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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City Theatre Presents the World Premiere of**

***FEEDING THE DRAGON***  
**By Sharon Washington**

**October 22 – November 20, 2016**

**Pittsburgh, PA** (September 29, 2016) – Fresh on the heels of the raucous comedy, *Hand to God*, **City Theatre** turns in a different direction to present *Feeding the Dragon*, an intimate and magical world premiere by the award-winning stage and screen actress, **Sharon Washington**. The production marks Washington's playwriting debut. *Feeding the Dragon* runs **October 22 through November 20, 2016** in the **Lester Hamburg Studio** at City Theatre, directed by **Maria Mileaf**.

Sharon Washington (*String of Pearls*, City Theatre '03) returns to City Theatre in her own heartfelt coming-of-age story. Deep in the bowels of a New York Public Library lies a dragon: the monstrous coal furnace that Sharon's father, the live-in custodian, must feed every night. This moving examination of family secrets, forgiveness, and the power of language, explores Sharon's life growing up in the library and the fire she never allowed to fade.

"I think there's a natural progression for an artist who has been doing something as long as I have," said **writer and performer Sharon Washington**. "To continue to grow, you have to challenge yourself. Using my body as a creative tool to help the playwright tell their story—it's where I feel the most alive as an artist. The difference is, this time it's *my* story."

"I was mesmerized by the script when Tracy [Brigden] shared it with me. City is giving us the time and space to figure out how to tell her story in the most simple and compelling way," said **director Maria Mileaf**. "I really love narrative and Sharon is a great story teller. She is effortlessly chameleon-like; she is super smart and genuinely funny. That's a perfect storm in a collaborator."

**In partnership with Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh,** Washington will be speaking on Thursday, September 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Second Floor International Poetry Room at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main. This event is part of Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures free reading and discussion series, **Made Local**. To RSVP, please visit [PittsburghLectures.org](http://PittsburghLectures.org).

**In partnership with the Alumni Theatre Company, August Wilson Monologue Project, and Hope Academy,** Washington will host an acting workshop at City Theatre for select young artists on November 5. This event is by invitation only.

**In partnership with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh,** there will be a talkback with Washington and **Mary Frances Cooper, President and Director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** on Saturday, November 19, following the 1 p.m. performance. Throughout the run of *Feeding the Dragon*, a curated list of **Sharon Washington's Favorite Books** will be on display at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and at City Theatre. Washington will also be included in the library's reading campaign, **#PGHReads** in the coming weeks.

**Sharon Washington** has been a professional actress for over 25 years. She made her Broadway debut in *The Scottsboro Boys*, the last collaboration of the legendary team of Kander & Ebb, in the role she originated Off-Broadway at the Vineyard Theater. She most recently appeared Off-Broadway at the Vineyard in the world premiere of *Dot* by Tony Award nominee Colman Domingo. Other Off-Broadway credits include *While I Yet Live* by Tony Award winner Billy Porter at Primary Stages; *Luce* by JC Lee at Lincoln Center Theater (LCT3); and *Wild With Happy*, also by Colman Domingo, at the Public Theater, for which she received a Lucille Lortel Award nomination and an Audelco Award. Sharon's most recent film appearance was playing opposite Danny DeVito in the Todd Solondz film *Weiner Dog*. Other film and television credits include roles in *Gotham*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Blacklist*, *Golden Boy*, *White Collar*, *Taking Chance*, *Royal Pains*, *Damages*, *Mistress America*, *Torn*, *The Bourne Legacy*, *Michael Clayton*, *Rocksteady*, *Freedomland*, *The School of Rock*, *Half Nelson*, *The Long Kiss Goodnight*, *Malcolm X*, *Die Hard With A Vengeance*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: CI*, *Law & Order: SVU* and the webseries *Hustling* for which she received a 2015 Indie Series Award for Best Supporting Actress – Drama.

***Feeding the Dragon*** is directed by **Maria Mileaf**. The production team includes **Tony Ferrieri** (scenic design), **Stephanie Shaw** (costume design), **Ann G. Wrightson** (lighting design), **Lindsay Jones** (sound designer), **Clare Drobot** (dramaturg), and **Taylor Meszaros** (production stage manager).

## **FEEDING THE DRAGON**

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:**

October 22 – November 20, 2016

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and/or 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays at 1:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and/or 9:00 p.m.

Sundays at 2:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.

For a complete listing of show times, please visit [CityTheatreCompany.org](http://CityTheatreCompany.org) or call 412-431-2489.

### **PRESS / OPENING NIGHT:**

Friday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Sipping Sunday – Oct. 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Sample wines specially chosen to complement the production.

Sunday Talkbacks – Oct. 30 and Nov. 6

Conversation with the artists immediately following the 2:00 p.m. performances, moderated by City Theatre Artistic Staff.

Greenroom Young Professionals Night – Friday, Nov. 4 at 8:00 p.m.

\$25 Greenroom ticket includes complimentary snacks, beer, and wine after the performance, and mingling with the cast. Use code GREENROOM when ordering.

Pay-What-You-Want – Saturday, Nov. 5 at 1:00 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 18 at 8:00 p.m.

A limited number of tickets are reserved for PWYW and go on sale two hours before curtain, walk up sales only. Call the box office in advance to check on availability.

### **ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCE DATES:**

ASL Interpretation Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Open Captioning and Audio Description Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:**

City Theatre, 1300 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 (South Side)

Patron parking is available in the lot across from the City Theatre entrance for \$8.

**BOX OFFICE:**

412.431.CITY (2489) or [citytheatrecompany.org](http://citytheatrecompany.org)

**TICKETS:**

Single tickets start at \$37.50.

Season subscriptions are still available and three-show packages start at \$99.

**DISCOUNTS:**

**Audiences under 30** may reserve \$15 tickets in advance for all performances except Fridays at 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.; on Fridays and Saturdays, rush tickets are available two hours prior to show time and based on availability. **Seniors age 62 and older** may purchase \$22 rush tickets at the Box Office beginning two hours before show time, based on availability.

**Groups of 10 or more** are eligible for discounts – contact Joel Ambrose at 412.431.4400 x286.

**City Theatre** is now in its 42nd season. Located in the historic South Side, City Theatre is Pittsburgh's home for bold new plays, commissioning and producing work by playwrights including Daniel Beaty, Jessica Dickey, Christopher Durang, Michael Hollinger, Willy Holtzman, Tarell Alvin McCraney, and Madeleine George. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tracy Brigden, Managing Director James McNeel, and the Board of Directors, City Theatre's mission is to provide an artistic home for the development and production of contemporary plays of substance and ideas that engage and challenge a diverse audience. [CityTheatreCompany.org](http://CityTheatreCompany.org)

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