Center Stage’s Amy Herzog Festival Performances Begin March 18

BALTIMORE—March 4, 2015. Center Stage announces the casts and crew of the Amy Herzog Festival, the first time Herzog’s 4000 Miles and After the Revolution will be produced together. The festival is March 18 to May 24, with the plays alternating every two weeks.

In addition to the full-scale productions will be two free readings performed by Herzog Festival cast members of Herzog’s plays The Great God Plan (Apr 20) and Belleville (Apr 27). The readings will be at 7 p.m.

From the pen of Amy Herzog, one of America’s leading contemporary playwrights, comes two tales that span three generations of family. In After the Revolution, it is 1999, and Emma has learned a shocking revelation about her grandfather. Struggling with shaken moral and political views, she confronts her grandmother Vera for the truth. A decade later, Vera takes center stage in 4000 Miles, winner of 2012 Obie Award Best New American Play and a Pulitzer Prize nominee. Coping with a shocking loss, Vera’s 21 year-old grandson Leo stumbles through the door of her West Village apartment. Over the course of a single month, these unlikely roommates frustrate, bewilder, and—eventually—connect, as they search for common understanding.

“I am completely delighted that the plays will be seen together for the first time. There are resonances between them that are usually lost,” Amy Herzog says. “Since I wrote these plays based on my extended family and especially my grandmother, I’ve had two major life changes. My grandmother died in 2013 at age 96, and I had two children. My grandmother’s death changed my feeling about the plays very much; now they seem to have the quality of a eulogy or remembrance, which they didn’t when I wrote them.

“Both plays are concerned with the relationships between parents and children. Now that I am a mother, I’m more aware not just of how difficult being a parent is (that I’d sort of guessed), but how haphazard it can be.”

Princess Grace Award recipient Lila Neugebauer directs both 4000 Miles and After the Revolution. Neugebauer, a close friend of Herzog’s, recently directed The Wayside Motor Inn at Signature Theatre, Trudy and Max in Love at South Coast Rep and Red Speedo at Studio Theatre, DC. Neugebauer has worked all over the country and is co-artistic director of The Mad Ones at New Ohio Theatre. She is an Ensemble Theatre member, Drama League alumna and a New Georges Affiliated Artist.

Lois Markle plays Vera in 4000 Miles and After the Revolution. Markle performed at Center Stage in Old Times and Toys in the Attic, and has numerous Broadway credits, including The Grapes of Wrath and Hedda Gabler. Other festival actors who are returning to Center Stage are Susan Rome (Mel in After the Revolution), Peter Van Wagner (Morty in After the Revolution) and Mark Zeisler (Leo Joseph in After the Revolution). Rome is a constant presence in Baltimore and DC theater, having been seen in Center Stage’s Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike, Enemy of the People and Mud Blue Sky, as well as multiple productions by Rep Stage, Theater J and the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival. Van Wagner was in Center Stage’s Ah, Wilderness, and Zeisler was in Center Stage’s Romeo and Juliet.

The rest of the festival cast makes their Center Stage debuts with the Amy Herzog Festival. Arye Gross plays Ben in After the Revolution, and has appeared in theater all over the country, and has had notable roles in films such as Minority Report and Tequila Sunrise, and TV shows such as Friends, Ellen and Castle. Gross’ After the Revolution castmates include Ashton Heyl (Emma), a Yale School of Drama graduate who performed the role of Mel in a production of the play at the Williamstown Theatre Festival; Kelly McCrann (Jess), whose TV and film credits include Louie and Steven Spielberg’s St. James Place; and Alejandro Rodriguez (Miguel), a Juilliard grad and associate director of programs at Artists Striving to End Poverty, who is a writer and director in addition to actor who has worked all over the country.

The actors rounding out the cast of 4000 Miles are Laura LaRocca (Bec), whose Off Broadway credits include Chemistry at the Soho Playhouse and The Cherry Orchard at LABA Theater; Josh Tobin (Leo Joseph-Connell), whose regional work includes As You Like It, Love’s Labour’s Lost, The Imaginary Invalid and Clybourne Park; and Jennifer Tsay (Amanda), whose New York
credits include productions at the Flea, The Pearl Theatre and Random Access.

The Amy Herzog Festival runs March 18 to May 24. For more information, visit www.centerstage.org or call 410.332.0033.

**After the Revolution**
March 18-29
April 14-26
May 12-17

**CAST**
- Arye Gross*  
- Ashton Heyl*  
- Sullivan Jones  
- Lois Markle*  
- Kelly McCrann*  
- Alejandro Rodriguez*  
- Susan Rome*  
- Peter Van Wagner*

- Ben Joseph  
- Emma  
- Cassius Clay  
- Vera  
- Jess  
- Miguel  
- Mel  
- Assistant Morty

**4,000 Miles**
April 1-12
April 28-May 10
May 19-24

**CAST**
- Lauren LaRocca*  
- Lois Markle*  
- Jennifer Tsay  
- Josh Tobin*

- Bec  
- Vera  
- Amanda  
- Leo-Connell Joseph

**THE ARTISTIC TEAM FOR BOTH PRODUCTIONS**
- Amy Herzog  
- Lila Neugebauer  
- Daniel Zimmerman  
- Ásta Hostetter  
- Eric Southern  
- Brandon Wolcott  
- Catherine Rodriguez  
- and Gavin Witt  
- Stephanie Klapper  
- Brandon Butts  
- Production Dramaturgs  
- Casting Director  
- Assistant Director
SPECIAL EVENTS

**Press Night**—March 25 (*After the Revolution*); April 8 (*4000 Miles*). Please email Public Relations Manager Cassandra Miller at cmiller@centerstage.org if you are interested in reviewing the show and need press passes.

**Meet the Actors**—March 17 (*After the Revolution*) and April 10 (*4000 Miles*). Patrons are invited to stay after these performances for Q&As with the cast.

**LBTQ Night Out**—March 24 (*After the Revolution*) and April 7 (*4000 Miles*). LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly patrons are invited to a preshow reception with complimentary wine and appetizers and special guests. Amy Herzog’s uncle, Andrei Joseph, on whom the After the Revolution character Ben is based, will give a brief presentation at the March 24 event.

**AfterThoughts and ForeWords**—April 16, 19, 26; May 14 (*After the Revolution*). April 30, May 3, 10 (*4000 Miles*). Production dramaturgs discuss themes and background of the plays.

**Kickin’ It**—May 9. Families are invited to have lunch with the cast of *4000 Miles* and receive tickets at a discounted price.

*4000 Miles* and *After the Revolution* are made possible by Kramon & Graham. Center Stage is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. An agency of the Department of Business and Economic Development, the MSAC provides financial support and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, units of government, colleges, and universities for arts activities. Funding for the MSAC is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Center Stage’s 2014-15 Season is made possible by Season 52 presenting sponsor M&T Bank and associate season sponsor Northrop Grumman. Maryland Public Television is a Media Partner for Center Stage’s 2014-15 Season.

ABOUT CENTER STAGE

Under the leadership of playwright, actor, and director Kwame Kwei-Armah OBE (Artistic Director) and national arts leader Stephen Richard (Managing Director), Center Stage is an artistically driven institution committed to engaging, entertaining, and enriching audiences through joyous and bold performance. Hailed by *The Wall Street Journal* as “a model of what regional theater can and should be,” Center Stage has, for more than 50 years, dedicated itself to exploring new works and bringing classics to life. This rich history is marked by critically acclaimed new works that have shaped the American theater, from the Tony Award-winning *The Triumph of Love* to world premieres such as *Miss Evers’ Boys* by David Feldshuh and *On the Verge* by Eric Overmyer. In 2013, Center Stage’s unprecedented presentation of the Tony Award-winning *Clybourne Park* in repertory with the world premiere of Kwei-Armah’s *Beneatha’s Place* sparked dialogue, drew international media attention and became the subject of a nationally broadcast PBS documentary, "A Raisin in the Sun Revisited: The Raisin Cycle at Center Stage." With its signature focus on civic and community engagement, Center Stage, The State Theater of Maryland, enters its second 50 years with a commitment to exploring how art and entertainment communicate in the 21st century and to igniting conversation in Baltimore and beyond.