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For Immediate Release



Profile Theatre presents
***The Road to Mecca* by Athol Fugard**
January 9 – February 3, 2013

(Portland, Oregon – November 30, 2012) Profile Theatre's 2012-13 Season, dedicated to the works of South African playwright Athol Fugard, continues with ***The Road to Mecca***. This will be the Portland directing debut of Profile's new Artistic Director Adriana Baer.

Miss Helen, an eccentric widow and sculptor, lives alone in a small village in the Karoo desert. When Reverend Marius argues for moving her into an old age home for her own safety, Miss Helen questions whether to give up, give in, or go on. She summons the only person she trusts: Elsa, a young schoolteacher who loses her footing while taking aim at society's treatment of those who do not conform. Birth, death, and what comes next are brought under examination as the artist courageously asks: What is true faith?

"This beautiful play is about women who resist 'the norm' in order to honor their own beliefs," says director Adriana Baer. "But that is not as simple as it seems. They must ask: how do I justify my love for this land, this country, when I am trapped by a culture that insists certain behaviors are 'right' and 'good' and others are not?"

Adriana Baer directs **David Bodin**, **Eileen DeSandre** and **Amanda Soden**

Design and Production: Kaye Blankenship, Jessica Bobillot, Kristeen Crosser, Sara Ludeman, Sharath Patel, Alan Schwanke, Brent Sullivan and D Westerholm

Performance Schedule

Wednesday, January 9 – Friday, January 11, 7:30pm – Previews

Saturday, January 12, 7:30pm – Opening Night

Sunday, January 13, 2:00pm – Mat Chat Talk Back

January 16 – February 3: Wednesdays – Saturdays at 7:30pm, Sundays at 2:00pm

Thursday, January 17, 7:30 pm – Sign-interpreted performance

Ticket Information

Regular Tickets: \$16 - \$30 (student, senior, and group discounts available)

Pay-What-You-Will Preview: Wednesday, January 9

Details and tickets at 503.242.0080 or www.profiletheatre.org
All performances are held at 3430 SE Belmont Street in Portland.

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About Playwright Athol Fugard:

South African writer Athol Fugard is one of the most prolific and oft-produced playwrights in the world. He has worked in the theater as a playwright, director, and actor in South Africa, England, and the United States for over fifty years. As a playwright, his works have received critically acclaimed runs on Broadway, in London, and at The Fugard Theatre in Cape Town among many others. He has been seen on stage in South Africa, London, Broadway, off-Broadway, and in regional theater in the U.S. In June 2011 he received a Lifetime Achievement Tony Award.

His plays include: *No-Good Friday*, *Nongogo*, *Blood Knot*, *Hello and Goodbye*, *People are Living There*, *Boesman and Lena*, *Statements After an Arrest*, *Under the Immorality Act*, *Sizwe Banzi is Dead*, *Dimetos*, *The Island*, *A Lesson From Aloes*, *"Master Harold" ...and the Boys*, *The Road to Mecca*, *A Place with the Pigs*, *My Children! My Africa!*, *Playland*, *Valley Song*, *The Captain's Tiger*, *Sorrows and Rejoicings*, *Exits and Entrances*, *Victory*, *Coming Home*, *The Train Driver* and *The Blue Iris*.

Film credits include *The Road to Mecca*, *Gandhi*, *The Killing Fields*, *Meetings with Remarkable Men*, *Marigolds in August*, *Boesman and Lena*, and *The Guest*. His novel *Tsotsi*, was adapted into a film which won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film (2006). He has published his autobiographical memoir "Cousins."

About Profile Theatre:

Profile Theatre was founded in 1997 with the mission of celebrating the playwright's contribution to live theater. To that end, Profile produces a full season of plays by or about a single playwright each season. The opportunity to deeply engage with the body of work of a featured playwright through performances, readings, lectures and talkbacks is unique in Portland.

Profile has won a number of Drammy awards (Portland Area Theatre Critics Award), and Profile's productions consistently earn the Critic's Choice designations in the state's largest newspaper, *The Oregonian*. In October 2010, Profile was one of only ten companies in the United States to be honored with the prestigious National Theatre Company Grant from the American Theatre Wing, founder of the Tony Awards, recognizing Profile's commitment to artistic excellence and our unique mission. Our mission is supported by a strong Education program that includes in-school workshops and Inside Out, Profile's community and school tour.

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