FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 09/09/15

Centre Stage’s 13th Annual “New Play Festival”

Our 13th Annual New Play Festival
October 4-8, 2015
Sunday - Thursday, all shows at 7pm
Free and open to the public

Join us for the 13th anniversary of our New Play Festival. Over 150 submissions and the top three finalists are chosen for you to experience in a staged reading during our festival week. Come and join us to hear some of the newest voices in the American Theatre. Our playwright-in-residence this year is Tony Sportiello.

This season’s plays include:

- Sun: Staged production of last year’s Festival winner, The Night We Bombed Lincoln Town by Steven Young
- Mon: The Volunteer by C. Kay Landis
- Tues: Memories of the Game by Kristy Thomas
- Wed: Baby Shower Bombshell by Steven Peterson
- Thurs: Wild Thing written by Tony Sportiello

Talkback sessions, with the playwright-in-residence, festival playwrights, actors and audience members, will take place immediately following the readings, making the festival a rare opportunity for playgoers to participate in the creative process of play writing.

The winning playwright will receive a check for $500 to put toward the development of their play.

This program has been made possible, in part, by the Metropolitan Arts Council.

The theatre is located at 501 River Street inside the Morgan Stanley Wealth Management building just one block off Main Street in downtown Greenville. For more information, visit Centre Stage online at Centrestage.org.

MEDIA ONLY: FOR MORE INFORMATION
Allen Evans, Marketing Director
864-363-6401
Allen.evans@centrestage.org
Production details

Title: New Play Festival
Tickets: Free and Open to Public

Concessions: available each night for each reading

Play type: varies nightly
Box Office: open seating

Dates: October 4-8, 2015
Time: 7pm nightly

Location: Centre Stage
Contact: Allen Evans
501 River Street
Greenville, SC 29601
(First floor of the Morgan Stanley Wealth Management building, one block behind the Westin Poinsett Hotel)
Website: www.centrestage.org

Plays Presented with Synopses

Sunday, October 4, 7pm
The Night We Bombed Lincoln Towing
by Steven Young
directed by Evans Harris

A comedy set in present day. For Mature Audiences Only! Trapped in the most horrendous rainstorm in Chicago history, six characters of diverse backgrounds are thrust together, sharing one thing in common; all have had their car towed that night by the notorious and corrupt Lincoln Park Pirates of Lincoln Towing fame. Vehicular-ly challenged and the thunderstorm uncooperative, each individual confronts their present circumstances, coming to the conclusion, life has roared by rendering them impotent to act.

Monday, October 5, 7pm
The Volunteer
by C. Kay Landis
directed by Shannon Rossi

It’s Volunteer’s first day at the Women’s Prison, and being locked in a room with Inmate is making her nervous. A driven graduate student in psychology, Volunteer says she’s there doing research but that’s not the real reason. Likewise Inmate has an agenda -- an elaborate one. When lights flicker and sirens wail, the two are caught in a lockdown that ratchets up Volunteer’s determination to get what she wants. The two desperate women battle to outwit the other, each holding a piece of the truth they refuse to share. In the end the truth is revealed, but will it set them free?
Tuesday October 6 7pm
*Memories of the Game*
by Kristy Thomas
directed by Clark Nesbitt

*Memories Of The Game* centers on the McIntosh household, an African American family of four. The father Kenneth is suffering from Alzheimer’s disease. Karen continues to work on keeping her husband’s mind as present as she can while also being pulled into the sadness of her son, Michael and his addiction to crack. Their daughter Sharon tries to create balance though her animosity is ever present. As Kenneth forgets, Michael steps over the edge, Sharon fights for the sanity of her mother and Karen tries to hold her life together, life still continues to happen, to all of them.

Wednesday October 7 7pm
*Baby Shower Bombshell*
by Steven Peterson
directed by John Fagan

What can be more exciting than a baby shower? Not much, until Ed Brooks goes to his daughter Tabitha’s baby shower and, like everyone else there, is jolted to learn something no one could have imagined. Ed takes us on a journey nine months back in time to discover what really happened and keep a promise he made to his beloved wife: that he helps their daughter choose the path to a fulfilling life. It’s a comedy about the choices that make all the difference.

Thursday October 8 7pm
*Wild Thing*
by Tony Sportiello
directed by Kent Brown

Three separate scenes happening all on stage, interspersed with each other. The tale of three brothers on one fateful night which will feature a wedding, a murder and a robbery, all for something that happened several decades ago. A film noir, murder mystery, romantic comedy sort of an evening.

**PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE BIOGRAPHY**

*Tony Sportiello* is a published playwright, the author of more than two dozen plays, with productions in New York, Los Angeles, London, Russia, China and more. His one act *Tickets, Please* was published by Samuel French and his plays National Pastime and Contract Time are both in the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. Mr. Sportiello is the Artistic Director of Algonquin Theater Productions in New York City and producer of four Off Broadway musicals, including *National Pastime, Sessions, An Evening at the Carlyle* and *The Devil and Billy Markham*. *Sessions the Musical* ran for more than 300 performances. Mr. Sportiello’s play *Second Chance* will be produced as part of Centre Stage’s Fringe Series in May of 2016.
PRESS KIT: 13th Annual New Play Festival

NEW PLAY FESTIVAL HOST COORDINATOR BIOGRAPHY

Gayle Brown- Gayle recently completed twenty-seven years as a vice president of Dramatic Publishing Company where her primary focus was acquiring new plays and musicals and nurturing the development of young playwrights. She previously served for seven years as Assistant to the President of the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center. Among her responsibilities, she helped facilitate international theatre exchanges. A particular highlight was her six weeks in China serving on the production team for The Fantasticks, which was translated into Chinese and performed in Beijing and Shanghai. Her ongoing love of musical theatre has brought her on stage as Lola in Damn Yankees, Annie in Annie Get Your Gun, and Petra in A Little Night Music, as well as roles in, among others, Godspell, Company and Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill. Gayle recently relocated from southern Connecticut to the Greenville area and was quickly impressed with Centre Stage’s fine theatrical work. She is very pleased to have been asked to serve as host for this year’s New Play Festival.

PLAYWRIGHT BIOGRAPHIES

Steven Young - Under the Overpass, produced by Nylon Fusion Theatre NYC, Literary award winner and produced by TeCo Arts Dallas TX. Blank Canvas – Top 50 ten-minute plays Actors Theatre of Louisville, produced at the Midtown International Theatre Festival Play Lab NYC. The King’s Face – Staged reading The Blank Theatre LA, winner South West New Play Contest Fort Worth TX, winner FutureFest Dayton OH, finalist Newman/Woodard Drama Award. The Wal*mart*ians – Best Comedy of the Year Chicago Arts & Entertainment, Jerome Fellowship finalist, and finalist Reva Shiner Comedy Award. The Night Witches – produced at the Brighton Media Centre UK, produced at Texas Woman’s University.

C. Kay “Andy” Landis, MFA, plays include The Volunteer, A Special Day, “Praying for a Hurricane,” “Camden on Ice,” “Hating Hope,” and “Whatever.” Her full-length The Volunteer was a semi-finalist for 2015 Ashland New Plays Festival and 2015 Playwrights’ Center Core Apprenticeship. Her short and 10-minute plays have been produced or staged by Warner Theater Festival, Ramapo College Theater Festival, ATHE, The Edward Albee Great Plains Theatre Conference, and Metropolitan Theatre Festival. Her short play, “Whatever” was a 2014 Kennedy Center ACTF finalist. Twice selected for the Cape May International Theater Festival, Landis was a 2005 guest artist for the Kennedy Center playwriting intensive. Memberships include; The Dramatists Guild, SAG/AFTRA, the 9th Floor Playwrights NYC. Before returning to her first love of playwriting, Landis was a professional singer/songwriter with Warner Chapel Music and an actor in Los Angeles appearing on television, film, and stage. Landis divides her time between New York and Nashville, Tennessee.

Kristy Thomas has been writing short plays and stories for years. She hails from Kansas City, MO and has an MFA in Acting and Directing and has been an active part of the art of theater since she was three years old evolving from actor to writer and back again. She owns and operates a literary and publishing business that deals with short stories and one act plays for competition. (www.alwayswriting4u.com) She has also experienced the joy of being a high school teacher for eight years in Mansfield, TX. She has
sense moved to Los Angeles, CA in hopes of making writing her career. She loves writing stories that people can connect to and leave the theatre talking about the people whose lives they just saw change in front of their eyes. Her motto is her passion, “Tell your story, it is the best story ever told.”

**Steven Peterson** is a Chicago-based playwright whose recent productions include *Affluence* (Theatre 40, Los Angeles), *The Invasion of Skokie* (Chicago Dramatists, revived by Shpiel Theatre), *A Couple of Nobodies* (The Artistic Home, revival at Step Up Productions), and the workshop production of *Lydia Lindstrom* (Raven Theatre). His plays have also appeared at the new play festivals of Cleveland Play House, Utah Shakespeare Festival, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Theatre, and Theatre Ariel (Philadelphia). National awards: 2014 Julie Harris Playwright Award (2nd prize) for *The Shabbos Goy*, 2013 Julie Harris Playwright Award (1st prize) for *Affluence*, and 2012 Dorothy Silver Playwriting Competition winner for *Paris Time*. Steve is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists, a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, and is represented by the Robert A. Freedman Dramatic Agency of NYC.

**IN THE GALLERY AT CENTRE STAGE**

The art of Melinda Hoffman will be on display through November 6th, Tues. – Fri. 2-6 p.m. The exhibit is presented in cooperation with the Metropolitan Arts Council. This partnership is sponsored by South State Bank. Admission is free.