

November 7, 2012

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**For Immediate Release**



**Profile Theatre presents**  
***Valley Song* by Athol Fugard**  
November 28 – December 2, 2012  
**and its sequel**  
***Coming Home* by Athol Fugard**  
December 10, 2012

(Portland, Oregon – November 7, 2012) Profile Theatre's 2012-13 season dedicated to the works of South African playwright Athol Fugard, continues with ***Valley Song***, the second of this season's Staged Readings. Profile's popular One Night Stand readings then kick off with ***Coming Home***, the sequel to ***Valley Song***.

In ***Valley Song***, written in 1996, young Veronica Jonkers has dreams. She will sing in Johannesburg and become famous like the women she watches on the TV through her neighbor's window at night. But her Oupa fears for his granddaughter, unable to understand the longing to leave the dry land he has farmed since childhood. Set in the small town of New Bethesda where Fugard himself owns a home, close to the village where he was born, ***Valley Song*** is considered the most touching and optimistic of his plays.

***Coming Home***, written by Fugard in 2009, revisits granddaughter and grandfather a decade later. After contracting AIDS, Veronica Jonkers returns home to the Karoo bringing her son, Mannetjie, to the place where she used to dream of escape. Three generations of men come together to witness her last act: the end of her life, her quiet final bow. "I made people hope with ***Valley Song***," Fugard has said. "And it bothered me that, in terms of my country, that message of hope – unconditional hope – was no longer valid. So to get the record straight I had to bring Veronica back to the village and write a play called ***Coming Home***."

**Pat Patton** directs. **Chantal DeGroat** and **JP (Josiah) Phillips** are featured in ***Valley Song*** and ***Coming Home***. **Sentonia Barber** and **Brian Demar Jones** join the cast for ***Coming Home***.

### **Performance Schedule**

***Valley Song***: Wednesday, November 28 – Saturday December 1, 7:30pm  
Sunday, December 2, 2:00pm – followed by a Matinee Talk Back  
***Coming Home***: Monday, December 10, 7:30pm

### **Ticket Prices**

Staged Reading - ***Valley Song***:  
\$18 - \$20 (Adults & Seniors)  
\$16 - \$18 (30 & Under / Students)  
One Night Stand - ***Coming Home***:  
\$10.00 Suggested Donation

Details and tickets at 503.242.0080 or [www.profiletheatre.org](http://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 off-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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