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TWO RIVER THEATER EXPANDS ITS NO SEATS EMPTY PROGRAM TO REACH 500 AT-RISK ADOLESCENTS FROM FIVE MONMOUTH COUNTY SCHOOLS

NO SEATS EMPTY 2.0 IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY INVESTORS FOUNDATION, THE MARY OWEN BORDEN FOUNDATION, AND THE STONE FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater Company, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, is expanding one of its flagship education programs, No Seats Empty, to reach at-risk adolescents from five Monmouth County schools. The new program, No Seats Empty 2.0 (NSE 2.0), integrates the experience of seeing Two River's productions with in-depth examinations of their literary, historical, and social context, thereby enhancing the experience young people have at the theater and their connection to the arts. The theater launched No Seats Empty 2.0 (NSE 2.0) this fall with a grant from Investors Foundation, which supports nonprofit organizations that enhance the communities served by Investors Bank. The program is also supported by Mary Owen Borden Foundation and The Stone Foundation of New Jersey.

NSE 2.0 will not only make theater accessible to at-risk students through free tickets and transportation (the cornerstone of the theater's traditional No Seats Empty program), but will also engage students in their classrooms with pre- and post-performance workshops, facilitated by professional artists. In the first year of the program, NSE 2.0 will serve a targeted population of approximately 500 students from Asbury Park High School, Long Branch High School, Neptune High School, Red Bank Borough Middle School, and Kearsburg Middle School. Two River Theater will continue to reach an additional 1,200 students from Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic, Essex, Mercer, and Union Counties through No Seats Empty.

NSE 2.0 will include three student matinee performances of August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*, directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson, which is running now through March 3. Two River will also offer student matinees of Lisa Kron's *2.5 Minute Ride*, directed by Mark Brokaw; Stefanie Zadravec's *The Electric Baby*, directed by May Adrales; and Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*, directed by David Lee. NSE 2.0 launched earlier this year with the world-premiere musical *A Wind in the Willows Christmas*, which was sponsored by Investors Bank.

In addition to No Seats Empty and NSE 2.0, Two River Theater offers numerous education initiatives for students from grades K-12 that introduce young people to the theater, support academic achievement, and foster opportunities for them to engage with artists.

Two River Theater is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division within the Department of State and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Hickory Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Monmouth University, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation, Durso Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Investors Bank, OceanFirst Foundation, Wells Fargo, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation, and many other generous foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals. Opening nights for Two River Theater's 2012-2013 Season are sponsored by et al fine foods & events and Flowers on Front.

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, is dedicated to producing great classics from the American and world stage, creating new plays and musicals for the American theater, and serving its diverse and multigenerational community through unique partnerships and education programs. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, the theater supports the most exceptional and adventurous artists in the American theater and provides opportunities for its audiences to be part of the creative process. Two River Theater is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and ArtPride New Jersey, and has been designated a "Major Arts Institution" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Visit TRTC.org.