

January 30, 2013

Contact: Matthew Jones
503.242.0080 or 503.242.0080 or matthew@profiletheatre.org

For Immediate Release



Profile Theatre presents
***Blood Knot* by Athol Fugard**
February 27 – March 17, 2013

(Portland, Oregon – January 30, 2013) Profile Theatre presents ***Blood Knot*** February 27 – March 17, its third Main Stage production of the 2012-13 season dedicated to the works of Athol Fugard,

Half-brothers Zach and Morris live together in a one-room shack in Port Elizabeth's black housing slum, unable to escape until enough money is saved from Zach's job guarding the entrance of a Whites Only park from non-white children. As light-skinned Morris tries desperately to hold on to his only family, he inadvertently creates a chasm that might never close, forcing dark-skinned Zach to ask the most dangerous question: Is love only skin deep?

"With *Blood Knot*, we have the chance to ask ourselves: how does racism live in our relationships today on either overt or subtle levels?" says director Kevin Jones. "Do we allow ourselves to notice the stereotypes we act out or project onto others? If we do allow that level of self-awareness, what do we do with it? We need to talk about these issues. For me as a story-teller and cultural activist, coming to this play is about having a conversation."

Athol Fugard originated the role of Morris onstage. Upon its premiere in Johannesburg in 1961, the two-character play was immediately closed and censored by the South African government for having an interracial cast. It was the Off-Broadway production of *Blood Knot* that launched Fugard's career as a playwright with American audiences.

Director: **Kevin Jones**, Cast: **Don Kenneth Mason** and **Ben Newman**

Design and Production: Jessica Bobillot, Kristeen Crosser, Corinne Gayle Lowenthal, Sara Ludemann, Ruth Nardecchia, Kate O'Connor, Sharath Patel, Demetri Pavlatos, Amanda Soden, David Stefani and Brent Sullivan

Performance Schedule

Wednesday, February 27 – Friday, March 1, 7:30pm – Previews
Saturday, March 2, 7:30pm – Opening Night
Thursday, March 7, 7:30 pm – Sign-interpreted performance
March 6 – March 17: Wednesdays – Saturdays at 7:30pm, Sundays at 2:00pm

Post-show Events

Sunday, March 3: "Mat Chat" Talkback
Sunday, March 10: Talkback featuring The Red Door Project
Sunday, March 17: The Anti-Apartheid Movement in Portland and Beyond – A historical conversation hosted by Norm Diamond

- more -

Ticket Information

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

Pay-What-You-Will Preview: Wednesday, February 27

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

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.

#

#

#