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For immediate release.

**CENTER THEATRE GROUP'S BLOCK PARTY BEGINS WITH THE OPENING OF
"FAILURE: A LOVE STORY" FROM COEURAGE THEATRE COMPANY ON SUNDAY, APRIL 16
Only 11 Performances for the Encore Presentation of the Ovation Award-Winning Production**

Center Theatre Group's Block Party begins with the opening of the Coeurage Theatre Company production of "Failure: A Love Story" this Sunday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. Written by Philip Dawkins and directed by Michael Matthews, "Failure: A Love Story" will run through April 23, 2017, with 11 performances only.

Block Party highlights some of the remarkable work being done on other, more intimate theatres throughout Los Angeles by fully producing three previously staged productions. The three shows receive the full support of Center Theatre Group and its staff in order to fund, stage and market each production. Subsequent Block Party productions will be The Fountain Theatre's production of "Citizen: An American Lyric" running April 28 through May 7 and The Echo Theater Company's production of "Dry Land" running May 12 through May 21.

"Failure: A Love Story" chronicles the lives, loves and deaths of the three Fail sisters and the one man who fell in love with each of them. Set against the backdrop of 1920s Chicago, this touching, whimsical tale explores the impermanence of life and the permanence of love.

The cast of "Failure: A Love Story" includes Joe Calarco, June Carryl, Cristina Gerla, Kristina Johnson, Margaret Katch, Denver Milord, Gregory Nabours, Theodore Perkins, Kurt Quinn, Brandon Ruitter, Nicole Shalhoub, Gina Torrecilla and Brittney S. Wheeler. Scenic design is by JR Bruce, costume design is by Allison Dillard, lighting design is by Matthew Brian Denman, and original music, arrangements and music direction is by Nabours. Emily Abbott is the production stage manager.

"As we celebrate Center Theatre Group's 50 years of creating theatre in Los Angeles, we want to turn the spotlight on some of the remarkable work being done on other stages," said Center Theatre Group Artistic Director Michael Ritchie in discussing Block Party. "Coeurage Theatre, Echo Theater and Fountain Theatre, as well as others throughout L.A., regularly produce excellent, boundary-pushing work and we're so glad they are sharing some of that work with us."

Center Theatre Group received 76 submissions for Block Party from intimate theatre companies from North Hollywood to San Pedro, Topanga to Sierra Madre.

With Block Party, Center Theatre Group hopes to strengthen relationships within the Los Angeles community, create additional avenues for the organization to become familiar with local playwrights, actors, directors and designers, and foster relationships between Center Theatre Group staff and the staff at theatre companies throughout Los Angeles.

Block Party receives major support from Aliza Karney Guren and Marc Guren with generous funding also provided by Joni and Miles Benickes.

Center Theatre Group has a long history of pairing with local theatre companies including the Deaf West production of "Big River" which was produced at the Mark Taper Forum in 2002 and went on to Broadway before returning to the Ahmanson Theatre in 2005 as part of a national tour. More recently, Center Theatre Group partnered with Ebony Repertory Theatre for the remounting of "A Raisin in the Sun" (which played at the Douglas), 24th Street Theatre's "Walking the Tightrope" (also at the Douglas) and with other companies around the city for "The Behavior of Broadus" (Burglars of Hamm and Sacred Fools Theater Company) and "Birder" (The Road Theatre Company).

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation's preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles' leading nonprofit theatre company, programming seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1600 to 2000-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation's leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics and circumstance to serve Los Angeles.

Tickets for each production are available by calling (213) 628-2772, online at www.CenterTheatreGroup.org, at the Center Theatre Group box office at the Ahmanson Theatre or at the Kirk Douglas Theatre box office two hours prior to performance. Tickets range from \$25 – \$70 (ticket prices are subject to change).

Tickets for all three Block Party productions can be purchased as a package for \$67. The package is only available in person or by phone.

As an homage to Coeurage Theatre's payment structure, the first preview performance of each production will be a pay-what-you-want performance. Pay-what-you-want gives patrons the opportunity to decide what their theatre experience was worth to them before, during or after the performance. The pay-what-you-want performance for "Failure" is today, April 14, "Citizen" will be on April 28 and "Dry Land" will be on May 12.

The Kirk Douglas Theatre is located at 9820 Washington Blvd. in Culver City, CA 90232. Ample free parking and restaurants are adjacent.

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April 14, 2017