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For immediate release

CENTER THEATRE GROUP EXPANDS ARTISTIC AND LEADERSHIP TEAMS TO BEGIN JOURNEY TOWARDS BECOMING A MORE INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION

Tyrone Davis Named Associate Artistic Director

Center Theatre Group is announcing the first step in an ongoing organizational shift with the addition of an existing staff member into the organization's artistic staff and leadership team. **Tyrone Davis** will shift from the Education, Engagement and Community Partnerships Department into the Artistic Department. Davis' new title is Associate Artistic Director.

"When we began reimagining Center Theatre Group we knew we would need to look at the very foundations of the organization," said Center Theatre Group Artistic Director Michael Ritchie. "Still early in that reevaluation we have realized that Tyrone has already been operating at the core of Center Theatre Group's mission to nurture new artists and audiences. For three years, Tyrone has shaped the pre- and post-show engagement that allows audiences to dive deeper into our mainstage productions, and he has curated programs that develop our audiences' understanding of our productions as well as our mission and values. As we started to expand our thinking about audience engagement and development, and centering our attention on racial equity in our work—particularly in this time without onstage productions—we realized that we truly needed his thought leadership and contributions embedded in the heart of our artistic strategy and team.

"In his new role, Tyrone has already guided us in an inspiring direction, developing Not a Moment, But a Movement, an insightful new series of events to be released on our new Digital Stage pairing play readings with visual artists and musicians to create an interdisciplinary collaboration to amplify and center Black artists," added Ritchie.

"As a native Angeleno, it is a great honor with much responsibility to take on this position where artistic decisions are being made for the Taper, the Ahmanson and the Douglas—three theatres I grew up on. I owe a true debt of gratitude to BIPOC artists like Diane Rodriguez, Lee Kenneth Richardson and so many others who laid the foundation for me, and know that I am taking on a responsibility to those that will follow. I will keep both in mind as I help to shape Center Theatre Group's future."

"We are committed to changing structures which have sustained a lack of diversity in our organization including our hiring practices, professional development investments, and organizational leadership and hierarchy," said Center Theatre Group Managing Director and CEO Meghan Pressman. "We know this is a small and preliminary

step towards a long overdue goal but with hiring and professional development investments largely paused due to the current shutdown and resulting financial challenges our organization faces, we have begun plans for an assessment of those practices and know that adding Tyrone to the conversation at the Leadership Team level now will help create a better framework once we can resume those activities.”

Since joining Center Theatre Group in 2017, **Tyrone Davis** has provided direction and leadership for audience engagement programming designing programs that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstance. Davis previously served as Community Artistic Director with American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco where he helped ensure access to live theater for diverse communities throughout the Bay Area, from creating and implementing arts programming for continuation high schools, to commissioning and directing plays aimed at engaging San Franciscans in telling untold and under told stories. He has over 10 years of experience in engagement and arts education, including serving as an adjunct professor in drama at Contra Costa College and Los Medanos College. Davis is a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) School of Theater M.F.A. acting program and holds a B.A. in theatre from California State University, Northridge.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Michael Ritchie, Managing Director Meghan Pressman and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1600 to 2100-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.

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