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For immediate release.

**PERFORMANCES HAVE BEGUN FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF “ARCHDUKE”
AT THE MARK TAPER FORUM THROUGH JUNE 4, 2017
Pulitzer Finalist Rajiv Joseph Returns to Center Theatre Group with His New Play**

Performances have begun for Center Theatre Group’s production of “Archduke.” Written by **Rajiv Joseph**, the world premiere of “Archduke” began previews April 25 and will continue through June 4, 2017, at the Mark Taper Forum. Opening night is set for May 7.

Directed by **Giovanna Sardelli**, the cast includes, in alphabetical order, **Josiah Bania, Joanne McGee, Ramiz Monsef, Patrick Page, Stephen Stocking** and **Todd Weeks**.

The creative team includes scenic design by **Tim Mackabee**, costume design by **Denitsa Bliznakova**, lighting design by **Lap Chi Chu**, music and sound by **Daniel Kluger**, casting by **Telsey + Company** and the production stage manager is **David S. Franklin**.

“Archduke” follows the unlikely path to terrorism as three strangers, already struggling to get by, receive a death sentence in the form of a tuberculosis diagnosis. But being young men with nothing to lose in Belgrade, 1914, makes them the perfect recruits for a secret organization looking to strike a blow in the name of Serbian nationalism.

“Archduke” explores the short journey from individual hardship to public harm as personal desperation is cultivated into an act with international significance and a few average men spark World War I.

Rajiv Joseph’s “Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo” premiered at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in 2009 before moving to the Taper in 2010 and Broadway in 2011. “Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo” was named a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist for Drama and was also awarded a grant for Outstanding New American Play by the National Endowment for the Arts. Joseph’s play “Guards at the Taj” was a 2016 Obie winner for Best New American Play and 2016 Lucille Lortel winner for Best Play. His other plays include “The North Pool,” “Gruesome Playground Injuries,” “Animals Out of Paper” and “The Lake Effect.” His plays have been translated and produced worldwide.

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 to "Archduke" are available by calling (213) 628-2772, online at www.CenterTheatreGroup.org or at the Center Theatre Group box office. Tickets range from \$25 – \$95 (ticket prices are subject to change). The Mark Taper Forum is located at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012.

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April 27, 2017