

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTHERN REP THEATRE CONCLUDES 30TH SEASON WITH REGIONAL PREMIERE OF *FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)* BY SUZAN-LORI PARKS

*Pulitzer Finalist and Obie & Kennedy Award winning play is directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton
Extensive community engagement programming scheduled to accompany the production*

NEW ORLEANS (April 21, 2017)—Southern Rep Theatre presents the regional premiere of *FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)* by Suzan-Lori Parks from May 31 to June 25 at Marquette Theatre, Loyola University. The play's "parts" unfold as three acts of a single performance, staged with two intermissions.

In Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner Suzan-Lori Parks' new American Odyssey, "Hero" is promised his freedom from slavery in exchange for his service in the Civil War—on the Confederate side. He leaves behind his community, his father, and the woman he loves for what may be an empty promise; what he finds on the front lines might make it impossible for him to return home the same man.

Producing Artistic Director Aimée Hayes says, "Suzan-Lori Parks is a visionary playwright with a bold inventive use of language that engages audiences' imaginations in creative and effective ways. *FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS* is a perfect tale for New Orleans as the city has been re-evaluating how we integrate our history with present-day reality. We are so pleased to welcome back director Valerie Curtis-Newton, who directed the award-winning Southern Rep productions *SHOTGUN* by John Biguenet and *YELLOWMAN* by Dael Orlandersmith. Valerie's imaginative productions are a perfect match for the epic scope of Parks' play."

"I am so thrilled to be back at Southern Rep Theatre," says Director Valerie Curtis-Newton, "with a show that is not only beautiful but timely. It fuses Greek mythology with American history to tell the story of the cost of freedom. It asks 'What would you do to be free?'"

During *FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)*, Southern Rep Theatre will host a series of free events under its new initiative, The Southern Rep Community Table. Led by Lauren E. Turner, The Community Table includes the Lagniappe Stage Performance Series, Play Dates, Table Talks, The Southern Rep Theatre Acting Company, and Table Builders, a group of community advisors. Each program offers avenues for deeper engagement with Southern Rep's mainstage work and broader community access to programs. *See listing section below for details and full schedule.*

Lauren E. Turner, Producer of Artistic and Community Engagement, says, "This is a play that is particularly relevant to New Orleans and specifically people of color in the city. I am eagerly awaiting the community discussions and art-making opportunities surrounding this production. All of our programming and partnerships have been created to foster maximum engagement, a radical approach to inclusion and sense of community. I hope everyone will find the time at least once in the coming months to gather with us!"

INTERVIEWS & PRESS TICKETS

For interviews with Aimée Hayes, Director Valerie Curtis-Newton, Lauren E. Turner, or other members of the cast and production team, or to reserve reviewer tickets, please contact PR@southernrep.com or [504-522-6545](tel:504-522-6545). *Reviewer tickets are not available for preview performances (May 31, June 1, and June 2).*

LISTING INFORMATION

FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)
By Suzan-Lori Parks
Directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton
Presented at Loyola University, Marquette Theatre
6363 St. Charles Ave. New Orleans, LA 70118

Southern Rep Theatre is in residence at the Loyola University Department of Theatre Arts and Dance

Cast

Featuring Sam Malone, Robert DoQui, Idella Johnson, John Ray Proctor, Martin Bradford, Lakesha Glover, Harold X. Evans, Zeb Hollins, Todd d'Amour and Greg Baber

Preview Performances

Wednesday, May 31 - Friday, June 2, 2017 8:00 PM

Regular Performances

June 3 - 25, 2017

Thursdays - Saturdays at 8:00 PM

Sundays at 3:00 PM

Special Events

Wednesday, May 31 - Friday, June 2: Preview Performances (\$25)

Monday, June 5: Opening Night – Reception to Follow!

Thursday, June 8: Pay What You Can Night – At the door only, starting one hour before curtain (tickets reserved in advance are full price)

West Texas, 1862. “Hero” is promised his freedom from slavery in exchange for his service in the Civil War—on the Confederate side. He leaves behind his community, his father, and the woman he loves for what may be an empty promise; what he finds on the front lines might make it impossible for him to return home the same man. *New York Magazine* calls Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks’s FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3) a “masterpiece.”

The play’s three parts are staged as a single performance with two intermissions.

TICKETS*

Individual tickets for regular performances (June 3 - 25) start at \$40. Prices are subject to increase based on demand. Discounts are available for seniors, military families,** patrons age 35 and under, theatre professionals, and teachers; special prices also available for Loyola University students, faculty, and staff. Preview performances (May 31 - June 2) are \$25.

Student rush tickets (\$10 plus fees), can be purchased at the door only (based on availability) ten minutes before each performance with a valid student ID. Cash is appreciated.

Discounted group sales available - call [504-522-6545](tel:504-522-6545)

Tickets and more information at www.southernrep.com or [504-522-6545](tel:504-522-6545)

**All prices subject to applicable box office fees.*

**Southern Rep Theatre is a proud member of the Blue Star Theatre network. A part of the Blue Star Arts program, Blue Star Theatres is a partnership among Theatre Communications Group (TCG) with leadership support provided by the MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. This initiative recognizes the profound contributions of service families and seeks to build stronger connections between theatres, military families and their communities.

COMMUNITY TABLE ENGAGEMENT EVENT SCHEDULE

Lagniappe Stage – free and open to the public

The Lagniappe Stage Performance Series takes place outdoors immediately prior to Friday night performances and includes local musicians and performers in a free ‘show before the show.’

Fridays, 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (June 2, 9, 16, 23)

Table Talks – free and open to the public

Saturday night panel discussions offer critical engagement with the themes and history of the play.

Saturday, June 3, 7:00 – 7:30 PM

Black.Woman.Writer

What does it mean to be Black? What does it mean to be a Woman? What does it mean to be a Writer? A conversation among artists navigating the intersections of Black/Woman/Writer.

Saturday, June 10, 7:00 – 7:30 PM

Black Soldiers and the Civil War

Black soldiers fought and died in the Civil War — on both the Union and Confederate sides. What did they contribute and what did it mean to be Black in the war to end American slavery?

Saturday, June 17, 7:00 – 7:30 PM

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Theatre

An examination of the state of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the contemporary American and local theatre landscapes.

Saturday, June 24, 7:00 – 7:30 PM

Black Bodies Matter, Then and Now

A discussion of the relationship between U.S. policy and the treatment of Black bodies

Sunday afternoon actor talkbacks open the floor to the audience to ask questions directly of performers.

(Immediately following matinee performances on June 4, 11, 18 – no talkback June 25)

Play Dates

Through the Play Date initiative, Southern Rep Theatre will work with Bayou Road businesses and other partners, including Amistad Research Center, to engage deeply with the community through free collaborative art-making events.

Saturday, April 22, 12:00 PM

What does freedom look like?

A collaborative art-making session for children of all ages, featuring readings about emancipation by the Southern Rep Theatre Acting Company and facilitated discussion for parents.

Community Book Center

2523 Bayou Rd.

New Orleans, LA 70119

Saturday, May 20, 7:00 PM

What does freedom sound like?

What role has music played in the struggle for freedom? A participatory music workshop that invites all community members to join in making music, regardless of skill level or experience. No instrument required!

Junk Masters

2563 Bayou Rd.

New Orleans, LA 70119

Thursday, June 1 (TIME TBA)

Amistad Research Center Reception

Before the performance, stop by Amistad Research Center for a reception and digital display curated especially to contextualize the historical framework of FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3).

Amistad Research Center

Tulane University

6823 St. Charles Ave.

New Orleans, LA 70118

Saturday, June 3 (TIME TBA)

How do you know when you are free?

We head to Le Musée de F.P.C. to learn the rich and varied history of Free People of Color in New Orleans, including Andre Cailloux and Henriette Delille. Make history into art by creating your own timeline!

Le Musée de F.P.C
2336 Esplanade Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119

Saturday, June 17, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Juneteenth Celebration

Commemorate Juneteenth (also known as Freedom Day), the anniversary of the day slaves in some states finally learned that they were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.

6363 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

All details subject to change, including cast, venue, and performance schedule. Please visit www.southernrep.com for the most up-to-date information.

About Suzan-Lori Parks, Playwright

Named among Time magazine's "100 Innovators for the Next Wave," Suzan-Lori Parks is one of the most acclaimed playwrights in American drama today. She is the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, is a MacArthur "Genius" Award recipient, and in 2015 was awarded the prestigious Gish Prize for Excellence in the Arts. Other grants and awards include those from the National Endowment for the Arts, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts and New York Foundation for the Arts. She is also a recipient of a Lila-Wallace Reader's Digest Award, a CalArts/Alpert Award in the Arts, and a Guggenheim Foundation Grant. She is an alum of New Dramatists and of Mount Holyoke College.

About Valerie Curtis-Newton, Director

Valerie Curtis-Newton is currently the Head of Performance - Acting and Directing at the University of Washington School of Drama. She also serves as the Founding Artistic Director for The Hansberry Project, a professional African American theatre lab. Val has worked with theatres across the country including the Guthrie Theater, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, The Mark Taper Forum, New York Theatre Workshop, Tacoma Actors' Guild, Southern Repertory Theatre, and Capitol Repertory Theatre, among others.

About Southern Rep Theatre

Entering its 31st Season, Southern Rep Theatre, an independent non-profit theatre, produces award-winning productions that are engaging, educational, and accessible for audiences of every socioeconomic background. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Aimée Hayes and Managing Director Jenny Windstrup, Southern Rep Theatre's Mainstage Season work includes bold World and Regional Premieres as well as the best of Broadway, off-Broadway, and classic plays. Southern Rep Theatre's Lagniappe Series and "School to Stage Pipeline" of Arts Education Programs reflect the company's ongoing commitment to new play development by providing resources for students and burgeoning theatre professionals. Southern Rep Theatre actively seeks opportunities to engage with ideas, cultures, traditions, and people that reflect the diversity of our world in order to create relevant, visceral and authentic theatre experiences for our community. Our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is reflected in ALL of our artistic and administrative practices. A mainstay of New Orleans' arts community, Southern Rep Theatre continues to build on its unique position as a sector leader, creative force, and important resource for contemporary American theatre.

For more information about Southern Rep or to purchase tickets, please visit www.southernrep.com or call the box office at [504-522-6545](tel:504-522-6545). Southern Rep Theatre is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @southern_rep.

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