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THE PLAY

The year is 1978 and 62 miles north-west of Washington, D.C., in the Catoclin Mountains, an unprecedented historic event that could change the world is taking place.

At the invitation of U.S. President **Jimmy Carter**, Prime Minister **Menachem Begin** of Israel and President **Anwar Sadat** of Egypt gather at the presidential retreat, Camp David, hoping to find a path that will lead to peace in their troubled parts of the world.

Camp David tells the true story of what happened when three world leaders – each of a deep and different religious faith – came together for 13 days to answer the question: “Can there be peace in the Middle East?” ●

Major support for this program is provided by the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.

Camp David is generously sponsored by AT&T, Joan & David Maxwell, The Kovler Foundation/Peter and Judy Kovler.

Camp David is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award and support of the National Endowment for the Arts' Art Works program.



CAMP DAVID

Now Playing in the Kreeger Theater

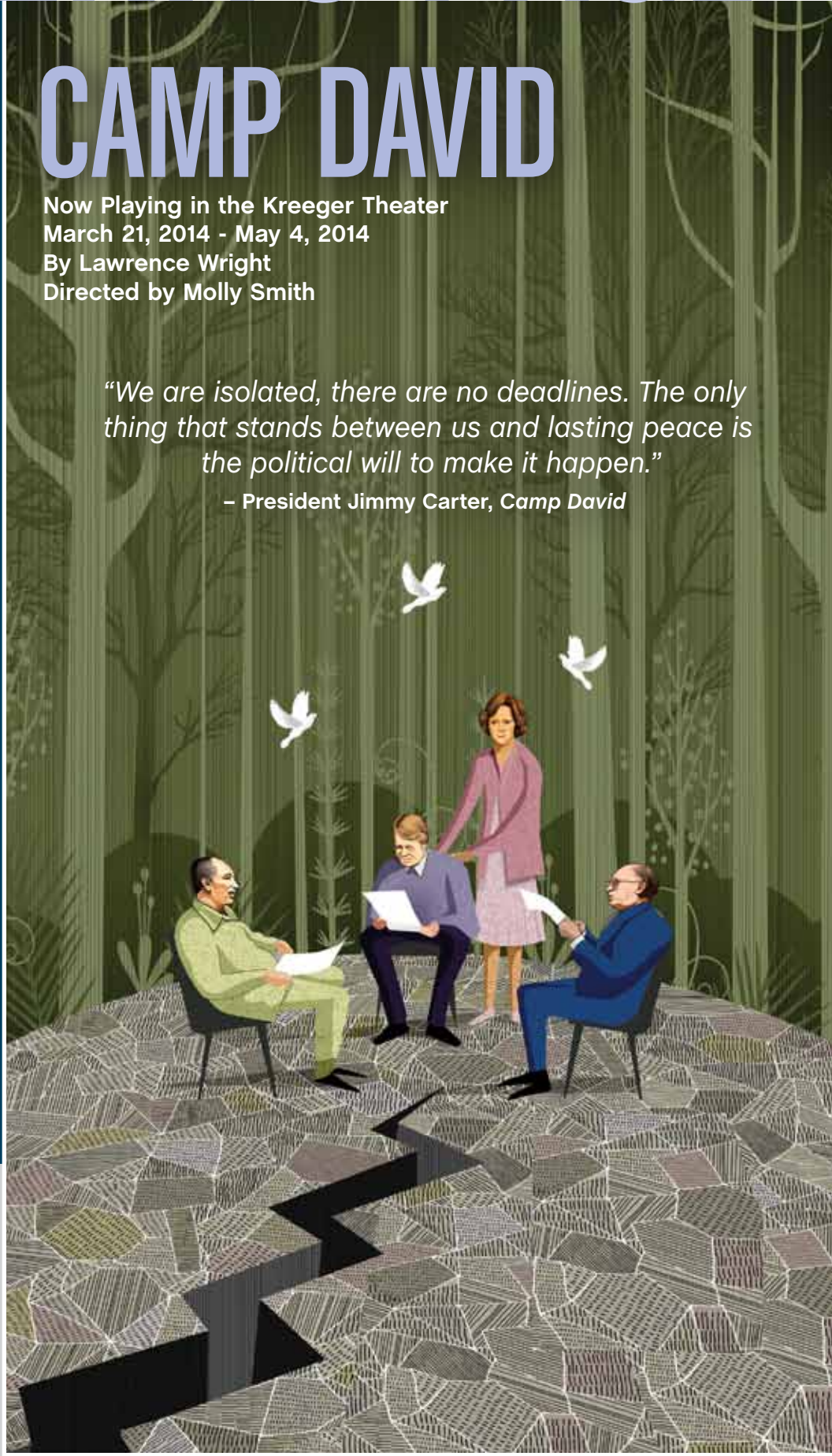
March 21, 2014 - May 4, 2014

By Lawrence Wright

Directed by Molly Smith

“We are isolated, there are no deadlines. The only thing that stands between us and lasting peace is the political will to make it happen.”

– President Jimmy Carter, *Camp David*



MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT



Lawrence Wright

"This is a play about leadership and sacrifice and what it takes to make peace."

– Lawrence Wright

Lawrence Wright is an author, screenwriter, playwright and a staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. A graduate of Tulane University and the American University in Cairo, Wright began his career as a reporter in Nashville, Tennessee for the *Race Relations Reporter* in 1971.

By 1992 Wright was a writer for the *New York Times* where he published a number of articles that won several prestigious journalism awards like the National Magazine Award. He was the co-writer of the screenplay for the 1998 movie *The Siege*, starring Denzel Washington and Annette Bening.

In 2007 Wright's book, *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction and named by *Time Magazine* as one of the 100 best non-fiction books ever written. In March of 2013, Wright's most recent play, *Fallaci*, was staged at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Wright lives in Austin, Texas, where he plays the keyboard in a blues band called WhoDo. ●

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Although there were full delegations from each country, each with advisors and aides, the play tells the story through just four characters:



The cast of *Camp David* (left) recreates the famous image (right) of Menachem Begin, Jimmy Carter and Anwar Sadat.

President Jimmy Carter



- The 39th President of the United States (1977 – 1981). A Naval officer and, later, a peanut farmer, Carter also served two terms as Georgia State Senator and one as

Governor of Georgia (1971 – 1975). He is a born-again Christian with deep knowledge of the Bible.

- “We have to get away from those ancient hatreds and the longing for revenge.”

First Lady Rosalynn Carter



- The wife of Jimmy Carter and First Lady of the United States. During her time as First Lady, she sat in on Cabinet and policy meetings and served as her

husband's closest adviser.

- “I think that's the real test of a person's character, don't you? You have to be willing to break with the past. To drop the burden of hatred.”

President Anwar Sadat

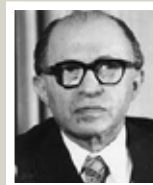


- The President of Egypt (1970-1981). From peasant origins, Sadat became a revolutionary and an Egyptian nationalist. In 1978, he was preoccupied with how he would be

remembered in history. He was a devout Muslim and had a callous on his forehead from hours spent in prayer.

- “For 30 years we have lived with our enemy. Can we live without him?”

Prime Minister Menachem Begin



- An Israeli politician, founder of **Likud** and the sixth Prime Minister of the State of Israel (1977-1983). A devout Jew, he dedicated his life to the creation and preservation

of an independent Israel.

- “We cannot afford to place our security in the balance to win the world's good favor.”

Likud-the first right-wing political party in Israel

Prior to the Camp David talks, President Carter received in-depth psychological profiles of President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin from the CIA's Center for the Analysis of Personality and Political Behavior. He received a third report on the challenges inherent in these two opposing personalities trying to negotiate with one another. Carter used this information to strategize and, ultimately, broker the peace. Afterward, Carter said of the profiles, “After spending 13 days with the two principals, I wouldn't change a word.” ●



INSPIRATION FOR THE PLAY

Gerald Rafshoon was the White House communications director during Jimmy Carter's presidency. An accomplished television producer and political correspondent, Rafshoon said, "I've done about 25 movies and mini-series – and I've always wanted to make a movie of those days at Camp David." Rocco Landesman, a Broadway producer and former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts introduced Rafshoon to playwright Lawrence Wright. Landesman also brought Camp David to the attention of Arena Stage and Molly Smith, the director.

Then, inspired by the play-turned-film *Frost/Nixon*, Rafshoon was convinced that a historical drama with few characters could be successful on stage. As the producer and an invaluable source of eye-witness information, Rafshoon has been closely involved in the rehearsal process for the play.

a! ACTIVITY What other historical or current events would you like to see on stage? Consider local, national and international events. List and research these events and decide which one would make a great play.

ABOUT CAMP DAVID

Sixty-two miles northwest of Washington, D.C., hidden in the hills of Catoctin Mountain Park in Frederick County, Maryland, is the presidential retreat, Camp David.



For more than 80 years, presidents from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama have used Camp David as a place of solitude and peace, as well as a place to host foreign leaders.

Camp David originated as a retreat for federal government agents and their families and was built by the Work Progress Administration in 1935. In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt renovated and renamed the space "Shangri-La," making it a presidential retreat. The present name of Camp David is in honor of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's grandson, David. ●



President Anwar Sadat, President Jimmy Carter and Prime Minister Menachem Begin at Camp David



a! ACTIVITY Camp David is used as a place of solitude and reflection for the President of the United States. What places help you to reflect? What issues could you resolve in such a space? Think about issues and conflicts that you are facing and find a space to make your own Camp David. Once in your space, write down five solutions to help you resolve these conflicts.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The cradle of civilization and sacred to three major religions, the Middle East has been rife with conflict. These conflicts are complex and longstanding.

WORLD WAR II AND THE HOLOCAUST

- From the late 1930s to 1945, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party embarked on the systematic mass murder of 6 million Jews. Known as the Holocaust, it is estimated that 7 out of every 10 Jews living in Europe were killed. Among these were Menachem Begin's parents.

ISRAEL BECOMES A COUNTRY

- Post-WWII, Great Britain was mandated land in Palestine. In 1947, the **United Nations** General Assembly adopted a resolution that divided that land into Jewish and Arab states. On May 14, 1948 Israel declared its independence as a Jewish nation. Soon after, five neighboring Arab nations attacked in pursuit of land claimed by Israel. At the conclusion of what became the Arab-Israeli War of 1948, Israel gained additional territory and hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs were displaced. In a treaty with Jordan, the city of Jerusalem was divided. Western Jerusalem became part of Israel. Many disputed which nation should have the right to Jerusalem because the city has religious significance to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

THE SUEZ CANAL CRISIS OF 1956

- After Egypt took control of the Suez Canal, a waterway once operated by Great Britain, hostility grew between Egypt and the West. Israel, concerned about its security amidst Egypt's growing military power, agreed to assist England and France in an invasion of Egypt. The **United Nations** facilitated an eventual ceasefire with the support of the United States.

THE SIX-DAY WAR OF 1967

- Following the Suez Crisis, the United Nations established a presence along the Suez Canal. In 1967, Egypt demonstrated its frustration with UN presence by increasing its military along the canal and creating a blockade that closed off the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping. Israel saw these actions as evidence of a mounting attack being organized by Egypt, in partnership with neighboring Arab nations Syria and Jordan. Israel launched its own military strike. As a result, Israel took control of the Golan Heights from Syria, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) from Jordan, and the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt.

United Nations (UN) - an organization made up of different world nations that work to preserve peace, international security and cooperation amongst countries.



RESOLUTION 242

In the play, the characters mention “242.” They are referring to the United Nations Security Council’s Resolution 242, which attempted to forge peace between Israel and Egypt, Jordan and Syria after the Six-Day War. It recognized the legitimacy and independence of all the countries involved and their right to live in peace within their “secure and recognized boundaries.” It called for Israel to withdraw from territories it occupied during the conflict.

However, the language of the resolution was purposefully vague. It did not say “all” or “the” territories. It did not define the “secure and

recognized boundaries.” Israel believed it had a historic legal and sacred right to remain in these lands. Moreover, it wanted to maintain a military presence there to protect its people and boundaries.

The Sinai Peninsula is the part of Egypt that borders Israel. This was the location of the settlements that Sadat and Begin debate in the play.

Resolution 242 became the basis of diplomatic efforts in the Middle East until the Camp David Accords.

SETTLEMENTS

Sadat and Begin debate the Israeli settlements on the Sinai Peninsula, among other places. Creating a settlement is a way of establishing residency in an area to claim ownership of it. Depending on your perspective, a settlement can be considered illegal occupation of a land or the home to which you are entitled. A settlement can range from a small farming community to a well-developed suburb or urban neighborhood. Settlements may also have military presence. ●

THREE BIG QUESTIONS

1. How did the Camp David Accords affect the future of the Middle East?
2. What is the responsibility of the United States to help other countries resolve conflict?
3. What impact did religion have on the Camp David talks?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ON THE WEB

The White House: Camp David

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/camp-david>

PBS: American Experience: “Brokering Peace”

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/flash-interactive/carter-peace/>

PBS: American Experience: “The Presidents”

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/carter/>

BOOKS

Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics by William B. Quandt

Helpful Hints for Theater Audiences

As an audience member at the theater, YOU are part of the show! Just as you see and hear the actors onstage, they can see and hear you in the audience. To help the performers do their best, please remember the following:

Arrive at least 30 minutes early.

Visit the restroom before the show starts.

Before the show begins, turn off your cell phone, watch alarms, pagers and other electronic devices. If anything rings by accident, shut it off immediately.

Save food and drinks for the lobby. There is no eating or drinking inside the theater.

Walk to and from your seat - no running in the theater!

Do not talk, whisper, sing or hum.

Do not use cell phones for calls, text messages, pictures or games.

Keep your feet on the floor, not on the seat in front of you.

Avoid getting up during a show because it distracts your neighbors and the performers. If you must leave, wait for a scene change, then exit quietly and quickly.

Performers appreciate enthusiastic applause rather than whistling or shouting.

Cameras and videotape are prohibited because they are distracting to the performers.

Enjoy the show!



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Visit www.arenastage.org for more information on Arena Stage productions and educational opportunities.