

ALLEY THEATRE

GREGORY BOYD ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM ALLEY THEATRE

HOUSTON, TEXAS – January 9, 2018 – The Alley Theatre, one of America’s leading not-for-profit theatres, announced today that Gregory Boyd, the Theatre’s Artistic Director since 1989 will retire at the age of 66 on January 11, 2018. Boyd had planned to announce his retirement in the Fall of 2017 but decided to put his plans on hold following Hurricane Harvey to assist with the Theatre’s recovery efforts. After considering retirement for some time, Boyd decided to make the announcement early in 2018 in order to give the Alley time to prepare a new season.

“Leading this extraordinary theatre company in this wonderful city for over a quarter century has been an artistic dream fulfilled,” said Gregory Boyd. “With the marvelous efforts of the artists, staff, and Board, we created a state of the art theatre-making complex with performance, production, and administration all in a brilliant, expansive space that welcomes theatre-goers in a unique and exciting way. The Alley’s achievements have been a great source of satisfaction for me and I look forward to new achievements to come in the next era.”

“It has been an honor to work with Greg for twelve of his twenty-eight illustrious years at the Alley Theatre and we are forever grateful for his work in making the Theatre one of the flagship theater companies in the United States,” said Dean Gladden, Managing Director. “Through his creativity and passion for the theatre, Greg helped elevate the Alley’s visibility and reputation on a global scale.”

During his tenure, the Alley has risen in national and international prominence; winning the Special Tony Award® and experiencing record growth in its Houston audiences. Gregory Boyd’s commitment to maintaining a resident company of actors has made the Alley unique among American theatre companies.

Some of Boyd’s Alley productions have been featured in major European Festivals (including two in one season at the Venice Biennale), on Broadway, and on tour to 40 cities across the United States. While serving as Artistic Director for the Alley, Boyd has produced over 100 new productions of one of the widest ranging repertoires in the country, among them the premieres of *Not About Nightingales* by Tennessee Williams (Alley, London, Broadway); *Jekyll & Hyde* (Alley, National Tour, Broadway); Shakespeare’s Roman Plays (with Vanessa and Corin Redgrave); and Robert Wilson’s productions of *Hamlet*, *When We Dead Awaken*, and *Danton’s Death* (with Richard Thomas). He also directed over 40 productions with the Alley, including *Seagull*, *Rock ‘n’ Roll*, *The Greeks*, and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Directing projects outside the Alley have included *Our Town* at Hartford Stage (Hal Holbrook), *Design for Living* at Williamstown (Marisa Tomei, Campbell Scott, Steven Weber), and Stoppard’s *Travesties* at Long Wharf (Sam Waterston, Tom Hewitt).

“It has been such an honor to be selected by Gregory Boyd to be part of the Alley Resident Company for the bulk of my career,” shared actor Elizabeth Bunch. “His inventive, brilliant directing and commitment to challenging and guiding his artists is unique to regional theatres. It is a privilege to be part of this company and I look forward to continuing his legacy into the next era.”

Boyd has served as Panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Massachusetts Council for the Arts. He has taught on the faculties of Carnegie-Mellon, Williams

College, the University of Houston, and the University of North Carolina, where he headed the Professional Theatre Training Program. He was educated at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is a Distinguished Alumnus, and at Carnegie-Mellon.

James Black, a thirty year veteran of the company, will serve as the Interim Artistic Director. Having worked at the Alley Theatre as an actor and director since 1987, Black was involved in over 100 productions. Recent appearances include, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *All My Sons*, *As You Like It*, *Dracula*, *Communicating Doors*, *Freud's Last Session*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *The Hollow*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club*, and more. He received a Theatre World Award for Outstanding Broadway Debut and a Drama Desk nomination for Best Actor for *Not About Nightingales* and a BackStage West Garland Award for his appearance as Eddie Carbone in the Alley's production of *A View from the Bridge*.

One of the premiere theater executive search firms, Albert Hall & Associates, has been engaged to lead the search for a new Artistic Director of the Alley. The search is expected to take six to nine months. Butch Mach, President of the Board of Directors stated, "It will be difficult to replace Gregory Boyd. His creativity and talent have helped build the Alley into a premiere regional theatre. The Board is committed to finding a strong replacement to take the Alley to the next level."

ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE:

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading not-for-profit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Interim Artistic Director James Black and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. Home to a Resident Company of actors, the Alley creates a wide-ranging repertoire and innovative productions of classics, neglected modern plays, and premieres. Alley All New, the initiative to commission and develop new work year-round, features the Alley All New Festival each season presenting workshops and readings of new plays and musicals in process. Additionally, the Alley serves 65,000 students annually with award-winning education and community programs including in-school arts integration residencies, school tours and student matinees. A recipient of the Special Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, the Alley has brought productions to Broadway, 40 American cities including New York's Lincoln Center and internationally to London, Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg throughout its 70-year history.

After a year-long, \$46.5 million renovation during the 2014-15 season, the Alley Theatre now has one of the most technically advanced non-profit theatre complexes in the nation. With more than 450 performances planned in 2017-2018, the Alley will produce more shows than all other performing arts organizations in the Houston Theater District combined.

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