



KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR TICKETS: Box Office at
816.235.2700 or www.KCRep.org.

**Kansas City Repertory Theatre
2016-17 Season Continues with
Kansas City Premiere of
*Ayad Akhtar's
The Invisible Hand***

*Pulitzer Prize-Winning and Tony Nominated Playwright of Disgraced
and the Rep's Acclaimed 2014 production of The Who and the What*

*October 14 through November 13
at Copaken Stage*

Kansas City, MO (Sept. 26, 2016) –Kansas City Repertory Theatre continues its 2016-2017 season with *The Invisible Hand* by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Ayad Akhtar directed by KC Rep's Producing Director **Jerry Genochio**. KC Rep audiences that last saw Akhtar's acclaimed

comedy *The Who and The What* in 2014 will now experience Akhtar's internationally lauded political thriller beginning October 14.

In *The Invisible Hand*, an American banker is taken hostage in Pakistan by captors seeking a ransom – but instead of capturing a high level executive, they mistakenly take Nick Bright, a mid-level trader for whom his country and company will not negotiate. The three captors and their hostage strike a deal: Nick can save his own life if he can earn his ransom through stock market trades. This intense thriller reveals the complicated truth behind our simple perceptions of good versus evil and East vs. West, as we discover that the invisible hand that moves the global market is more easily manipulated than Nick's captors believe. *The Invisible Hand* performances begin Oct. 14 at the Copaken Stage, located downtown Kansas City, in the Power & Light District.

Artistic Director Eric Rosen said: “We are so pleased to continue our record-breaking season with Akhtar's intense, brilliant play. Like the record breaking smash hit *Evita*, I chose this play to illuminate issues that are at the forefront of minds during this turbulent election cycle. Where *Evita* looks at 1940s Argentina to illuminate the current political cycle, Akhtar's *The Invisible Hand* sets us in faraway Pakistan to examine our nation's interconnectedness with the countries and people we vilify through their economies. Akhtar is one of the most deservedly celebrated, entertaining, and brilliant writers of our time, and there could not be a better time to share his latest story with our audience.”

“Ayad Akhtar's fiercely provocative and suspenseful play makes a vital contribution to the ongoing discussion of what it truly means to be the ‘good guy’ in a post 9/11 world,” said Genochio. “It promises to be incredibly real, powerful and scary. Who are the good guys and who are the bad guys? We are doubly blessed in not only presenting this play, but in hosting Ayad who will engage with the rehearsal process, and participate in several community discussions.”

The ensemble cast, drawn from Kansas City and across the country, includes: Jason Chanos as Nick Bright, Neal Gupta as Dar, Andrew Ramcharan Guilarte as Bashir, and Rock Kohli as Imam Saleem.

Performances begin Friday, October 14 and run through Sunday, November 13 at the Copaken Stage. Press night is scheduled for Opening Night Friday, October 21. High res rehearsal photos can be found [here](#). *Appropriate for ages 16+. Adult content and language.*

Making the Play

One half hour before every Preview Performance

One half hour before performances on Fri, Sat, and Sun

Conversation Series

Kansas City Repertory Theatre Continues 2016-17 Season with *The Invisible Hand*

Patrons are invited to attend FREE post-show forums to learn more from the artists and creative teams about the production.

Meet the Creative Team: October 19, following the 7 pm performance

Scholars' Forum: October 29, following the 2pm performance

Actor's Forum: October 30, following the 2pm performance and November 1, following the 7 pm performance

About the Artists

Jerry Genochio (Director) leads the production and artistic teams and is responsible for mounting all productions as well as season budgets, calendars and planning. Before joining the team at KC Rep, Genochio served as production manager for Alabama Shakespeare Festival, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Sacramento Theatre Company and Southwest Missouri State University. He also spent ten seasons as Scenery Director for the Utah Shakespearean Festival and served as Technical Director at Illinois State University, Lafayette College, and Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and toured nationally with Minneapolis' Children's Theatre Company. Genochio has an MFA in Technical Production from Florida State University and a BS from Northwest Missouri State University.

Ayad Akhtar (Playwright) was born in New York City and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Akhtar is a Pakistani American playwright, novelist, screenwriter and actor who is best known for his play, *Disgraced*. The play received the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play, and was named the most produced play in America for the 2015-16 Season. His latest play, *The Who & The What*, premiered at La Jolla Playhouse in February 2014, and was performed in New York at LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater in June 2014. He is also the author of *American Dervish*, published in over twenty languages worldwide and a 2012 Best Book of the Year at Kirkus Reviews, Toronto's Globe and Mail, Shelf-Awareness, and O (Oprah) Magazine. As a screenwriter, he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Screenplay for *The War Within*. He has been the recipient of fellowships from MacDowell and Yaddo, as well as commissions from Lincoln Center Theater and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He is a graduate of Brown and Columbia Universities with degrees in Theater and Film Directing.

The design and production team includes Martin Andrew (Set Designer), Elizabeth Harper (Lighting Designer), Melissa Torchia (Costume Designer), Andre Pluess (Sound Designer), Jeffrey Cady (Projections Designer) and Mary Honour (Production Stage Manager).

Subscriptions and Tickets

Tickets to *The Invisible Hand* start at \$30. For 2016-17 season subscription and ticket information, please contact the Box Office at 816.235.2700 or visit www.KCRep.org.

Gala 2017

Save the date for Saturday, May 20, 2017 for A Fearless Fête 2017. Mark and Kathy Donovan are the 2017 Gala Chairs. Proceeds from the Gala help ensure that KC Rep can continue to create professional productions that garner regional and national acclaim and provide lifelong learning opportunities through our Education and Community Programs which benefit more than 10,000 Kansas City area students each year. For more information, please contact Amanda Middaugh at Middaugham@kcrep.org or 816.235.1489.

About Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Repertory Theatre, one of the nation's oldest and most respected regional theaters, is the center of a great theatre town. KC Rep produces theatrical excellence, creating and sharing stories at the center of our nation's creative crossroads. KC Rep's mission is to advance the art form while cultivating passionate audiences, artists, and advocates to invest in our region's creative future. We build community by connecting people through productions and outreach that educate, entertain, challenge and inspire. Lauded by *The Wall Street Journal*, *TIME* magazine, *Variety* and *The Toronto Sun*, KC Rep produces mainstage plays and special events at Spencer Theatre, where it serves as the professional theatre in residence at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), and Copaken Stage located in downtown Kansas City. KC Rep employs more than 250 professional artists, technicians and administrators, and serves more than 100,000 patrons and 12,000 school children annually. Kansas City Repertory Theatre is led by Artistic Director Eric Rosen and Executive Director Angela Lee Gieras.

Social and Digital Media

Receive daily updates by 'Liking' KCRep's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KCREP and follow KC Rep on Twitter at @KCRep, on YouTube by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/user/kansascityrep>, and follow on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/kcreptheatre/>. High resolution photos can be downloaded [here](#). B-roll is available upon request.

2016-2017 Season At A Glance

Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Repertory Theatre ticket office 816.235.2700

Purchase tickets online at www.kcrep.org.

Evita

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Directed by Eric Rosen

Spencer Theatre

September 9 – October 2, 2016

Kansas City Repertory Theatre Continues 2016-17 Season with *The Invisible Hand*

There's no shortage of theatrics in U.S. politics but if you're looking to escape the drama of our election year, come travel back to the times of Argentine political leader Eva Peron. With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, this rock opera explores the role of women in politics, the power of populism and the romantic rags-to-riches story of Evita's life and charity work. Playful storytelling tempers the serious subject matter, turning this classic show into a celebration of one politician's ability to connect with people and the issues that mattered most.

The Invisible Hand

Kansas City premiere

Written by Ayad Akhtar

Directed by Jerry Genochio

Copaken Stage

October 14 – November 13, 2016

Forget what you know about global terrorism and human nature, and prepare for a new perspective that's equally frightening and enlightening. Like a game of chess, two captors and their American hostage maneuver through life in a holding cell, where the hostage tries to negotiate his way out using stock market secrets. This intense show reveals the complicated truth behind our simple perceptions of good versus evil, as we discover the invisible hand that moves the global market and shifts the power to those you least want to have it.

Constellations

Kansas City premiere

Written by Nick Payne

Directed by Eric Rosen

Copaken Stage

February 24 – March 26, 2017

If you could hit rewind on a relationship, you might discover the nuances of choice and destiny, and how the two intersect. This spellbinding, heartbreaking love story removes the boundaries of time and space, delving into the infinite possibilities of a couple's relationship to reveal how the slightest change in conversation might send you down an entirely different path. The scene resets again and again, in a fascinating look at love and life from one parallel universe to the next.

A Raisin in the Sun

Written by Lorraine Hansberry

Co-Directed by Chip Miller and Marissa Wolf

Spencer Theatre

March 17 – April 9, 2017

The classic story of the Younger family remains universally relevant and deeply relatable more than 60 years after it first hit Broadway. In pursuit of the American Dream, this dynamic African American family wrestles with the push to assimilate into a white Chicago

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neighborhood, and the pull of their cultural roots. These opposing forces both unite and divide the family, as each grapples with the social issues that challenge their identity – and the personal choices that will determine their future.

Origin KC New Works Festival

Copaken Stage

April 21 – May 21, 2017

Curated by Marissa Wolf, Director of New Works

What Would Crazy Horse Do?

A World Premiere

Written by Larissa FastHorse

Director TBD

KC Rep proudly presents the world premiere of a new play by preeminent Native American writer Larissa FastHorse. Twin siblings, the last members of their tribe, have just lost their grandfather when the KKK comes knocking with hopes of forming an alliance to ensure the continuation of their race. A chilling look at the notion of racial purity, this story reveals the challenges contemporary Native Americans face when fighting extinction in a world that seems to have already forgotten they exist. The siblings attempt to find their voices in the outside world, while preserving the heritage that is now theirs alone to carry forward.

Man in Love

A World Premiere

Written by Christina Anderson

Directed by Marissa Wolf

In a segregated Depression-era city, rent parties rage above, while men hungry for work and love roam the streets. A string of murders occurs but no one suspects the killer is the quiet, charming librarian, Paul Pare Jr. Reactions vary across the city, and as we watch the word spread from person to person, we wonder if the killer's violence will extend to those closest to him. Written by Kansas City native Christina Anderson the story examines a world where a criminal and his victims can get lost in the crowd.

KC REP'S GREAT HOLIDAY CLASSICS RETURN!

A Christmas Carol

Based on the book by Charles Dickens

Adapted by Barbara Fields

Directed by Jerry Genochio

Spencer Theatre

November 18– December 24, 2016

Kansas City's favorite holiday tradition is back for its 36th season, presented in the magnificent new Spencer Theatre! A ripping good telling of the classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the

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curmudgeonly businessman who requires the intervention of a few spectral guides to understand the true meaning of Christmas and life. Complete with lively musical numbers, ornate costumes, and dashing stagecraft, Dickens' classic tale of hope and redemption continues to remind us what's really worth celebrating - at the holidays, or any time!

The Santaland Diaries

Written by David Sedaris

Adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello

Directed by Eric Rosen

Copaken Stage

December 8 - 24, 2016

David Sedaris' hysterical tale of elfin' woe is a hilarious send-up of his brief, misguided career as a Macy's elf. Last year's hit production returns, featuring a hilarious score of twisted holiday favorites against the twisted landscape of Sedaris's unmatched wit. *The Santaland Diaries* skewers our sentimental love of all things Christmas—in a production that has become a beloved part of KC Rep's annual celebration of the darker side of the holidays.

Subscriptions and Tickets

For subscription and ticket information for Kansas City Repertory Theatre's 2016-17 season, please contact the Box Office at 816.235.2700 or visit www.KCRep.org.

Season ticket holders receive many benefits including:

- Free ticket exchanges
- Co-operative arts discount card good for special ticket discounts from local performing arts partners
- Babysitter rebates for subscribers with young children
- Special discounts at over 20 participating area restaurants- Check www.kcrep.org for a complete list of participating restaurants in the Plaza (near Spencer Theatre) or downtown (near Copaken Stage)
- Monthly emails with exclusive insider info on upcoming events and special offers
- 20% off items at our lobby gift shop
- Up to 15% off tickets for Holiday Shows or additional tickets to regular season shows
- Free Parking at both theatres!

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Please direct all media inquiries to: Tammy Cunningham at publicity@kcrep.org.

For further information, please visit our Web site at www.kcrep.org.

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