



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ellen McDonald
816.444.0052
publicity@kcrep.org

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

Kansas City Rep and UMKC Co-Host 50th Anniversary FREE Block Party

Free City-Wide Celebration of KC Rep on the UMKC Campus Sunday, Sept. 28

Kansas City, MO (Sept. 2, 2014) — Angela Gieras, executive director of Kansas City Repertory Theatre today announced that Kansas City Repertory Theatre in collaboration with the University of Missouri-Kansas City Alumni Association, will co-host a FREE city-wide celebration of KC Rep's 50th anniversary with a Block Party on the UMKC campus parking lot outside the Olson Performing Arts Center. The Block Party will take place on Sunday, Sept. 28th from 9:30am- 8:00pm. This event is FREE and open to the public. Families are encouraged to attend. The Block Party is part of the UMKC annual Founder's Week celebration.

Angela Gieras stated, "As we celebrate the success of KC Rep, we recognize none of this would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the Kansas City community for these past five decades. Countless individuals have all played a role in its success, either on the stage, behind the scenes or in the audience. What better way to honor and thank the community than with a city-wide celebration." Gieras continued, "KC Rep is the professional theatre in residence at UMKC and our partnership with UMKC Theatre provides students a rare opportunity for students to learn hands on in a professional setting. We are proud to co-host this Block Party where, KC Rep's founder, Dr. Patricia McIlrath original vision of KC Rep as the epicenter of local theatre, working with UMKC, local artists and strengthening the local arts community, continues."

The Block Party will include live performances by KC Rep, UMKC Theatre, Coterie Theatre, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, and local band Hearts of Darkness. Children's tent featuring face painting and more, famous Kansas City food trucks, and a special musical theatre karaoke contest will also be featured on site. Booths from many local performing arts

organizations including Harriman-Jewell Series, The Barn Players, and Quixotic as well as area organizations and companies such as Sporting KC, Sprint and the Roasterie. The Block Party will also include hourly prize drawings and KC Rep ticket specials. Visit www.kcrep.org for a complete list of performance times and a schedule of events.

UMB is the Official Corporate Sponsor.

Timeline:

UMKC Regalia Run – 7:30am to 9:30am

Main Stage – 9am to 8pm

9am – 5K awards ceremony

10:30am – 6pm- Performances by area arts organizations including KC Rep, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, Kansas City Ballet, UMKC Theatre and Coterie Theatre

6pm – Karaoke contest

7pm – Hearts of Darkness performance.

Booths – 9:30am to 7pm including Coterie Theatre, Harriman-Jewell Series, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, Kansas City Ballet, KC Rep, KC Star & INK, KC Studio, Liberty Mutual, Quixotic, Sporting KC, Sprint, Stuff, UMKC Alumni Assoc., UMKC Athletics, UMKC Theatre

Children's Area – 10am to 5pm

Featuring face painting, contests, workshops and bounce houses

Beer Tent – 11am to 8pm

Featuring craft beer selections

Food trucks – 11am to 7pm

The Moose Truck

Indios Carbonsitos

Wilma's Real Good Food

The Funnel Cake Truck and more!

50th Anniversary 2014-2015 Season At A Glance Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Repertory Theatre ticket office 816.235.2700

Purchase tickets online at www.kcrep.org.

Our Town

September 5-28, 2014 | Spencer Theatre | Written by Thornton Wilder | Directed by David Cromer |

Co-production with UMKC Theatre

Acclaimed Broadway director and MacArthur Fellow David Cromer presents his innovative and electrifying new production of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic *The New York Times* calls David Cromer's new version "wonderfully intimate...a highly rewarding production."

The Who and The What

October 17- November 16, 2014 | Copaken Stage | Written by Ayad Akhtar | Directed by Eric Rosen
From the 2013 Pulitzer Prize-winning director of *Disgraced*, comes a passionate and searing look at a family divided by faith, bonded by love and searching for truth in contemporary America.

The Santaland Diaries

December 6- December 24, 2014 | Copaken Stage | Written by David Sedaris | Directed by Eric Rosen
America's favorite irreverent elf Crumpet arrives in Kansas City! David Sedaris' hysterical tale of elfin' woe is a hilarious send-up of his brief, misguided career as a Macy's elf.

A Christmas Carol

November 21 - December 26, 2014 | Spencer Theatre | Written by Charles Dickens / Directed by Jerry Genochio
A ripping good telling of the classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the curmudgeonly businessman who requires the intervention of a few spectral guides to understand the true meaning of Christmas and life.

An Iliad

January 23 – February 15, 2015 | Spencer Theatre | Written by Denis O'Hare & Lisa Peterson | Directed by Jerry Genochio
This retelling of Homer's epic poem illuminates an ancient classic by taking a harrowing look at the human cost of war. Kyle Hatley will star in the production, directed by Jerry Genochio. Obie-Award winners Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare (HBO's *True Blood*) have created a spellbinding work of theatre that spans three millennia.

Angels in America

February 20 – March 29, 2015 | Copaken Stage | Written by Tony Kushner | Directed by Gary Griffin
A world-class revival of a modern classic. The most honored play in a generation, winner of the Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. *Angels in America* melds love, hate, religion and politics into a uniquely American epic. Part I, *Millennium Approaches* and Part II, *Perestroika* will be presented in rotating repertory at Copaken Stage.

HAIR

March 20 – April 12, 2015 | Spencer Theatre | Book and Lyrics by James Rado & Gerome Ragni | Music by Galt MacDermot | Directed by Eric Rosen
The musical that defined a generation and brought rock music to the theatrical stage, *HAIR* captures the essence of the revolution and passion of the 1960s. In addition to its legendary score, this production will feature documentary interviews with original Broadway artists, and continues KC Rep's tradition of re-imagining the classic musical.

Sticky Traps

April 24- May 24, 2015 | Copaken Stage | Written by Nathan Louis Jackson | Directed by Kyle Hatley
In a small town not far from Kansas City, a mother protects her son's honor in a new play by KC Rep's Playwright-in-Residence Nathan Louis Jackson. Her actions have unintended consequences that will test her whole family- and the power of their love- in the face of hate.

About Kansas City Repertory Theatre 50th Anniversary

KC Rep's 50th anniversary is a celebration of the countless patrons over the years who have played a major role in our success. What better way to celebrate our patrons than by bringing the highest level of quality to every aspect of the theatergoing experience? That is why we are committed to renovating our main stage home - the Spencer Theatre – in the James C. Olson Performing Arts Center (PAC) on the UMKC campus. A state of the art facility at the time it was built, the PAC has not had a major renovation since it opened in 1979. Now is the time for KC Rep audiences to have a theatre as excellent as the art on its stage.

The renovation will include new lighting and acoustic design; a new stage floor; and 4,000-square-feet of new construction, including new restrooms, and a beautiful expansion of the theatre lobby. Our vision is for all theatregoers – artists, audiences, students - to experience the Spencer Theatre as a *destination* for great art.

We are pleased to announce that the Hall Family Foundation has made a lead gift of \$3 million toward this \$5 million project. All who enjoy great theatre and appreciate having a professional theatre of KC Rep's caliber in Kansas City are invited to join us in celebrating our 50th Anniversary by making a gift to support this essential renovation of our main stage home.

To make your gift, please contact Jennifer Ingraham, Sr. Director for Advancement at 816-235-5262 or ingrahamj@kcrep.org.

About Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, Kansas City Repertory Theatre is one of the nation's oldest and most respected regional theaters. Lauded by *The Wall Street Journal*, *TIME* magazine, *Variety* and the *Toronto Sun*, KC Rep produces main stage 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. Kansas City 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.

###

Please direct all media inquiries to: Ellen McDonald at 816.444.0052,
816.213.4355 (cell) or publicity@kcrep.org.

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

For Tickets: 816.235.2700 or www.kcrep.org.



A horizontal banner for the Kansas City Repertory Theatre's 50th anniversary. The banner has a dark red background with a central circular logo. The logo is blue and white, featuring the number '50' in a large font, with 'FIRST' on the left and 'YEARS' on the right. Below the number, it says 'KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE'. To the left of the logo, there are three theater productions listed: 'OUR TOWN' (Sep 5-28, 2014, Spencer Theatre), 'THE WHO & THE WHAT' (Oct 17 - Nov 16, 2014, Copaken Stage), and 'AN ILIAD' (Jan 23 - Feb 15, 2015, Spencer Theatre). To the right of the logo, there are three more productions: 'ANGELS IN AMERICA' (Feb 20 - Mar 29, 2015, Copaken Stage), 'HAIR (JUST ANNOUNCED!)' (Mar 20 - Apr 12, 2015, Spencer Theatre), and 'STICKY TRAPS' (Apr 24 - May 24, 2015, Copaken Stage). At the bottom of the banner, it says 'Join us for our 50th Anniversary!' on the left and 'Visit KCRep.org or call 816.235.2700' on the right.

OUR TOWN
SEP 5 - 28, 2014
SPENCER THEATRE

THE WHO & THE WHAT
OCT 17 - NOV 16, 2014
COPAKEN STAGE

AN ILIAD
JAN 23 - FEB 15, 2015
SPENCER THEATRE

50
FIRST YEARS
KANSAS CITY
REPERTORY
THEATRE

ANGELS IN AMERICA
FEB 20 - MAR 29, 2015
COPAKEN STAGE

HAIR
(JUST ANNOUNCED!)
MAR 20 - APR 12, 2015
SPENCER THEATRE

STICKY TRAPS
APR 24 - MAY 24, 2015
COPAKEN STAGE

Join us for our 50th Anniversary!

Visit KCRep.org or call 816.235.2700