of today’s social media.
A Canadian Stage and Théâtre français de Toronto co-production, originally created by Théâtre PâP

Cirkopolis March 1 – 19, 2017 (Bluma Appel Theatre)
By Cirque Éloize
Directed by Jeannot Painchaud and Dave St-Pierre

“Stunning, mesmerizing“- New York Times

AN ELECTRIFYING AND DREAMLIKE CIRCUS SPECTACULAR FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
Twelve multi-talented circus performers rebel against the monotony of a dark mechanical city in this breathtaking new production by world circus phenomenon Cirque Éloize (Rain and id). An exhilarating stream of acrobatic feats from start to finish, Cirkopolis fuses gravity-defying circus, original music and spellbinding imagery, transporting performers and audience alike to a magical world in which fantasy confronts reality.

A Canadian Stage and Sony Centre for the Performing Arts presentation

Kiss March 28 – April 16 (Berkeley Street Theatre)
By Guillermo Calderón
Directed by Ashlie Corcoran
North American premiere

“Stunning, mesmerizing“- New York Times

A PROVOCATIVE AND TIMELY EXPLORATION OF CULTURAL BOUNDARIES AND THE LIMITS OF UNDERSTANDING
Guillermo Calderón’s newest play breaks open cultural barriers as a group of western actors interpreting a Syrian play slowly realize the limits of their own understanding, and the suffocating effect of an oppressive, omnipresent regime. For its second year in residency at the Berkeley Street Theatre, Theatre Smash (2015’s Das Ding (The Thing)) joins forces with ARC and Canadian Stage to present this work essential to our time.

A Theatre Smash & ARC co-production in partnership with Canadian Stage

887 April 7 – 16, 2017 (Bluma Appel Theatre)
Written, Designed, Directed and Performed by Robert Lepage

“Amazing, resonant storytelling, beguiling us at every turn” – The Globe and Mail

A DAZZLING AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL CREATION BY THEATRE VISIONARY ROBERT LEPAGE
Following the success of 2013’s Needles & Opium, Canadian Stage brings international stage sensation Robert Lepage back to Toronto with 887: an intimate solo spectacle that mesmerized audiences at Panamania 2015. Beginning with his childhood growing up in 1960s Quebec City, Lepage plunges us into the depths of his past, distilling his most intimate of recollections into a multi-layered story that reveals the historical and social reality that shaped his identity. A magical foray into the world of memory by a storyteller at the top of his game.

An Ex Machina production, commissioned by the Arts and Culture program of the Toronto 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games. Presented by Canadian Stage.

SPOTLIGHT AUSTRALIA March 29 – May 7, 2017
Canadian Stage’s biennial Spotlight series returns with six weeks of mind-blowing storytelling, song, dance and circus from down under.
**Jack Charles V. The Crown** March 29 – April 8, 2017 (Berkeley Street Theatre)
Co-written and performed by Jack Charles
Co-written by John Romeril
Directed by Rachael Maza

“Steeped in decades of our history (social, political, theatrical), surprisingly upbeat... a warm-hearted, very entertaining evening” – *Sydney Morning Herald*

Uncle Jack Charles is an Australian legend: veteran actor and pioneer of Aboriginal theatre, but for many of his 70+ years he was also a heroin addict and cat burglar. No longer caught in the cycle of addiction, crime and doing time, Jack sings and tells his extraordinary tale.

An ILBIERRI Theatre Company production presented by Canadian Stage

**Blood Links** April 19 – 23, 2017 (Berkeley Street Theatre)
Created and performed by William Yang

“William Yang’s performances are among the enduring pleasures of Australian Theatre” – *The Australian*

Celebrated Australian visual and performance artist William Yang’s family is scattered around the world, yet the bond of blood binds them in unexpected and powerful ways. A family story of birth, traditions, love and food, *Blood Links* is a visually stunning feat of storytelling.

A Performing Lines production presented by Canadian Stage

**Endings** April 26 – 30, 2017 (Berkeley Street Theatre)
By Tamara Saulwick

“Extraordinary storytelling marked not by sadness but awe” – *The Guardian*

In this poetic audio-visual masterpiece, acclaimed performance maker Tamara Saulwick employs portable turntables, reel-to-reel tape players and live performance in a moving meditation on cycles and the ending of things. The production features the songs and vocals of acclaimed singer/songwriter Paddy Mann (Grand Salvo).

An Insite Arts production presented by Canadian Stage

**Meeting** April 26 – 30, 2017 (Berkeley Street Theatre)
By Antony Hamilton & Alisdair Macindoe

“There’s ... a striking visual design to Hamilton’s work, crafted out of a mix of experimental movement, music, sound, video art” – *The Australian*

*MEETING* reveals a fascination with the articulation of the body and mind in motion. A focused recital, pairing multi-award winning choreographer Antony Hamilton’s unique physical grammar and Alisdair Macindoe’s highly-original bespoke musical instrument making, *MEETING* composes the body, space and sound into a dynamic and riveting choreographic sound installation carried by the pulse of 64 robotic instruments. Dance stripped to its bare essentials.

An AntonyHamiltonProjects production presented by Canadian Stage
The Return May 3 – 7, 2017 (Bluma Appel Theatre)
By Circa
Created by Yaron Lifschitz with Quincy Grant and the Circa Ensemble

“A powerful vision of humanity and compassion... a luminous new work” – The Australian

FROM THE CREATORS OF THE SOLD-OUT HIT OPUS
The stage is awash with bodies tumbling, lifting and clutching. Then, out of the darkness and gnawed by nostalgia, the Greek hero Ulysses appears after twenty long years of war and wanderings. Will he reach his faithful wife Penelope before she succumbs to her suitors? From the creators of the 2014 audience favourite OPUS, The Return is famed Brisbane circus troupe Circa’s groundbreaking and wholly unique new work, fusing world-renowned acrobatics, Monteverdi’s baroque opera, folksong and a haunting tale about longing for home.

A Circa Production presented by Canadian Stage

SHAKESPEARE IN HIGH PARK
Hamlet + All’s Well That Ends Well June 30 – September 4, 2016 (High Park Amphitheatre)
By William Shakespeare
Hamlet directed by Birgit Schreyer Duarte, All’s Well That Ends Well directed by Ted Witzel

A searing battle for justice and revenge—and a young man’s passionate quest for his place in the world. A wildly funny fairy-tale about a young woman who’ll do anything for love—and a young man who’ll do anything to escape her. For its 34th Season in Toronto’s High Park, Canadian Stage presents Shakespeare’s greatest tragedy Hamlet and bold and brilliant romance All’s Well that Ends Well in a singular journey of intrigue, love and family betrayal under the stars. Pack a picnic, bring your friends and come enjoy this indispensable outdoor theatre tradition. Pay What You Can / Reserve Online.

A Canadian Stage production in collaboration with the Department of Theatre, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design at York University

About Canadian Stage:
Founded in 1987, Canadian Stage is one of the country’s leading not-for-profit contemporary theatre companies, with the 16.17 season marking the organization’s 29th season. Led by Artistic & General Director Matthew Jocelyn and Managing Director Su Hutchinson, Canadian Stage produces and showcases innovative theatre from Canada and around the world, allowing its audience to encounter daring work guided by a strong directorial vision and a 21st-century aesthetic. The company prides itself on presenting multidisciplinary pieces and work in translation that pushes the boundaries of form and style. Canadian Stage reinforces the presence of Canadian art and artists within an international context through work that mirrors the cultural diversity of Toronto. The company stages an annual season of work at three major venues (the Bluma Appel Theatre, the Berkeley Street Theatre and the High Park Amphitheatre) and runs a series of artist development and education initiatives, as well as youth and community outreach programs. For more information, visit canadianstage.com.

Proper usage of company name: please ensure to use “Canadian Stage” when referring to company (“CanStage” and “Canadian Stage Company” refer to previous incarnations of the organization)