



KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tammy Cunningham
publicity@kcrep.org

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

**Kansas City Repertory Theatre
Announces Addition to its 2016-17 Season**

***Side by Side
by Sondheim***

A celebration of the music and lyrics of Stephen Sondheim

January 27 through February 19

At Spencer Theatre

*Also, Broadway's Claybourne Elder to star in this season's
The Santaland Diaries, with Shanna Jones*

Tickets to ***Side by Side by Sondheim*** and all other **KC Rep performances** start at \$25. For 2016-17 season subscription and ticket information, please contact the Box Office at 816.235.2700 or visit www.KCRep.org.

Kansas City Repertory Theatre Continues 2016-17 Season with ***The Invisible Hand*** by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Ayad Akhtar, author of *Disgraced* and *The Who & The What*.

Kansas City, MO (Sept. 29, 2016) – Kansas City Repertory Theatre is pleased to announce an exciting addition to its current season. Artistic Director Eric Rosen will direct a starry cast in the acclaimed musical revue *Side by Side by Sondheim*.

Nominated for both London’s Olivier Award and Broadway’s Tony Award for Best Musical, *Side by Side by Sondheim* celebrates the music and lyrics of Pulitzer, Tony, and Academy Award winning Stephen Sondheim. *Side by Side by Sondheim* ran in London and New York for well over a thousand performances, making it one of the most successful musical revues of all time. A glittering evening of music, comedy, and song, the show features beloved hits from *Gypsy*, *West Side Story*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music* and *Pacific Overtures* – some of the songs include “Comedy Tonight”, “Broadway Baby”, “Anyone Can Whistle”, “A Boy Like That” and the Grammy Award winning “Send in the Clowns” to name a few.

“KC Rep audiences love Sondheim – among our biggest hits of all time are *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods*, and *Company*” says Artistic Director Eric Rosen. *Side By Side* takes us back to Sondheim’s most prolific period, from when he was a young artist writing lyrics for Bernstein’s music from *West Side Story* to the triumphs of musicals like *A Little Night Music* that made him a legend. The show promises to be a dazzling and unforgettable night in the company of the most inspirational, influential, funny, and moving composer of this or any era.”

Due to unforeseen circumstances *Side by Side by Sondheim* will replace the previously announced *The Fabulous Fitches*. Performances run January 27 through February 19, 2017 at the Spencer Theatre, on the UMKC campus. **All tickets originally issued for *The Fabulous Fitches* will be honored for the same date and time of the performance of *Side by Side by Sondheim*; no exchange is necessary. Questions may be directed to the KC Rep Box Office at 816.235.2700 or tickets@kcrep.org.**

Press night is scheduled for Opening Night Friday, February 3, 2017. *Appropriate for ages 13+. Some 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

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

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About the Artists

Eric Rosen (Director) was the founding Artistic Director of Chicago's About Face Theatre (AFT) from 1995 to 2008, and is a writer, director and producer. Original projects include *Venice* (KC Rep, Center Theatre Group-LA, Public Theater-NYC, "Best Musical of 2010"—*TIME* Magazine); *Wedding Play* (Steppenwolf/AFT, Jefferson nomination); *Winesburg, Ohio* (Steppenwolf/AFT-Jeff Award, Philadelphia's Arden Theatre Company—Barrymore Award, KC Rep); *Clay* (AFT, Lookingglass Theatre-Chicago, Center Theatre Group, KC Rep, Lincoln Center/CT3-Drama Desk Nomination, Jeff Award); and *Undone, Whitman* and *Dream Boy* (Jeff Award, several productions across the country). In addition to *Venice*, other KC Rep directing credits include: *Clay*; *Winesburg, Ohio*; world premiere of *A Christmas Story, The Musical!* (a hit musical on Broadway—three Tony nominations, including Best Musical); *Cabaret*; *August: Osage County*; *The Whipping Man*; *Pippin*; *Death of a Salesman*; *Romeo and Juliet*; and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Additional directing credits include productions at Lincoln Center, Center Theatre Group, Steppenwolf, Goodman, Alliance, Lookingglass, Chicago Shakespeare, Hartford Stage, 5th Avenue, Prince, Cincinnati, Melbourne (Australia) and workshops at Sundance, O'Neill, Playwrights Horizons, and the Public Theater. He has developed and produced over 40 world premieres, including Doug Wright's Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning *I am My Own Wife* and work by Mary Zimmerman, Frank Galati, Stephen Flaherty, Moisés Kaufman, David Cale and The Civilians, among others. He holds a doctorate in performance studies from Northwestern University, has twice served as an NEA panelist, and serves on the Board of Directors of Theatre Communications Group, the national organization of non-profit theatres.

Stephen Sondheim (Lyricist/Composer). Stephen Joshua Sondheim is an American composer and lyricist known for more than a half-century of contributions to musical theatre. Sondheim has received an Academy Award, eight Tony Awards, eight Grammy Awards, a Pulitzer Prize, the Laurence Olivier Award, and a 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom. He has been described by Frank Rich of The New York Times as "now the greatest and perhaps best-known artist in the American musical theater." His best-known works as composer and lyricist include *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Into the Woods*. He wrote the lyrics for *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*.

The design and production team includes Jack Magaw (Set Designer), Cory Patack (Lighting Designer), Sarah Beers (Costume Designer), Jeff Cady (Projections Designer) and Mary R. Honour (Production Stage Manager).

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*Broadway's Claybourne Elder to star in this season's **The Santaland Diaries**, with Shanna Jones*

We are also happy to announce that Broadway star and Rep favorite Claybourne Elder returns to star in this year's production of David Sedaris' holiday comedy *The Santaland Diaries*. David Sedaris' hysterical tale of elfin' woe is a hilarious send-up of his brief, misguided career as a Macy's elf. Clay joined Shanna Jones in the original production in 2013 along with Brian Sills. This year he steps into Sill's Elf costume for a new take on this beloved Rep holiday tradition. Shanna Jones is also set to return, providing a hilarious score of twisted holiday favorites against the twisted landscape of Sedaris's unmatched wit. The event plays at Copaken Stage December 8 - 24, 2016.

Claybourne Elder is a Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel nominee known by Kansas City audiences for his performances as George in *Sunday in the Park with George*, Cliff in *Cabaret*, Wolf/Cinderella's Prince in Moises Kaufman's *Into the Woods* at KC Rep and as the Prince in *Cinderella* at the Starlight. In New York and on Broadway he originated the roles of Buck in *Bonnie and Clyde*, Hollis in Stephen Sondheim's *Road Show*, and Ollie in *Tennessee Williams' One Arm* (Drama Desk Nom, Best Actor). He was also seen in the NY revivals of *Two by Two* (starring Jason Alexander), as Joe Jr. in John Doyle's production of *Allegro* (Lucille Lortel Nom Best Actor), as Eddie in *Do I Hear a Waltz* and the Soldier in *Sunday in the Park...* (with Jake Gyllenhaal) both at City Center, as well as off-Broadway in *Venice* at the Public Theatre. Regionally he has played George in *Sunday in the Park...* at the Signature Theatre (Helen Hayes Award, Best Musical). On television he played Pete O'Malley on the CW series *The Carrie Diaries*.

Social and Digital Media

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<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.

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