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PROFILE THEATRE PRESS CONTACT:

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Profile Theatre concludes 2017 Quiara Alegría Hudes Season with

Water by the Spoonful & The Happiest Song Plays Last

In an immersive rotating repertory

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct 3, 2017 – PROFILE THEATRE (Josh Hecht, Artistic Director) presents

Pulitzer-winning ***Water by the Spoonful*** and ***The Happiest Song Plays Last*** written by

Quiara Alegría Hudes and directed by Profile Theatre Artistic Director **Josh Hecht**.

Performances run November 1-19 2017 on the Alder Stage at Artists Repertory Theatre.

Tickets are currently on sale at profiletheatre.org or by calling 503.242.0080.

The plays will be performed in a rotating repertory with both plays performing side by side over the same three weeks. Director Josh Hecht says, “A rotating rep means you will see these actors and this space transform night by night, or if you choose to come to one of our marathon days, over a two-hour change over.” This style of rotating rep, using the same cast and creative team for both shows, it’s a first for these two plays. Playwright Quiara Alegría Hudes says,

“*Spoonful* and *Happiest Song* are tent poles--one deals with a community's despair and the other with a community's joy. The two plays dance the space between these deeply human emotions. How do we gain resilience and love from our pain? How do we party on the brink of tragedy? I'm so glad that audiences will get to see them together for the first time.”

About *Water by the Spoonful*

Somewhere in Philadelphia, Elliot has returned from the war in Iraq and is struggling to find his place in the world. Somewhere in a chat room, recovering addicts forge an unbreakable bond of support and love. In this fearless, heart-stirring Pulitzer Prize-winner, worlds virtual and real unfold onstage, challenging our notions of family, forgiveness, community, and courage.

“To me this play is about the tension between community and lonesomeness,” says Director Josh Hecht, “In one half of the plot, Odessa runs a chat room for recovering addicts. They know nothing about each other, yet they share an intimacy that is life-sustaining. And yet the play is about the limits of community - the lonesomeness of being alive - the pain in the way we hurt one another, the limits of our ability to forgive and to see each other differently.”

About *The Happiest Song Plays Last*

Iraq War vet Elliot has a bright new career: movie star. But shooting a film on location in Jordan, with the tumultuous Arab Spring rumbling nearby, he finds that his wartime nightmares have followed him into his new life. Back in Philadelphia, his cousin Yaz has her hands full cooking for the homeless and trying to keep her beloved community from crumbling. Set to the joyful sounds of traditional Puerto Rican folk music, this final play of Hudes' trilogy chronicles a year in

the life of these two kindred souls as they search for love, meaning and a sense of hope in a quickly changing world.

Cast and Creative Team

Water by the Spoonful and ***The Happiest Song Plays Last*** stars some of Portland's brightest acting talent. **Anthony Lam** reprises the role of Elliot, making him the only actor in the US to star in the title role of all three plays of the Elliot Trilogy in one year. **Akari Anderson, Bobby Bermea, Duffy Epstein, Jimmy Garcia, Crystal Muñoz, Dre Slaman** and **Julana Torres** complete the cast. In addition to Director **Josh Hecht**, the production team includes **Peter Ksander** (Scenic Design), **Carl Faber** (Lighting Design), **Brynne Oster-Bainnson** (Costume Design) and **Matt Wiens** (Sound Design). The stage manager is **Baleigh Isaacs**.

About Quiara Alegría Hudes

Quiara Alegría Hudes is a playwright, professor of writing and theater at Wesleyan University, and native of West Philly, U.S.A. Hailed for her work's exuberance, intellectual rigor, and rich imagination, her plays and musicals have been performed around the world. They are *Water By the Spoonful*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama; *In the Heights*, winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and Pulitzer finalist; *Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue*, another Pulitzer finalist; *Daphne's Dive*; *The Good Peaches*; *Miss You Like Hell*; and *The Happiest Song Plays Last*. Hudes is a playwright in residence at New York's Signature Theater and a proud alum of Philadelphia Young Playwrights.

About Profile Theatre

Profile's mission is to produce a season of plays devoted to a single playwright, engaging with our community to explore that writer's vision and influence on theatre and the world at large. We do this through large-scale professional productions, In Dialogue Series readings and lectures, and our vibrant community programs. Recently, Profile was the recipient of a Creative Heights grant from the Oregon Community Foundation .

Profile Theatre's 2017 Season Sponsor is Ronni LaCroute / Willakenzie Estate. Additional support by The Regional Arts and Culture Council including support from City of Portland, Multnomah County and the Arts & Education Access Fund; The Oregon Arts Commission; Kinsman Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation; Meyer Memorial Trust; The Collins Foundation; PGE Foundation; Age and Gender Equity in the Arts, PGE Foundation, Oregon Cultural Trust, Shubert Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation.

Tickets

Tickets are \$27-38 for all regular performances. \$27 for all preview performances. Students and those 30-and-under tickets are \$20. Preview Rush: \$20 tickets can be purchased for preview performances on the day of the performance only, one hour prior to curtain time at the box office. one ticket per person. Groups of ten or more receive a discount off single tickets. Tickets

can be purchased at profiletheatre.org by calling box office at 503.242.0080 Tuesday through Friday noon – 4pm.

Location

Water by the Spoonful and *The Happiest Song Plays Last* will be performed on the Alder Stage at Artists Repertory Theatre, located at 1515 SW Morrison Street in Portland. For directions and parking information, visit Profiletheatre.org/plan-your-visit/.

Performance Schedule

Water by the Spoonful

Wednesday, November 1st 7:30pm (Preview Performance)

Friday, November 3rd 7:30pm (Opening Night)

Sunday, November 5th 2:00pm

Wednesday November 8th 7:30pm

Friday, November 10th 7:30pm

Saturday, November 11th 2:00pm

Thursday, November 16th 7:30pm

Saturday, November 18th 2:00pm

Sunday, November 19th 2:00pm

The Happiest Song Plays Last

Thursday, November 2nd 7:30pm (Preview Performance)

Saturday, November 4th 7:30pm (Opening Performance)

Sunday, November 5th 7:30pm

Thursday, November 9th 7:30pm

Saturday, November 11th 7:30pm

Sunday, November 12th 2:00pm

Friday, November 17th 7:30pm

Saturday, November 18th 7:30pm

Sunday, November 19th 7:30pm

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