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For immediate release.

REHEARSALS BEGIN FOR “WATER BY THE SPOONFUL” AT THE MARK TAPER FORUM
Quiara Alegría Hudes’ Pulitzer Prize-Winning Play Begins Previews January 31
Opens February 11 and Continues Through March 11

Rehearsals have begun for Center Theatre Group’s production of “**Water by the Spoonful**” by **Quiara Alegría Hudes**. The 2012 Pulitzer Prize-winning play will be produced at the Mark Taper Forum January 31 through March 11, 2018. Directed by **Lileana Blain-Cruz**, the opening of “Water by the Spoonful” is set for February 11.

The cast includes, in alphabetical order, **Bernard K. Addison, Josh Braaten, Sean Carvajal, Sylvia Kwan, Keren Lugo, Nick Massouh** and **Luna Lauren Vélez**.

“Water by the Spoonful” features set design by **Adam Rigg**, costume design by **Raquel Barreto**, lighting design by **Yi Zhao**, sound design by **Jane Shaw** and projection design by **Hannah Wasileski**. The production stage manager is **David S. Franklin**.

A janitor, a software mogul, a college grad and an IRS paper-pusher have one thing in common. Although they live thousands of miles apart, these four people share a secret: they’re recovering addicts who have found a safe haven in an online chat room. There, with liberal doses of jokes and bullying, they help each other navigate the broken terrain of their lives. But when an Iraq War veteran’s tragedy spills over into their cyberhome, everything changes. In this fearless play by Quiara Alegría Hudes (“In the Heights”), worlds virtual and real unfold onstage, challenging our notions of family, forgiveness, community and courage.

When it played off-Broadway, Charles Isherwood of The New York Times said, “‘Water by the Spoonful’ gives off a shimmering, sustaining warmth. Ms. Hudes writes with such empathy and vibrant humor that regeneration and renewal always seem to be just around the corner.”

“Water by the Spoonful,” the second in a trilogy of plays, will be produced at the Taper at the same time as Center Theatre Group is presenting the first play in the trilogy, Hudes’ Pulitzer finalist “Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue,” at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. The Latino Theater Company will present the final installment of the trilogy with their production of “The Happiest Song Plays Last” at the Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC). Presented all together, the full trilogy gives Los Angeles theatre audiences a rare opportunity to immerse themselves in this exciting playwright’s work.

Quiara Alegría Hudes is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. Her play “Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue” premiered off-off Broadway by Page 73 Productions and was a finalist for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. “Water by the Spoonful” premiered at Hartford Stage

Company and won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. “The Happiest Song Plays Last” premiered at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago in 2013. Hudes wrote the book for the Broadway musical “In the Heights,” which received the 2008 Tony Award for Best Musical, a Tony nomination for Best Book of a Musical, and was a 2009 Pulitzer Prize finalist. Other works include the plays “26 Miles” and “Yemaya’s Belly” and the children’s musical “Barrio Grrr!” Hudes grew up in West Philadelphia where she studied music with Don Rappaport, Dolly Kranzapski and Linda Hudes. She was later mentored by playwright Paula Vogel at Brown University. Hudes is an alumna of New Dramatists and sits on the board of Philadelphia Young Playwrights, which produced her first play in the tenth grade.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under Artistic Director Michael Ritchie, programs 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 “Water by the Spoonful” are available by calling (213) 628-2772, online at www.CenterTheatreGroup.org or at the Center Theatre Group Box Office located at the Ahmanson Theatre. 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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January 5, 2018