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## MICHAEL RITCHIE

Michael Ritchie is the Artistic Director of Center Theatre Group, a non-profit organization and one of the largest and most active theatre companies in the nation, presenting award-winning theatre at the Ahmanson Theatre and the Mark Taper Forum at the Los Angeles Music Center and the Kirk Douglas Theatre located in Culver City.

Ritchie, who joined Center Theatre Group on January 1, 2005, is currently in his 12<sup>th</sup> season and has led over 200 productions to the three stages since his arrival. He has premiered the musicals “The Drowsy Chaperone” and “Curtains” (both of which moved to Broadway and received a total of 21 Tony Award nominations, more nominations at the time for any other theatre company outside of New York), and “Leap of Faith,” “Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson,” “13” and “9 to 5: The Musical,” all of which moved to Broadway.

He has produced 41 world premieres including the musicals “Minsky’s” and “Sleeping Beauty Wakes,” and the plays “Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo” (which was a Pulitzer Prize finalist and also moved to Broadway), “Water & Power,” “Yellow Face” (Pulitzer finalist) and “Marjorie Prime” (Pulitzer finalist), and he presented a broad range of plays and musicals at the Ahmanson ranging from “Dead End” to “The Black Rider” to blockbusters such as “God of Carnage,” “A Trip to Bountiful,” “August: Osage County,” “Matilda” and “Edward Scissorhands.” In addition, Michael inaugurated CTG’s Artistic Development program, designed to foster the creation of new works and the nurturing of playwrights.

Ritchie began his professional career in the theatre in 1980 as a production stage manager in New York. Over the next 15 years, he stage-managed more than 50 shows on and off-Broadway including productions at Lincoln Center Theater, Circle-in-the-Square, Circle Rep, the New York Shakespeare Festival, Playwrights Horizons, City Center and the National Actors’ Theatre. During that period, he worked with playwrights David Mamet, Tina Howe, Shel Silverstein, Donald Margulies, Elaine May, Jon Robin Baitz and directors Roger Michel, Nikos Psacharopoulos, Gregory Mosher, John Malkovich, Andre Serban, Michael Cristofer, Ellis Rabb, Michael Langham, George C. Scott and Jerome Robbins.

Among the notable productions he stage managed were “Our Town” with Spalding Gray and Eric Stoltz, “Timon of Athens” with Brian Bedford, “Heartbreak House” with Rosemary Harris and Rex Harrison, “Candida” with Joanne Woodward, “You Never Can

Tell” with Uta Hagen and Philip Bosco, “Arms and the Man” with Kevin Kline and Raul Julia, “A Streetcar Named Desire” (two productions: one with Blythe Danner, Aidan Quinn and Frances McDormand, and the other with Jessica Lange, Alec Baldwin and James Gandolfini) and “Present Laughter” with George C. Scott, Nathan Lane and Kate Burton.

In 1996, he was appointed Producer of the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Under his leadership, the mission of the theatre evolved toward a diverse repertory of new plays, American premieres, major revivals and rediscoveries of American classics, and the development and presentation of new works by Eric Bogosian, Alfred Uhry, Cheryl West, Donald Margulies, Albert Innaurato and Eduardo Machado.

New plays that began their lives in Williamstown and moved on to off-Broadway runs include “Corners” by David Rabe, “Far East” by A.R. Gurney, “The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told” by Paul Rudnick, “Chaucer in Rome” by John Guare, “The Glimmer Brothers” (“Glimmer, Glimmer and Shine”) by Warren Leight and “The Waverly Gallery” by Kenneth Lonergan.

American premieres include “The Late Middle Classes” by Simon Gray, “Misha’s Party” by Richard Nelson, “Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme” by Frank McGuinness, “Under the Blue Sky” by David Eldridge and “The Ride Down Mt. Morgan” by Arthur Miller.

Rediscovered American classics included “Dead End,” “Johnny on the Spot,” “Street Scene” and, 50 years after it was first presented on Broadway -- “The Man Who Had All the Luck” by Arthur Miller, a production that moved to Broadway and was chosen by Time Magazine as one of the year’s 10 Best Productions in 2002.

The Festival also sent several other productions to Broadway including “Hedda Gabler,” “One Mo’ Time,” “The Price” and “The Rainmaker.”

Other major revivals included “The Royal Family” with Blythe Danner, Victor Garber and Andrea Martin, “The Film Society” with Cherry Jones and Carole Shelley, “Camino Real” with Ethan Hawke, “A Raisin in the Sun” with Ruben Santiago-Hudson and Viola Davis, “The Hot I Baltimore” with Sam Rockwell, “As You Like It” with Gwyneth Paltrow, and “Tonight at 8:30,” a six-act extravaganza presented over two evenings, directed by Michael Greif and Ann Reinking.

The Williamstown Theatre Festival was the recipient of the 2002 Regional Theatre Tony Award.

Ritchie was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on October 17, 1957, and attended Assumption College. He has been married to actress Kate Burton since 1985 and they have two children, a son and daughter, Morgan and Charlotte.

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