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PROFILE THEATRE ANNOUNCES
**2018-2019 Lisa Kron / Anna Deavere Smith
Season**

PORTLAND, Ore, June 26, 2017 – PROFILE THEATRE is excited to announce that **Lisa Kron and Anna Deavere Smith** will be the company’s featured playwrights for the 2018-2019 double season. “For my first full season at Profile, and the third and final year of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative,” **says Artistic Director Josh Hecht**, “I wanted to do something extra ambitious: a special double season featuring two of our most celebrated, most important national playwrights in conversation for a full eighteen months. Two writers at the peak of their powers whose work over the last twenty-five years will seem shockingly urgent and relevant and taken together, will connect us with Americans of every shape, size, creed and color and remind us of the tapestry in which we live.”

Season subscriptions will be available for current season subscribers beginning June 26, 2017 and available to the public September 1, 2017. Single tickets to individual plays go on sale October 1, 2017.

“**Lisa Kron** is one of the funniest playwrights I’ve ever met,” says Hecht. Kron is recently well-known as the Pulitzer and Tony-winning writer of the musical *Fun Home*. But for nearly three decades, her writing has run the gamut from award-winning solo shows to ground-breaking plays on Broadway, often using her own family as the source material for some of the most insightful (and hysterical) observations of human nature. She’s a writer full of big ideas with a bold, inimitable voice. “Profile’s unique mission allows us to present her early work

with the iconic downtown performance troupe The Five Lesbian Brothers,” continues Hecht,”To her career-defining solo show *2.5 Minute Ride*, her 2006 Broadway hit *Well* and her 2010 political comedy-drama *In The Wake*.”

Anna Deavere Smith will be familiar to audiences from seven seasons on the TV show “Nurse Jackie” or appearances on “Madame Secretary” and “Black-ish,” but this Pulitzer Prize-finalist and Tony-nominated dramatist invented “docu-theater”. Her revolutionary solo show *Fires In The Mirror* changed the American theatre landscape when it premiered at the Public Theater twenty-five years ago. Her pioneering form begins with dozens, sometimes hundreds, of interviews, which she then performs verbatim – with every verbal tic and physical gesture – to create one-of-a-kind theatrical portrait galleries. Profile will present *Fires In The Mirror*, which chronicles the 1991 race riots in New York’s Crown Heights neighborhood, and *Let Me Down Easy*, a piece from 2008-2010 that explores the miracle of human resilience through the lens of the national debate on healthcare. The former will be presented as a solo piece; the latter will be reimagined for a cast of six. Profile will also present special material from this writer’s oeuvre in one-night evenings announced throughout the season.

2018-2019 Lisa Kron / Anna Deavere Smith Season

2.5 Minute Ride

By Lisa Kron

January 25 - February 11, 2018

In her solo show *2.5 Minute Ride*, Lisa Kron invites her audience (and her girlfriend Peg) on the Kron family “vacation” to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio. You see, in spite of near-blindness, diabetes and a heart condition, Lisa’s 74-year-old father insists on yearly trips to the world capital of roller coasters. But this isn’t the only journey Lisa takes with her ailing father. She also accompanies Walter to Auschwitz, where his parents were killed, and where she understands more clearly the joys and sorrows of her father’s heart. With wit and compassion, Lisa creates a complex and searingly funny meditation on how human beings make sense of tragedy, grief, and everyday life.

Wonderfully evocative and often seriously funny, [Kron] sets off emotional vibrations that just won't stop. -New York Times

The Secretaries

By The Five Lesbian Brothers

Maureen Angelos, Babs Davy, Dominique Dibbell, Peg Healey & Lisa Kron

June 14 - July 1, 2018

Pretty Patty Johnson is thrilled to join the secretarial pool at the Cooney Lumber Mill in Big Bone, Oregon under the iron-fisted leadership of sultry office manager Susan Curtis. But she soon begins to feel that all is not right—the enforced diet of Slim-Fast shakes, the strange clicking language between the girls, the monthly disappearance of a lumberjack. By the time Patty discovers murder is part of these office killers' skill set, it's too late to turn back! In the guise of satiric exploitation-horror, *The Secretaries* takes an unflinching look at the warping cultural expectations of femininity and the ways women themselves are often the enforcers of sexism.

'The Secretaries' is like a mashup of 'Twin Peaks' and 'Portlandia' -Chicago Tribune

Fires in the Mirror

By Anna Deavere Smith

October 24-28, 2018

In August 1991 simmering tensions in the racially polarized Brooklyn, New York neighborhood of Crown Heights exploded into riots after an African-American boy was killed by a car in a rabbi's motorcade and a Jewish student was slain in retaliation. Pulitzer Prize-finalist *Fires in the Mirror* is dramatist Anna Deavere Smith's stunning exploration of the events and emotions leading up to and following the Crown Heights conflict. Through her portrayals of more than two dozen adversaries, victims, and eyewitnesses, using verbatim excerpts from their observations

derived from interviews she conducted, Smith provides a brilliant, Rashoman-like documentary portrait of contemporary ethnic turmoil.

Quite simply the most compelling and sophisticated view of urban racial and class conflict that one could hope to encounter. -New York Times

In the Wake

By Lisa Kron

November 28 - December 16, 2018

It's Thanksgiving of 2000 and the presidential election still has not been decided. Ellen insists that her friends and family don't understand how bad the situation really is. But no one—not her loving partner, Danny, nor the passionate Amy, nor the brutally pragmatic and world-weary Judy— can make Ellen see the blind spot at the center of her own politics and emotional life. A funny, passionate, and ultimately searing play that illuminates assumptions that lie at the heart of the American character—and the blind spots that mask us from ourselves.

Smart, moving and undeniably sexy. -San Francisco Chronicle

Let Me Down Easy

By Anna Deavere Smith

Playing in rotating repertory with *Well*.

Spring 2019 (Specific dates tba)

In this theater piece constructed from verbatim interview transcripts, Anna Deavere Smith examines the miracle of human resilience through the lens of the national debate on health care. Drawn from in-person interviews, Smith creates an indelible gallery of 20 individuals, known and unknown—from a rodeo bull rider and a World Heavyweight boxing champion to a New Orleans doctor during Hurricane Katrina, as well as former Texas Governor Ann Richards,

cyclist Lance Armstrong, film critic Joel Siegel, and supermodel Lauren Hutton. A work of emotional brilliance and political substance from one of the treasures of the American theater. Originally created as a one-person show, the Profile Theatre production will feature the same six-person cast performing Lisa Kron's *Well*.

Vitally important, wide-ranging and ultimately very moving. -Los Angeles Times

Well

By Lisa Kron

Playing in rotating rep with *Let Me Down Easy*

Spring 2019 (Specific dates tba)

In the opening moments of this Tony-nominated Best Play on Broadway, Lisa Kron assures us this play is not about her mother and her. But, of course, it is about her mother, and her mother's extraordinary ability to heal a changing neighborhood, despite her inability to heal herself. In this self-professed solo show with people in it, Kron asks the provocative question: Do we create our own illness? The answers she gets are much more complicated than she bargained for as the play spins dangerously out of control into riotously funny and unexpected territory.

This glorious and funny new play opens doors of insight and emotion that no other play in New York is opening. I fell in love with 'Well.' -New York Times

In Dialogue Staged Readings

In Dialogue Staged Readings include new and contemporary plays in conversation with Lisa Kron's and Anna Deavere Smith's work, as well as readings of Kron and Smith plays not in the Main Stage season. Staged Readings will be announced throughout the season.

All performances take place at Artists Repertory Theatre at 1515 SW Morrison St.

About Profile Theatre

Now in its 20th season, Profile Theatre's mission is to produce a season of plays devoted to a single playwright, engaging with the community to explore that writer's vision and influence on theatre and the world at large.

With the 2018-2019 season, Profile begins the final year of a three year Initiative for Diversity and Inclusion. Through this initiative, Profile is intentionally considering playwrights whom, traditionally, the theatre industry has not supported and developed. Profile has committed to three years of presenting the work of female and/or playwrights of color. There is energized and passionate conversation happening in theatres throughout the country around the ideas of diversity and inclusion. With this initiative, Profile places itself not only at the center of that conversation, but also on the leading edge of change.

Profile Theatre's 2017 Season Sponsor is Ronni LaCroute. Additional support by The Regional Arts and Culture Council and Work for Art, The Oregon Arts Commission, The Meyer Memorial Trust, The James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, The Oregon Community Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Kinsman Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Autzen Foundation, The Rose E. Tucker Charitable and the PGE Foundation.

For more information, visit Profiletheatre.org or call 503.242.0080.

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