

September 12, 2012

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For Immediate Release

**Profile Theatre opens its 16th Season with
“Master Harold”...and the Boys
by Athol Fugard**

October 3 - 28, 2012



(Portland, Oregon – September 12, 2012) Profile Theatre begins its 16th Season, dedicated to the works of South African playwright Athol Fugard, with the Main Stage production, “**Master Harold**”...and the Boys.

In Fugard’s semi-autobiographical work, white 17-year-old Hally comes of age in his mother’s small, run-down Port Elizabeth tea shop during the height of apartheid. On a quiet, rainy afternoon in the shop, Willie and Sam, black waiters, practice for an upcoming ballroom dance competition. While Hally works on his lessons, the three friends uncover the cruel power of language by revealing dark secrets and speaking words that cannot be unsaid.

Initially banned by the South African government, this powerful and deeply personal Tony Award-nominated play has subsequently become one of Fugard’s most critically acclaimed works.

Jane Unger directs **Bobby Bermea**, **Sam Benedict** and **Garfield Wedderburn**.

Design and Production: **Jessica Bobillot**, **Kristeen Crosser**, **Ted DeChatelet**, **Alyssa Essman**, **Miranda Hardy**, **JoAnn Johnson**, **Sara Ludeman**, **Jacklyn Maddux**, **Rody Ortega**, **Amanda Soden**, **David Stephani**, and **Brent Sullivan**.

Director Jane Unger says: “*“Master Harold”...and the Boys* is a beautifully structured play that reflects an array of complex themes and ideas from one simple story line. The tea shop in which the action of the play occurs is a microcosm of South Africa. The unjust balance between master and servant is revealed, and oppressive law – serving the emotional needs of the oppressor – ultimately becomes an insidious and convenient weapon used against those who attempt to speak the truth.”

“We’re all aware of the injustices in our world,” says Profile Artistic Director Adriana Baer. “Some are loud, civil and violent. Some are quiet and domestic. Fugard has spent a lifetime examining his world: the society surrounding him, his family, and himself. His strong sense of what is right has driven him to work unceasingly for change. Through presenting a season of Fugard’s works, we ask: Do we dare to do the same?”

Performance Schedule

Wednesday, October 3, 7:30pm – ‘Pay What You Will’ Preview

Thursday, October 4 and Friday, October 5, 7:30pm – Previews

Saturday, October 6, 7:30pm – Opening Night

Sunday, October 7, 2pm – Matinee Talkback

October 10 - 28: Wednesdays – Saturdays at 7:30pm, Sundays at 2pm

Ticket Prices

Regular Tickets: \$18 - \$30, with student and group discounts available

****Wednesday Special (every Wednesday): \$18 - \$20 (Adults and Seniors),
\$16 - \$18 (Students and 30 and under)*

Details and tickets at 503.242.0080 or www.profiletheatre.org

All regular season 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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