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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City Theatre to continue 43<sup>rd</sup> season with the world premiere of:**

**CITIZENS MARKET**

**By Cori Thomas**

**March 3 – 25, 2018**

**City Theatre Main Stage**

**Pittsburgh, PA** (February 6, 2018) – **City Theatre**'s season of bold new work progresses with the world premiere of *Citizens Market* by **Cori Thomas**, which explores the lives and complications of a group of immigrants as they find their footing in America. Thomas's work was last seen at City Theatre with the world premiere of *When January Feels Like Summer*, winner of the 2011 Osborne New Play Award. Directed by **Artistic Producer Reginald L. Douglas**, *Citizens Market* runs on the **Main Stage March 3 – 25, 2018**. Tickets are on sale now.

"What a treat it is to have Cori Thomas back in Pittsburgh!" said **City Theatre Artistic Producer, Reginald L. Douglas**. "Cori has a unique ability to explore the complexities of our world through heartfelt characters, honesty, and humor; and *Citizens Market* is a great example of her special talents. By showcasing the rich diversity of our country, the play reminds us how love, laughter, and the pursuit of one's dreams against the odds ultimately unite us all. It is a quintessential City Theatre play: engaging, thought-provoking, timely, and above all else, an entertaining night at the theater."

"I am so excited to return to City Theatre with this play, which—like *When January Feels Like Summer*—has a mix of the everyday people who make up most cities in America," said **Playwright Cori Thomas**. "Pittsburgh and City Theatre embraced me the first time around, and I feel privileged to get to share this new play with these audiences for its first outing."

"As a first generation American—a child of two immigrants—and as a diplomat's child, who lived in the many countries where my father was posted, I've always been aware of what it is to be new, to have to try to find your rhythm in a new place so that you can fit in," she continued.

"I wrote this play as an exploration of that experience: so that I could celebrate my parents coming to a new land and choosing to start their family there. It is timely in this political climate, in a different way from when I first began writing it; then, we had a President who was the child of an immigrant who embraced and celebrated that fact with pride. I am hopeful the audience will take away from my play that America without everyone is not an America we want to live in."

**About *Citizens Market*:** A good New York City supermarket has everything its neighborhood needs, including a charming cast of characters behind the counter. *Citizens Market*, the latest from City Theatre

favorite Cori Thomas, follows a hopeful group of immigrants as they form an unlikely family, working to master the ups and downs of language, love, and staying afloat in the city that never sleeps. Full of laughter and life, this world premiere celebrates an ever-shifting and eclectic America.

City Theatre continues its season-long community engagement initiative, **City Connects**, with this production, featuring an opportunity to learn more about **Jewish Family & Community Services** at a Happy Hour on Wednesday, March 7 from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. Patrons are invited to bring donations of toiletries throughout the run to benefit clients of JFCS's Immigrant Services and Refugee Resettlement Program.

**Citizens Market** is directed by **Reginald L. Douglas**. The cast includes **Ngozi Anyanwu** as Akosua, **Juan Francisco Villa** as Jesus, **Jeff Howell** as Bogdan, **Ann Talman** as Morfina, and **Shamika Cotton** as Ciata. **Tony Ferrieri** is scenic designer, **Karen Perry** is costume designer, **Andrew David Ostrowski** is lighting designer, **Zachary Beattie Brown** is sound designer, and **Patti Kelly** is stage manager.

**Cori Thomas's** writing credits include *When January Feels Like Summer*; *Pa's Hat*; *Citizens Market*; *The Ballad of Ella May*; *My Secret Language of Wishes*; *The Princess, The Breast, and, The Lizard*; *The Unusual Love Life of Bedbugs and Other Creatures*; *Flight 109*; *The Hair Play*; *Waking Up*; *His Daddy*; *our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor*. Cori's plays have been developed and produced at Sundance Theatre Institute; City Theatre Company, Goodman Theater, New Dramatists, Page 73, Playwrights Horizons, Lark Play Development Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Going To The River, Pillsbury House Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Mosaic Theatre Co; Central Square Theatre; Penumbra Theatre, Passage Theatre, The Working Theater, The Playwrights Realm, New Federal Theatre, New Georges, The New Black Fest, and The Black Rep. She has been commissioned by South Coast Rep Theatre, Sloan Foundation, Pillsbury House Theatre; Central Square Theatre; Ensemble Studio Theatre; Rattlestick Theatre; New Black Fest; The Working Theater. Cori is a Resident Playwright at New Dramatists. She has been a two time Sundance Fellow, a MacDowell Fellow. Her upcoming residencies include the Bogliasco Foundation and Baryshnikov Center. Awards and Honors: (*When January feels Like Summer*) American Theater Critics Association Osborn Award, Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. 2016 Finalist for The Horton Foote Playwriting Prize, two time Theodore Ward Prize Winner. Publications: *When January Feels Like Summer* at Dramatic Publishing. Cori is a co-founder of the nonprofit organization [pashatfoundation.org](http://pashatfoundation.org), which does work with former male child soldiers in Liberia, West Africa.

## **CITIZENS MARKET**

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

March 3 – 25, 2018

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, March 9, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**An Evening with Cori Thomas and Osama Alomar** Sunday, February 18 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

In partnership with City of Asylum

Join City Theatre and City of Asylum for an intimate conversation between these two dynamic international writers. Enjoy a sneak peek excerpt of Cori Thomas' Citizens Market and get an exclusive tour of our three-level set before performances begin on March 3rd. Tickets to this event are \$20 and include complimentary hors d'oeuvres; cash bar.

**City Connects Happy Hour** Wednesday, March 7 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Meet the City Connects partners for the 2017-18 season and learn more about how to get involved with your community by bridging art and activism. Enjoy drink specials and mingling in the Gordon Lounge beginning at 5:30 p.m. A brief introduction to the Jewish Family and Community Service – featured City Connects partner for the evening – will take place on the stage immediately before the performance.

**Post-Show Talkbacks** Sundays March 11 and 18, following the 2:00 p.m. performances

Hosted by Director of New Play Development, Clare Drobot, post-show talkbacks encourage audiences to engage with the artists behind the performances.

**Greenroom: Art & Afterparty** Friday, March 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Join the cast and artistic team for a party in the Gordon Lounge following the performance, with a special post-show activity hosted by the Children's Museum. Complimentary house wine, Penn Brewery beer, and light snacks will be provided. Tickets are just \$30 for the evening with promocode GREENROOM.

**Pay-What-You-Want** Saturday, March 17 at 1:00 p.m.

A block of tickets is reserved for audience members to name their own price at this performance. Walk up sales only, beginning two hours before curtain. Call the box office to check on availability.

**ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES:**

**ASL Interpretation** Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.

**Open Caption & Audio Description** Sunday, March 25 at 2:00 p.m.

**BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:**

412.431.CITY (2489) or CityTheatreCompany.org

Tickets start at \$38

**DISCOUNTS:**

**Under 30:** Reserve \$15 tickets in advance for performances except Opening Night and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.; rush tickets may be available at those performances. Must present ID to receive Under 30 pricing.

**Seniors age 62 and older:** \$24 rush tickets may be purchased at the box office beginning two hours before curtain, based on availability.

**Groups of ten or more:** Contact Joel Ambrose at 412.431.4400 x286.

**WHERE:**

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

Port Authority bus routes: 48, 51, 54, 81, 83

**PARKING:**

Patron parking is available in the lot across from the City Theatre entrances for \$8, subject to availability.

South Side Nite Rider: Friday and Saturday evenings only. Patrons may park for free at the Second Avenue Parking Plaza and use a shuttle with drop off at nearby Bedford Square. Details: [ssniterider.com](http://ssniterider.com).

**ABOUT CITY THEATRE:**

City Theatre is Pittsburgh's home for bold new plays. Located in the historic South Side, the company produces a season of regional and world premieres, including the upcoming *Citizens Market* by Cori Thomas and *Nomad Motel* by Carla Ching. 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.

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