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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 19, 2017

**TWO RIVER THEATER ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES REACHING OUT TO  
YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM**

**The performance of *The Way Back Home* on June 10 at 1pm will be a sensory-friendly relaxed performance, and Two River will offer its first Spectrum Theater Classes for students with autism ages 10-17 for two weeks in July as part of its 2017 Summer Theater Camp**

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, announces two new initiatives designed to support young people on the autism spectrum and welcome them to the theater.

On June 10, Two River will present a sensory-friendly performance of *The Way Back Home*, based on the book by Oliver Jeffers, and presented by Teater Refleksion (DK) and Branar Téatar (IE), associated producer Baboró International Arts Festival for Children.

Recommended for children ages 4-8 and theatricalized with puppets, *The Way Back Home* tells the story of a boy who discovers a single-propeller airplane, and uses it to fly to outer space. Performances in the Marion Huber Theater are June 8 at 4pm, June 9 at 4pm, June 10 at 11am, 1pm and 3pm, and June 11 at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm.

The relaxed performance on June 10 at 1pm will keep sound and lights at comfortable levels and patrons will be free to talk, move around, or leave their seats during the performances. Two River staff and volunteers will be trained to accommodate people on the autism spectrum and people with other sensitivity issues or special needs. For tickets or more information, patrons should call 732.345.1400 or visit [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org).

This year, Two River is also launching the theater's first Spectrum Theater Classes for young people on the autism spectrum ages 10-17. Led by teaching artists with extensive experience and supported by several trained assistants, students will improve interpersonal communication, verbal and body awareness, and self-confidence through the art of theater. Classes will focus on movement activities and storytelling through theater games, imagination exercises, as well as exploring the work of William Shakespeare.

"We are proud to offer Spectrum Theater Classes for the first time," Two River's Director of Education, Kate Cordaro says. "Our program uses theater to help students on the autism spectrum with social interaction and self-confidence, and play! Everyone should have a space to express themselves creatively, and we look forward to sharing our theater with a new audience."

For more information and registration forms, visit [http://www.tworivertheater.org/education/summer\\_classes.php](http://www.tworivertheater.org/education/summer_classes.php), or contact Amanda Espinoza, Education Assistant, at 732.936.8804 or [SummerCamp@trtc.org](mailto:SummerCamp@trtc.org).

#### Sponsorship

Two River Theater's Education programs are supported by The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Shakespeare in American Communities, The Jorgensen Foundation, Investors Foundation, The Community Foundation of New Jersey, OceanFirst, and Gannett Foundation, and are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Two River Theater is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Roy Cockrum Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Monmouth University, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Riverview Medical Center, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Shakespeare in American Communities, National Endowment for the Arts, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Investors Bank, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation at the Atrium at Navesink Harbor, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Jorgensen Foundation, Wells Fargo, William T. Morris Foundation, and many other generous foundations, corporations and individuals.

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**Two River Theater**, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, creates great American theater performed by award-winning artists. We produce American and world masterpieces, and new plays and musicals. Two River Theater offers new-play commissions and artistic development activities that support the most adventurous artists in the American theater; invites its audience to be part of the creative process through readings and open rehearsals; and cultivates students and young people to participate in innovative arts-education programs and become a new generation of theatergoers. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is easily accessible by car, train, or bus, with great restaurants and shopping within walking distance of the theater. For more information, visit [tworivertheater.org](http://tworivertheater.org) or call 732.345.1400.