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**ROUND HOUSE THEATRE CONTINUES SEASON WITH
ACCLAIMED COMING-OF-AGE JOURNEY**

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

November 20 - December 22 at Round House Theatre

Bethesda, Md. (October 7, 2019) – Round House Theatre continues its 2019-2020 Homecoming Season with **Simon Stephens'** adaptation of **Mark Haddon's** best-selling book, ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*** (November 20 – December 22, 2019 in the newly renovated Round House Theatre), co-directed by Round House Artistic Director **Ryan Rilette** and **Jared Mezzocchi**. Please see below for complete program details and ticket information.

Simon Stephens' Olivier and Tony award-winning adaptation of Mark Haddon's novel follows Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old mathematical genius who is exceptionally intelligent but has difficulty interpreting everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched, and he distrusts strangers. When he falls under suspicion for killing his neighbor's dog, however, Christopher sets out to identify the true culprit, leading to a thrilling journey of discovery about his family and his future. *Curious Incident* is a remarkable, visually stunning story that offers holiday audiences "a play that works on every level—crowd-pleasing, eye-opening, life-affirming and unmissable" (*Time Magazine*).

The first of two productions in the Homecoming Season directed by Artistic Director **Ryan Rilette**, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* also marks the return of **Jared Mezzocchi**, who previously designed projections for multiple Round House shows including last season's hit political thriller *Oslo*, also directed by Rilette. Mezzocchi will serve as both co-director and projections designer for *Curious Incident* to bring the story to life in a digitally-enhanced staging.

“I’m thrilled to tackle this gorgeous play with Jared,” says Rilette. “It’s allowing us to expand upon the vocabulary we built during *Oslo* and use projections in tandem with direction to help the audience see the world through the eyes of Christopher, a 15-year-old boy on the spectrum navigating a difficult period in his life and trying to traverse a world full of confusion and conflict. I think this is going to be an incredibly special show and can’t wait to start work on it.”

“I couldn’t be more thrilled by this opportunity to direct *Curious Incident* at Round House and share it with DC audiences,” says Mezzocchi. “This script really requires thinking about storytelling from both a directorial and multimedia standpoint, because it asks our audience to live both inside and outside of Christopher’s world, straddling his conscious and subconscious experience. This is something multimedia can do effectively, but I also cannot wait to unpack this journey with Ryan and work on the production dramaturgically. I think the result will be visually engaging, but also deeply empathetic.”

The cast includes **Tonya Beckman** (previously in *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Crime and Punishment*), **Harrison Bryan** (*A Patron of the Arts* at Cherry Lane Theatre, *Spring Awakening* at Gallery Players), Round House Resident Artist **Maboud Ebrahimzadeh** (previously in *Oslo* and *Small Mouth Sounds*), **Laura C. Harris** (previously in *NSFW* and *Seminar*), **Eric Hissom** (previously in *The Heal* at the Getty Villa and *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*), **Tessa Klein** (*War Horse* at Lincoln Center Theatre), **Cody Nickell** (previously in *Oslo*), **Kimberly Schraf** (previously in *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and *Our Town*), **Kathryn Tkel** (previously in *A Doll’s House, Part 2* and *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*), and **Cody LeRoy Wilson** (previously in *Handbagged* and *The Book of Will*).

The cast is joined by a creative team that includes scenic design by Round House Theatre Resident Artist **Paige Hathaway**, lighting design by **Sherrice Mojgani**, projection design by Jared Mezzocchi, costume designer by **Deb Svigny**, and sound design by **Andre Pleuss**.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 240.644.1100, ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org, or in person at the box office. Round House Theatre is located at 4545 East-West Highway, one block from Wisconsin Avenue and the Bethesda station on Metro’s Red Line.

ARTIST INFORMATION

Simon Stephens (playwright) is a contemporary English playwright, whose recent works include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (2013 Olivier Award Best New Play, 2015 Tony Award Best Play), *Heisenberg* (2015 Off-Broadway), numerous adaptations of shows like the National Theatre’s 2016 *The Threepenny Opera*, Chekov’s *The*

Seagull (2017) and *The Cherry Orchard* (2014), plus *On the Shore of the Wide World* (2006 Olivier Award Best New Play). Stephens ran the Young Writers' Program at the Royal Court Theatre in London, premiering several shows there including *Motortown* (2006), *Country Music* (2004), *Hérons* (2001), and *Bluebird* (1998). Currently Stephens is an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in London, where his adaptation of *The Seagull* played in 2017. He is a professor of playwriting at Manchester Metropolitan University, an associate playwright at the Royal Court Theatre, the artistic associate at the Lyric Hammersmith in London, and the Steep Associate Playwright at Steep Theatre in Chicago.

Mark Haddon (author) is a British novelist and poet, best known for his 2003 novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. He was educated at Uppingham School and Merton College, Oxford, where he studied English. In 2003, Haddon won the Whitbread Book of the Year Award and in 2004, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Overall Best First Book for his novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, a book which is written from the perspective of a boy with Asperger's syndrome. Haddon's knowledge of Asperger's syndrome, a type of autism, comes from his work with autistic people as a young man. In an interview at Powells.com, Haddon claimed that this was the first book that he wrote intentionally for an adult audience; he was surprised when his publisher suggested marketing it to both adult and child audiences. His second adult-novel, *A Spot of Bother*, was published in September 2006. Mark Haddon is also known for his series of Agent Z books, one of which, *Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars*, was made into a 1996 Children's BBC sitcom. He also wrote the screenplay for the BBC television adaptation of Raymond Briggs's story *Fungus the Bogeyman*, screened on BBC1 in 2004. He also wrote the 2007 BBC television drama *Coming Down the Mountain*.

Ryan Rilette (Co-Director) is currently in his eighth season as Artistic Director of Round House Theatre. During his tenure, he has produced the four best-selling shows and two best-selling, highest-attended seasons in Round House history. Since his arrival, the Helen Hayes Awards have nominated Round House productions for 52 awards and awarded them 13, including Outstanding New Play or Musical and Outstanding Resident Musical. This season, Rilette will also direct *Cost of Living*. He has previously directed *Oslo*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, "*Master Harold*"...and the Boys", *The Book of Will*, *Angels in America: Perestroika*, *The Night Alive*, and *Fool for Love*. He has also directed numerous regional and world premieres at theatres throughout the country, including at Marin Theatre Company in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he served as Producing Director for five seasons; Southern Rep Theatre in New Orleans, where he served as Producing Artistic Director for six seasons; and Rude Mechanicals Theatre Company in New York, which he co-founded and served as Artistic Director for three seasons. As an actor, Rilette has acted in a handful of

forgettable made- for-TV movies, an award-winning miniseries, in a film opposite Tommy Lee Jones, and at numerous theatres across the country, including in *Three Sisters* and *No Sisters* at Studio Theatre and *Uncle Vanya* at Round House. He is also the former President of the National New Play Network, and a former professor at Tulane University and Loyola University New Orleans. He serves on the boards of Maryland Citizens for the Arts and theatreWashington.

Jared Mezzocchi (Co-Director) returns to Round House where he has previously designed *Oslo*, *How I Learned to Drive*, and *I'll Get You Back Again*. He won a 2017 Obie Award, Lucille Lortel Award, and Henry Hewes Award for his design in *Vietgone* (Manhattan Theatre Club), and also received the 2012 Princess Grace Award as the first projections designer to receive it. He is a company member at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, where he has designed *The Nether*, *Women Laughing Alone with Salad*, and *Chad Deity*. Additional DC credits include *Smart People* at Arena Stage; *Astro Boy and the God of Comics* at Studio Theatre; and *BELL* at National Geographic. Additional New York credits include *Downtown Loop* at 3LD and *You Are Dead. You Are Here.* at HERE Arts Center. Regional credits include Portland Center Stage, South Coast Rep, Milwaukee Repertory, Baltimore Center Stage, Cleveland Playhouse, Company One, and The Wilma. He has designed nationally and internationally for Big Art Group, Builder's Association, and Connect4Climate (Design Week, Milan IT). Jared is the Artistic Director of Andy's Summer Playhouse, an innovative NH children's theater focusing on new work, where he In 2011, he won Best Original Play at the 2011 New Hampshire Theater Awards for his writing and direction in *The Lost World*. He currently teaches in the MFA Design program at The University of Maryland.

CAST INFORMATION (ALPHABETICAL)

Tonya Beckman (Judy) returns to Round House, where previous credits include *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Alice*, and *Crime and Punishment*. She will also appear in the upcoming *Spring Awakening*. DC credits include *Second Shepherd's Play* and *Twelfth Night* at Folger Theatre; *Love's Labor's Lost* and *Lady Windermere's Fan* at Shakespeare Theatre Company; *Fickle* and *Rancho Mirage* at Olney Theatre Center; *The Internationalist* at Studio Theatre; *Jewish Queen Lear* and *Mikveh* at Theater J; and *Shear Madness* at the Kennedy Center, as well as appearances at Arena Stage, Ford's Theatre, Constellation Theatre, Mosaic Theater, Solas Nua, Forum Theatre, 1st Stage, and Imagination Stage. Tonya is also a company member at Taffety Punk Theatre Company. Regional credits include Cleveland Play House, Cincinnati Playhouse, Fulton Theatre, and Totem Pole Playhouse. tonyabeckman.com

Harrison Bryan (Christopher Boone) is making his Round House debut. Off-Broadway credits include *A Patron of the Arts* at Cherry Lane; *Brecht on Brecht* at Atlantic Stage; and *Spring Awakening* at Gallery Players (NYIT Award). Regional credits include: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at Pioneer Theatre Co. (BWW Award); *Hand to God* at FST (HANDY Award); *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Avenue Q* at Farmers Alley; and *Twelfth Night* at Powerhouse Theatre. TV/Film credits include: *The Deuce* (HBO); and *The-CoEds* (Amazon). Harrison is also an award-winning playwright/puppeteer; his new musical, *A Hanukkah Carol*, is currently in development. He received a BFA from Boston University, and classical training from LAMDA. www.HarrisonBryan.com. Instagram: @hahaharrisonbryan

Maboud Ebrahimzadeh (Voice 2) is a Round House Theatre Resident Artist, previously in *Oslo*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *The Book of Will*, and *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. Other DC credits include *The Price* at Arena Stage; *Oil* and *The Invisible Hand* at Olney Theatre Center; *Mockingbird* at the Kennedy Center; *King John* and *Timon of Athens* at Folger Theatre; *Water by the Spoonful* and *Edgar & Annabel* at Studio Theatre; and *The Pillowman* at Forum Theatre. Regional credits include *Murder on the Orient Express* at Hartford Stage; *Disgraced* at McCarter Theatre and Milwaukee Rep; *The Invisible Hand* (Barrymore Award, Outstanding Lead Actor) at Theatre Exile; *The Liar* at Gulfshore Playhouse; and *The Container* at Center Stage. Film and television credits include *Jessica Jones*, *Imperium*, and *Sally Pacholok*. www.maboudebrazhimzadeh.com

Laura C. Harris (Voice 1) is delighted to return to Round House after appearing in *NSFW*, *Seminar*, *Young Robin Hood*, *Amadeus*, and *26 Miles*. Other DC credits include *Fairview* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre; *The Heiress* at Arena Stage; *The Flick* (Helen Hayes nomination) and *Tender Napalm* at Signature Theatre; *Kings*, *Cloud 9*, and *Red Speedo* at Studio Theatre; *Vicuna & An Epilogue* at Mosaic Theater; *Love and Information*, *World Builders*, and *Passion Play* at Forum Theatre; *Awake and Sing!* at Olney Theatre Center; *Our Class* at Theater J; *The Winter's Tale* at Folger Theatre; and *1984* at Catalyst Theater Company. She received a BA in Theatre, Film & Media Culture from Middlebury College. Laura can next be seen in *Silent Sky* at Ford's Theatre and *Compulsion* at Theater J. www.lauracharris.com

Eric Hissom (Voice 4) is excited to return to Round House Theatre, where previous credits include *Philoctetes* in Round House's co-production of *The Heal* at Getty Villa and the *Tiger* in *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. Other DC credits include *Vanya*, *Sonia*, *Masha & Spike* at Arena Stage; *Cyrano* and *Arcadia* (Helen Hayes Award, Best Supporting Actor) at the Folger Theater; and *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. Eric was part of the National Tour of *The 39 Steps*, and he has appeared

regionally at American Repertory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, Seattle Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Asolo Rep, Arden Theatre Company, Milwaukee Rep, and many others. Film and television credits include *Out of Time*, *Mortal Kombat*, *Sheena*, and *One Tree Hill*.

Tessa Klein (Siobhan) is delighted to make her Round House Theatre debut. Broadway and Off-Broadway credits include *War Horse* at Lincoln Center Theatre; *The Weir* and *Philadelphia, Here I Come* at Irish Repertory Theatre; and *A Touch of the Poet* at 14th St Theatre. DC and Regional credits include *Cry It Out*, *The Hard Problem*, and *Chimerica* at Studio Theatre; *Labour of Love* at Olney Theatre Center; *An Ideal Husband* at Shakespeare Theatre Company (STC); *The Call* and *The Rise and Fall of Annie Hall* at Theater J; and *Argonautika* at STC, McCarter Theatre, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Film and television credits include *The Whitest Kids U' Know*, *Disappearances*, and *Peter and John*. She studied at Moscow Art Theatre and holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University. www.tessaklein.com

Cody Nickell (Ed) is thrilled to return to Round House, where he previously appeared in *Oslo*. Other DC credits include *Fairview* at Woolly Mammoth and *Richard III* at Shakespeare Theatre Company. Coming up, Cody can be seen in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Folger Theatre. Regional credits include shows at Gulfshore Playhouse (Artistic Associate for 3 seasons), Arden Theatre, The Wilma Theatre, Playmakers Rep, Portland Center Stage, Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Syracuse Stage, San Jose Rep, Studio Theatre, Two River Theatre, and Barrington Stage. Cody's career also includes film, television, and voice over work. Cody is the recipient of the Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Lead Actor and has been nominated for 4 Helen Hayes Awards. He is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama.

Kimberly Schraf (Voice 6) is proud to be a DC-area actor for over 30 years. Her Round House history started at Bushey Drive and includes *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *Our Town*, *Better Living*, and *The Chemistry of Change*. Other appearances include *The Heiress*, *Ah, Wilderness!*, and *The Women* at Arena Stage; *Death of a Salesman*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Carpetbagger's Children*, and *Sabrina Fair* at Ford's Theatre; all four of *The Apple Family Plays*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Frozen*, and *Crestfall* at Studio Theatre; *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* at Folger Theatre; *Measure for Measure*, *The Gigli Concert*, and *Watbanaland* at Woolly Mammoth; and *Angels in America* and *Show Boat* at Signature Theatre. Kim is co-Director of the Theatre Lab's Honors Conservatory and serves on the steering committee of Actors Arena.

Kathryn Tkel (Voice 5) is delighted to return to Round House after appearing in *A Doll's House, Part 2* and *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Other DC credits include *An*

Octoroon at Woolly Mammoth; *Sense and Sensibility* and *Timon of Athens* at Folger Theatre; *Jefferson's Garden* and *Death of a Salesman* at Ford's Theatre; *Fickle! A Fancy French Farce* at Olney Theatre Center; *The 39 Steps* and *Venus in Fur* at Rep Stage; and *Mockingbird* at The Kennedy Center. Regional credits include *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberely* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; *Cyrano de Bergerac* at Perseverance Theatre; *Romeo and Juliet* at Arizona Theatre Company; and *Legacy of Light* and *Secret Order* at San Jose Repertory Theatre. Kathryn received an MFA from Academy for Classical Acting.

Cody LeRoy Wilson (Voice 3) is excited to return to Round House Theatre for *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Previous Round House credits include *Handbagged* and *The Book of Will*. Other DC credits include *As You Like It* at Folger Theatre. Off-Broadway credits include Round House's remounted production of *Handbagged* as part of the Brits Off-Broadway Festival. Other NYC credits include *Titus Andronicus* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with New York Shakespeare Exchange. Regional credits include *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It*, and *So Please You* at Hudson Valley Shakespeare; *Miss Saigon* at Western Playhouse; and *Tecumseh!* At Tecumseh Outdoor Drama. Instagram: @cody_leroy_wilson

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

By Simon Stephens

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon

Directed by Ryan Rilette and Jared Mezzocchi

Harrison Bryan as Christopher*

Cody Nickell as Ed

Tessa Klein as Siobhan*

Tonya Beckman as Judy

Laura C. Harris as Voice 1

Maboud Ebrahimzadeh as Voice 2

Cody LeRoy Wilson as Voice 3

Eric Hissom as Voice 4

Kathryn Tkel as Voice 5

Kimberly Schraf as Voice 6

* - Round House Theatre debut

For more production information, including full creative team bios, please visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/CuriousIncident

WHERE:

Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway in Bethesda (one block from Wisconsin Ave. and Metro's Bethesda station). For directions, parking, and public transportation info, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/Visit-Us/

ABOUT THE PLAY:

Murder. Mystery. Mayhem. Math. What begins as an investigation into the grisly death of a neighbor's dog results in a remarkable coming-of-age journey for 15-year-old Christopher Boone. A self-described "mathematician with some behavioral problems," our narrator sees things differently than those around him and, like fractals in a kaleidoscope, each revelation exposes another puzzle for him to solve. As the audience follows Christopher's brilliant yet dizzying mind, the full story unravels in a visually dazzling sequence of events onstage. Simon Stephen's beloved Tony and Olivier Award-winning adaptation of Mark Haddon's bestselling novel challenges us to seek out the silver linings in ourselves—and others—as we make our way through the world.

DATES AND TIMES:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time runs from November 20 to December 22, 2019. Performances are Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 pm, Friday and Saturdays at 8:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm.

TICKETS:

Tickets can be purchased by calling 240.644.1100, ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org, or visiting the box office. Available ticket discounts include:

- Free Play – free tickets for all High School students throughout the DC- Metro area: Round House wants to make attending our shows an integral part of a Montgomery County education. To that end, we have a unique program: Play It Forward. With *Free Play*, all High School students throughout the DC-Metro area can reserve a free ticket to the performance of their choice during the 2019-2020 Season. For details and information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/Free-Play or call 240.644.1100.
- On the House – new community ticket access program: Round House's next step to remove barriers that can make it difficult for some members of our community to experience our work is *On the House*, which provides complimentary group tickets to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and community-serving organizations with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. General applications for tickets to *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* will open on October 9. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-The-House or email Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org.

- Pay-What-You-Can performances: Wednesday, November 20 at 7:30 pm, and Saturday, November 23 at 2:00 pm. PWYC tickets go on sale in person at the box office one hour prior to curtain. Cash and exact change only. Limit of 2 tickets per order. PWYC tickets are subject to availability. A limited amount of digital PWYC tickets will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis on TodayTix on starting Monday, November 18.
- Age 35 & Under, Military, and Veterans: Patrons under 35, active duty military personnel, and veterans qualify for a \$10 discount off the single ticket price. Single Ticket fees do not apply for 35 & Under. Discounts can be redeemed in person at the box office, or by calling 240.644.1100.
- 2-For-1 Tuesday: For our Tuesday, November 3, November 10, and November performances, all seats are buy one, get one free. Tickets can be purchased in person at the box office, online, or by calling 240.644.1100, while supplies last.
- Group Sales: Groups of 10 or more can save up to 50% off the single ticket price and are exempt from single ticket fees. These tickets must be reserved and purchased in advance by calling 240.644.1100 or emailing GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org.

ABOUT ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

Round House Theatre is one of the leading professional theatres in the Washington, D.C. area, producing a season of new plays, modern classics, and musicals for more than 40,000 patrons each year at our theatre in Bethesda. Round House has been nominated for more than 181 Helen Hayes Awards and has won 37, including four Outstanding Resident Play Awards and the Charles MacArthur Award for Original New Play in 2016. Round House's lifelong learning and education programs serve over 4,000 students each year at its Education Center in Silver Spring and in schools throughout Montgomery County. Cornerstone programs include Play It Forward, which provides free tickets for teens and college school students, the year-round Teen Performance Company, which culminates in the student-produced Sarah Metzger Memorial Play, Summer Camp for students in grades K-12, and a full slate of classes for Adults & Youth.

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