



Press Contacts:
Stephanie Coen, Associate Artistic Director
scoen@trtc.org or 732.936.8829

Cassie Galasetti, Social Sidekick
cassie@socialsidekickmedia.com or 732.822.9861

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 19, 2016

TWO RIVER THEATER ANNOUNCES COMPLETE CASTING FOR *THE LION IN WINTER*, WRITTEN BY JAMES GOLDMAN AND DIRECTED BY TYNE RAFAELI, RUNNING NOVEMBER 12-DECEMBER 4, 2016

NOAH AVERBACH-KATZ, MICHAEL CUMPSTY, DEE HOTY, KEILYN DURREL JONES, RONALD PEET, HUBERT POINT-DU JOUR, AND MADELEINE ROGERS WILL STAR

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW; SINGLE TICKETS RANGE IN PRICE FROM \$20 TO \$70 AND CAN BE PURCHASED FROM 732.345.1400 OR WWW.TWORIVERTHEATER.ORG

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, announces the cast and creative team for its production of **James Goldman's *The Lion in Winter***, directed by **Tyne Rafaeli**. The production will run **November 12-December 4, 2016**, with the opening night on **Friday, November 18 at 8pm**. The lead production sponsor for *The Lion in Winter* is Monmouth University.

Tony Award nominee and Obie Award winner **Michael Cumpsty** (*The End of the Rainbow, Hamlet*) and three-time Tony Award nominee **Dee Hoty** (*Footloose, The Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public, The Will Rogers Follies*) star as Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine in this American classic, written in 1966 by James Goldman and adapted into a 1968 film starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn. Also featured in the company are **Noah Averbach-Katz** (John), **KeiLyn Durrel Jones** (Richard), **Ronald Peet** (Philip), **Hubert Point-Du Jour** (Geoffrey), and **Madeleine Rogers** (Alais).

Set during Christmas 1183, *The Lion in Winter* crashes through castle doors as King Henry II of England, his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, and their sons Richard, Geoffrey, and John spend a memorable holiday revisiting old wounds—and making new ones—as they fight over who will rule the land after Henry’s death.

“*The Lion in Winter* feels like a biting relevant conversation in light of our upcoming presidential election,” says Artistic Director John Dias. “Questions about the battle for succession and the demands of leadership have never felt more pertinent. What makes *The Lion in Winter* feel so immediate and fresh is how it bridges great political posturing and intense personal and domestic intrigue. The play is not only about the battle over succession—it’s also a family drama, and very fun to watch.”

Director **Tyne Rafaeli** was born in London and trained at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and Columbia University. A longtime Associate Director to Bartlett Sher, she has directed classics, new plays and musicals in London and the US. She was awarded the 2013/14 SDCF Sir John Gielgud Fellowship for Classical Direction. Her current and upcoming projects include *Chasing Rainbows: The Road to Oz*, a new musical by Marc Acito, at Goodspeed Musicals and *My Fair Lady* at Playmakers Rep.

The creative team for *The Lion in Winter* includes scenic designer **Kristen Robinson**, costume designer **Andrea Hood**, lighting designer **Jennifer Tipton**, and sound designer **Josh Schmidt**. The fight direction is by **J. Steven White**, the casting is by **Jack Doulin & Sharky**, and the stage manager is **Jenny Kennedy**.

Inside Two River: Open Rehearsal

On **Tuesday, October 25 at 7pm**, audiences are invited to join Two River Theater to watch an **open rehearsal** in the Rechnitz Theater with director Tyne Rafaeli and members of the cast as they work on scenes from the play. **To reserve a spot, interested patrons should call 732.345.1400 or visit www.tworivertheater.org.**

Ticket Information

Ticket prices range from \$40 to \$70, with discounts available for groups, seniors, and U.S. military personnel, their families, and veterans. A limited number of \$20 tickets are available for every performance; \$20 tickets may be partial view. Tickets for patrons under 30 are \$20 and include the best available seats at every performance. Tickets are available from tworivertheater.org or 732.345.1400.

Sponsorship

The lead production sponsor for *The Lion in Winter* is Monmouth University. 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.

###

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 or call 732.345.1400.