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**ACT - A Contemporary Theatre Announces
2020 Mainstage Season Cancellation**
ACT looks ahead to welcoming audiences in 2021

Seattle, June 16 -- ACT - A Contemporary Theatre today announced the cancellation of the 2020 Mainstage Season due to COVID-19 restrictions.

ACT leadership worked hard to find a pathway to produce their milestone 55th Mainstage season, but in the end, none of the modeled scenarios was feasible. As a result, ACT will not be able to deliver 2020 programming as planned.

"We assessed our ability to reopen at a reduced capacity and how we could adhere to government advice around safety compliance," said Becky Witmer, ACT's Managing Director. "The safety of our patrons, artists, staff and everyone who enters the building is a top priority. Unfortunately, due to the intimacy of our spaces throughout the building, we are unable to provide a safe and viable solution while maintaining distancing, which will continue for some time." Opening cannot take place until Phase 4 is reached in Governor Jay Inslee's reopening plan, which is expected to continue to require physical distancing.

"The 55th Anniversary Season was curated especially for this milestone year. ACT was proud to participate in the 50/50 in 2020 initiative to feature a majority female playwright slate and to produce the groundbreaking works by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage and Academy Award-winning screenwriter Tarell Alvin McCraney. All of the playwrights scheduled for 2020 were artist debuts for the ACT Mainstage and all of the plays were written in the past 10 years; a truly contemporary season. Whether the 2020 plays are programmed in future years is in discussion. For now, ACT will pivot and offer a series of digital theatre events that speak to our time and continue to create engaging community conversations."

ACT must operate at a reduced scale until there is certainty around the reopening timeline. ACT employs 100 people and attracts an attendance over 140,000 each year when operating at full capacity. The cancellation has resulted in job layoffs in the creative sector and the lack of programming in the building will negatively impact the local downtown economy. "We are grateful to our subscribers, members and donors for their support in making sure ACT can resume operation on the other side of the phased recovery."

ACT is looking forward to spring 2021 when they anticipate being able to welcome audiences back to the theatre.

An announcement will be made about next year's programming as more clarity on when and how Phase 4 will be implemented comes into focus.

Cancelled performances include all 2020 Mainstage Performances, ACTLab Season and the Young Playwrights Program.

The 2020 Mainstage Season included:

- *Sweat* (March 20 - April) - previously announced
- *The Effect* (April 17 - May 10) - previously announced
- *Choir Boy* (June 5 - 28) - previously announced
- *The Laugh Track* (September 11 - October 4)
- *Witch* (October 23 - November 15)

For press:

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About ACT

Located in Seattle's Downtown Theatre District, ACT is home to five performance spaces under one roof. Since 1965, ACT has been a destination for experiencing new voices, stories and art. Reaching over 140,000 audience members each year, ACT is steadfast in its dedication to producing world-class work with contemporary playwrights and local performing artists through its Mainstage play series, ACTLab partnerships and Young Playwrights Program. Under the leadership of Managing Director Becky Witmer and Artistic Director John Langs, ACT is a community hub where artists and the public connect about today's issues and ideas and celebrate the shared experience.

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