

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren McMillen/Samantha Schneider
press@arenastage.org, 202-600-4056

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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES DIALOGUE STARTERS FOR
ARENA CIVIL DIALOGUE ON CHINA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

Also announced: The Civil Dialogue topics for this fall and winter

(Washington, D.C.) In its third season, Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater continues to host **Arena Civil Dialogues**, sponsored by Exelon, to engage the D.C.-area community. Scholar, professor and public intellectual **Amitai Etzioni** curated and typically moderates discussions focusing on topics and questions in today's headlines. The dialogues will be held in the **Molly Smith Study at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater from 5:30-7 p.m. throughout the fall of 2019.**

Arena Civil Dialogues bring together Dialogue Starters with expertise on the evening's topic. The Dialogue Starters for September 16 will include **Warren I. Cohen**, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), and at Michigan State University; **Dr. Thomas X. Hammes**, Colonel, United States Marine Corps (Ret); and **Casimir A. Yost**, Senior Fellow, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy.

Civil Dialogues will examine questions such as: What are the costs of privatization? What is wrong with nationalism? Is there common ground between liberals and conservatives?

"It is a perfect fit with our mission and values to provide a space for peaceful dialogue on complicated, current topics," shares **Executive Producer Edgar Dobie**. "Amitai Etzioni's inspiration to engage people in conversation and discussion in a respectful way may be a response to divisiveness in our political sphere, but it is a profound way to encourage freedom of speech and support the connection of theater to our community. This is an important initiative that we would like to continue even in times of political contentment. Civil Dialogues are an opportunity to continue to explore all that is passionate, exuberant, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit."

Upcoming Schedule

Monday, September 16, 2019: Is China out to eat our lunch?

Does China pose a major threat to the United States, or might it become a major regional partner?

Wednesday, October 2, 2019: What is wrong with nationalism?

Some see nationalism as leading to aggressive foreign policy; others see it as love of country, as patriotism. Still, others call for leaving it behind and building a global community. What say you?

—continued—

Page 2— Additional Civil Dialogue dates announced for fall 2019

Monday, October 21, 2019: Have we privatized too much?

We have more private cops than police, profit-making prisons, etc. Is it time to reverse the trend?

Monday, November 18, 2019: Liberals meet conservatives, Dems meet GOP

Are there common grounds and new ways to work together?

There will be a reception before each event, starting at 5 p.m. in the Molly Smith Study. This event is free and open to the public; reservations are required.

For more information and to register for future Arena Civil Dialogues, visit: arenastage.org/civildialogues

September 16 Dialogue Starter Biographies

Amitai Etzioni (*curator*) is a university professor and professor of International relations at The George Washington University. He served as a senior advisor at the Carter White House; taught at Columbia University, Harvard University and University of California at Berkeley; and served as president of the American Sociological Association (ASA). A study by Richard Posner ranked him among the top 100 American intellectuals. Etzioni is the author of many books, including *The Limits of Privacy* (1999) and *Privacy in a Cyber Age* (2015). His most recent book, *Happiness is the Wrong Metric: A Liberal Communitarian Response to Populism*, was published by Springer in January 2018.

Warren I. Cohen is a University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), and at Michigan State University. He is also a Senior Scholar with the Asia Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. He is a historian of America's foreign relations, especially relations with East Asia. He has published 21 books, the best known of which is "America's Response to China" (6th ed. 2019). His most recent book was "A Nation Like All Others" (2018). His Reischauer Memorial Lectures at Harvard were published as *The Asian American Century* in March 2002. He was general editor of the "Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations" (1993) to which he contributed the 4th volume, "America in the Age of Soviet Power." In addition to his scholarly publications, he has written for the Atlantic Monthly, Baltimore Sun, Christian Science Monitor, Dissent, Foreign Affairs, International Herald Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Nation, National Interest, New York Times, Times Literary Supplement and Washington Post. In past years he has served as editor of *Diplomatic History*, president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, chairman of the U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation and consultant on Chinese affairs to various government organizations.

Thomas X. Hammes, Ph.D. (*Colonel, United States Marine Corps (Ret)*) served 30 years in the Marine Corps. He served at all levels in the operating forces to include command of an intelligence battalion, an infantry battalion and the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force. He participated in stabilization operations in Somalia and Iraq, as well as training insurgents in various places. Hammes has a masters' of Historical Research and a doctorate in Modern History from Oxford University. He is currently a Distinguished Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies with the National Defense University. He is the author of three books, 17 book chapters and over 160 articles. He lectures extensively on the future of conflict, strategy and insurgency in the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Casimir A. Yost (*senior fellow, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy*) returned to Georgetown University in 2013 after four years of government service. He is a senior fellow at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy and teaches at the Walsh School of Foreign Service. His current courses are a graduate seminar, "Forecasting Global Trends: Implications for Grand Strategy" and an undergraduate seminar, "War and Presidential Decision Making." He is scheduled to teach a new graduate seminar in the fall of 2019 entitled "U.S. and China: Decisions on War and Peace." Yost was also an

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adjunct at the RAND Corporation from 2015-2017, where he wrote on strategic surprise. In 2018 the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy produced his monograph, “Grand Strategy and Strategic Surprise.” His other research interests include: U.S. foreign and national security policies with particular emphasis on the Middle East and East Asia, energy futures and the relationship(s) of intelligence to policy.

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 and impacts the lives of over 10,000 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

Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC) is a Fortune 100 energy company with the largest number of electricity and natural gas customers in the U.S. Exelon does business in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Canada and had 2017 revenue of \$33.5 billion. Exelon serves approximately 10 million customers in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania through its Atlantic City Electric, BGE, ComEd, Delmarva Power, PECO and Pepco subsidiaries. Exelon is one of the largest competitive U.S. power generators, with more than 32,000 megawatts of nuclear, gas, wind, solar and hydroelectric generating capacity comprising one of the nation’s cleanest and lowest-cost power generation fleets. The company’s Constellation business unit provides energy products and services to approximately 2 million residential, public sector and business customers, including more than two-thirds of the Fortune 100. Follow Exelon on Twitter @Exelon.

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