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FORD'S THEATRE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES CAST OF

August Wilson's *Fences* Directed by Timothy Douglas

Featuring Craig Wallace and Erika Rose as Troy and Rose Maxson

September 27 to October 27, 2019
Tickets Now On Sale

Washington, D.C. – Ford's Theatre Society announced full casting and the design team for **August Wilson's *Fences*, directed by Timothy Douglas**— one of the foremost interpreters of Wilson's work. The production features **Craig Wallace** (*A Christmas Carol, Death of a Salesman*) and **Erika Rose** (Mosaic Theater Company's *Queens Girl in Africa, Woolly Mammoth's An Octoroon*) in the roles of Troy and Rose Maxson. Performances of this powerful drama about family, duty and betrayal are **September 27 to October 27, 2019**, at historic Ford's Theatre. A media performance is scheduled for **October 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

Wallace and Rose are joined by actors **Doug Brown** (Jim Bono), **KenYatta Rogers** (Lyons Maxson), **Jefferson A. Russell** (Gabriel Maxson), **Justin Weaks** (Cory Maxson), **Janiyah Lucas** and **Mecca Rogers** (Raynell Maxson, actors rotate in the role).

Tickets for August Wilson's *Fences* are now on sale and range from \$17 to \$72. Discounts are available for groups, senior citizens, military personnel and those younger than age 35. The production is recommended for ages 14 and older.

Set in segregated 1957 Pittsburgh, *Fences* depicts the life of Troy Maxson, a former Negro League baseball star now scraping by as a sanitation worker. A towering figure facing thwarted aspirations, Troy attempts to assert control in his life through his relationships with his wife and son. But even as he takes responsibility for their safety and well-being, he betrays them each in ways that will forever alter their lives. Part of August Wilson's 10-play Century Cycle, *Fences* explores the walls we

build around ourselves and our loved ones, while also illuminating one family's struggles in a racist society.

"My directing career has afforded me my very own personal and ongoing August Wilson Festival, having directed nine of the 10 plays from Wilson's opus multiple times. The consistent revisiting of these plays continues to affirm for me their infinite reservoir of deeper meanings," says **director Timothy Douglas**. "With this Ford's production of *Fences*, I am primarily focused on harnessing those deeper meanings so that the play is in relevant dialogue with our current trials and tribulations. I also want to tease out even more of the larger-than-life parallels between Troy Maxson and the playwright himself."

The Ford's Theatre 2019-2020 season is sponsored by **Chevron**. August Wilson's *Fences* is also made possible by the following Underwriters: **The Home Depot, Oshkosh Corporation**.

THE DESIGNERS

Scenic Designer Lauren Helpern makes her Ford's debut with *Fences*, creating the dirt yard and modest two-story brick home where the Maxsons reside in Pittsburgh. The Ford's Theatre design team for August Wilson's *Fences* also includes **Costume Designer Helen Huang** (Ford's *Driving Miss Daisy, The Laramie Project*, others), **Lighting Designer Andrew R. Cissna** (Ford's *One Destiny*), **Sound Designer Nick Hernandez** (Ford's debut), **Hair and Make-Up Designer Danna Rosedahl**, **Fight Director Casey Kaleba** (Ford's *Ragtime*) and **Dialects and Voice Director Leigh Wilson Smiley**.

The production team also includes **Production Stage Manager Brandon Prendergast** and **Assistant Stage Manager Julia Singer**.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

There are **audio-described** performances of August Wilson's *Fences* October 8 at 7:30 p.m. and October 19 at 2:00 p.m. A **sign-interpreted** performance is October 17 at 7:30 p.m. A **captioned performance** is October 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Free First Preview: September 27, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Ford's Theatre partners with TodayTix to give out free tickets for the first performance of each mainstage production in our theatrical season. Six-hundred tickets are available via the TodayTix app, beginning 10:00 a.m. ET on September 20 for the September 27 7:30 p.m. performance of August Wilson's *Fences*. There are 600 tickets available to win. Visit www.fords.org/free for lottery entry details.

Free and Discounted Tickets for D.C. Public and Public Charter High School Students

August Wilson's *Fences* is one of the curricula anchor texts for all ninth-grade students in D.C. schools. Ford's will offer up to 30 free tickets in the orchestra section for each Tuesday night performance for D.C. Public and Public Charter High School Students. Offer is limited to two tickets per order. To reserve, D.C.

teachers can contact the Ford's Theatre education department at education@fords.org to receive a special code for their students to access the free tickets. Student ID is required when picking up tickets.

Ford's offers \$10 tickets to all Tuesday-Sunday performances of August Wilson's *Fences* for D.C. Public and Public Charter High School Students. Tickets may be reserved in person at the box office only with a valid D.C. Public or Public Charter High School ID. This discount is good for up to four tickets per order and is based on availability.

***Fences* Generation Abe Performances; Post-Performance Reception on October 11**

Patrons ages 35 and younger can use promo code UNDER3520 to purchase discounted tickets to performances of August Wilson's *Fences*. Following the 7:30 p.m. performance on October 11, Generation Abe patrons (those 21-35) can enjoy a glass of beer or wine after the show, meet new people and see Ford's Theatre in a new light. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.fords.org. Patrons must show ID at the Box Office once arriving at the theatre. Limit of six per person.

Post-Performance Discussion: October 13, 2019

Following the 2:00 p.m. matinee on October 13, stay for a post-performance discussion of the play led by Dr. Sandra G. Shannon, a leading scholar on the works of playwright August Wilson and Professor of African American Literature in the Department of English at Howard University. Event is free and begins at approximately 4:50 p.m. on October 13.

***Fences* Meet and Mingle: October 20 following 2:00 p.m. performance**

Following the performance of August Wilson's *Fences* at Ford's Theatre, talk theatre with fellow audience members and members of the cast at nearby restaurant Succotash (915 F Street NW). Event is free. Cash bar available. Performance tickets sold separately at www.fords.org.

Ford's Theatre Society

One of the most visited sites in the nation's capital, Ford's Theatre reopened its doors in 1968, more than a hundred years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Operated through a partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service, Ford's Theatre is the premier destination in the nation's capital to explore and celebrate Abraham Lincoln's ideals and leadership principles: courage, integrity, tolerance, equality and creative expression.

Ford's Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer **Frankie Hewitt**, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford's as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of **Paul R. Tetreault** as Director, critics and the theatregoing public have recognized Ford's for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*,

-more-

Necessary Sacrifices, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. In the past decade, the mission of Ford's Theatre Society expanded to include education as a central pillar. This expansion led to the creation and construction of the Center for Education and Leadership, which opened in February 2012. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman **Phebe N. Novakovic** and through the lens of Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's today endeavors to advance Lincoln's "unfinished work" with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in our American life.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit www.fords.org.

#FordsFences

Ford's Theatre on Twitter and Instagram: @fordstheatre

Ford's Theatre on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fordstheatre

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FACT SHEET: August Wilson's *Fences* Directed by Timothy Douglas

Set in segregated Pittsburgh in the 1950s, *Fences* depicts the life of Troy Maxson, a former Negro League baseball star now scraping by as a sanitation worker. A towering figure facing thwarted aspirations, Troy attempts to assert control in his life through his relationships with his wife and son. But even as he takes responsibility for their safety and well-being, he betrays them each in ways that will forever alter their lives. Part of August Wilson's 10-play Century Cycle, *Fences* explores the walls we build around ourselves and our loved ones, while also illuminating one family's struggles in a racist society.

DATES: September 27 to October 27, 2019
Media Performance: October 2, 2019

TICKETS: \$17-\$72

LOCATION: Ford's Theatre is located at 511 10th Street NW, between E and F streets.

TIMES: Tuesday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (except Oct. 2); Saturday-Sunday at 2:00 p.m. (except Sept. 28 and 29). Sept. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY: Ford's Theatre is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair accessible seating and restrooms, audio enhancement Braille and large print playbills. There are **audio-described** performances of August Wilson's *Fences* on October 8, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. and October 19, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. A **sign-interpreted** performance is October 17, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. A **captioned performance** is scheduled for October 20, at 2:00 p.m.

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Fences Generation Abe Nights: October 11 following the 7:30 p.m. performances

Patrons younger than age 35 can use promo code UNDER3519 to purchase discounted tickets to Friday evening performances of August Wilson's *Fences*. On October 11, Generation Abe patrons can enjoy a complimentary glass of beer or wine after the show, meet new people and see Ford's Theatre in a brand new light. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.fords.org. Patrons must show ID at the Box Office once arriving at the theatre. Limit of six per person.

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PARKING:

Paid parking is available at several independent neighborhood garages: the 24-hour QuickPark at the Grand Hyatt (entrance on 10th Street between G and H Streets NW), the Central Parking Garage (entrance on 11th Street between E and F Streets NW), and the One Parking garage below Ford's Theatre (at 511 10th Street, NW).

METRO:

Metro Center station (Red, Blue, Orange and Silver Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the Eleventh Street exit. Gallery Pl-Chinatown station (Red, Yellow and Green Lines) is two and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the G Street exit. For further information, call Metro at (202) 637-7000.

Tickets at www.fords.org

Information: (202) 347-4833 -- Toll Free: (888) 616-0270 -- Groups: (202) 638-2367
Ford's Theatre on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook: @fordstheatre #FordsFences