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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY/ARENA STAGE/AMMERMAN FAMILY PARTNERSHIP EXTENDED

*** Gift from Ammerman family enables three more years of artistic collaboration
and shared resources in support of education and theater ***

(Washington, D.C.) The Georgetown University Theater & Performance Studies Program and Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater are pleased to announce a generous gift by Andrew R. Ammerman and the family of H. Max and Josephine F. Ammerman, making possible a three-year continuation of the Georgetown-Arena Stage partnership through 2017.

Now entering its ninth year in the 2014/15 season, the unique partnership, which was expanded through an initial gift of support from the Ammerman family in 2009, highlights a shared commitment to the development of new work, to community engagement and to deepening dialogue on vital issues in the field through co-productions, festivals, frequent collaborations on developmental workshops and readings, national convenings, residencies and more. Work developed through the partnership has led to productions such as Moisés Kaufman's *33 Variations* on Broadway (nominated for five Tony Awards); *The Glass Menagerie Project* as part of the Tennessee Williams Centennial Festival; and collaboration on festivals celebrating the works of Edward Albee, Arthur Miller and Eugene O'Neill.

With long-standing relationships to both Georgetown University and Arena Stage, donor **Andrew R. Ammerman**, CEO of Ammerman Investment Partnerships and co-founding patron of Fund for the Future of our Children, says, "My parents instilled in me the value of forging one's place in the community, and with this extension of support from our family I am delighted we are enabling collaboration between two organizations—within our community that we care for so deeply—to flourish in new and exciting ways. We are proud of the ways in which Arena Stage and Georgetown have been able to deepen their resources and capacity by working together to shape the art on both companies' stages and especially in the way the Georgetown students have received exposure and opportunity to become the next generation of arts practitioners."

Davis Performing Arts Center Artistic Director and Professor of Theater **Derek Goldman** says, "This generous support from the Ammerman family has truly been a gift that keeps on giving, enabling a dynamic multifaceted partnership that has significantly enhanced both institutions and the field as a whole. We look forward to continuing to build and deepen this wonderful relationship."

"Andrew has a love of encouraging collaboration, and this partnership between Arena Stage and Georgetown University is a great example," Arena Stage Artistic Director **Molly Smith** adds. "His continued support of the partnership allows us to deepen our connection with Georgetown in a meaningful way."

The partnership includes collaborative performances and symposia that cross-fertilize interests as well as workshops and readings that enable new work development; successful examples in addition to *33 Variations* include *Legacy of Light* and *Red-Handed Guitar*. Arena Stage Artistic Staff and visiting professional artists participate in master classes and convenings at Georgetown University, and likewise Georgetown Theater & Performance Studies faculty provide cross-disciplinary expertise related to productions as applicable for post-show discussions, public forum/symposia and dramaturgical insight for Arena Stage. Both organizations continue to offer ticketing initiatives that allow for free or discounted tickets for dedicated performances for members of each other's community.

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Georgetown University/Arena Stage/Ammerman family partnership extended—Page 2

Fostering the next generation of theater artists, the partnership also includes apprenticeships for Georgetown students and alumni across literary, artistic, stage management, communications, development and casting positions, many of which have resulted in employment upon completion; participation in Arena Stage's Theater 101 program exploring shows' development first-hand; and site visits to observe the creative process.

2013/14 partnership events included the symposium *Playing with the past, (W)righting the future*, stewarded by Professor Soyica Colbert in conjunction with the Theater and Performance Studies Program, and Black Theatre Ensemble's co-production of *Insurrection: Holding History* by Robert O'Hara. The symposium on campus included dozens of D.C. professionals, GU students and alumni in dialogue with nationally recognized artists and GU faculty. Additional partnership highlights included development of *Anatomy of a Female Pope* by Joan Vail Thorne, featuring Kathleen Chalfant, directed by Prof. Derek Goldman and involving GU students and alumni; masterclasses with Arena Stage resident and guest artists; as well as artistic apprenticeships and observerships.

Additional details about 2014/15 Georgetown University/Arena Stage/Ammerman Family Partnership events will be announced at a later date and featured at performingarts.georgetown.edu/academics/tpst/partnerships.

About the Georgetown University Theater & Performance Studies Program

Maya E. Roth, Ph.D., Director

Housed in the Davis Performing Arts Center, the Georgetown University Theater & Performance Studies Program features a nationally recognized faculty of leading scholar/artists and professional practitioners, with a dynamic interdisciplinary major that emphasizes the interaction of artistic and analytic inquiry. The Program has rapidly attracted significant national attention for its distinctive curriculum, which integrates the political and international character of Georgetown, a commitment to social justice, and high-quality, cutting-edge production seasons, including world premieres. In 2012, *Backstage* selected the Program as one of the top five college theater programs outside of New York, and the *Washington Post* has said, "Georgetown...in recent years has established itself as the region's most imaginative academic outpost for drama." The Theater & Performance Studies Program provides unique focus on adapting, devising and developing new work, interdisciplinary research-to-performance projects, cross-cultural performance studies, and innovative approaches to design and multi-media, as well as playwriting, directing, dramaturgy, ensemble, and solo performance.

The Program invests in a distinctive array of professional partnerships and collaborations, including with Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, with a growing focus on global performance and politics, as represented by international convenings and residencies (Belarus Free Theatre, Ping Chong, Baghdad University, Anna Deavere Smith) and by the establishment of the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics, a collaborative initiative with the School of Foreign Service. Each year the Program hosts residencies with guest artists who collaborate deeply with students in the classroom and in the life of the Davis Performing Arts Center. Our major prepares students for lives in varied fields, including the arts, education, public service, and cultural criticism. performingarts.georgetown.edu

About Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Arena Stage impacts the lives of thousands of students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org