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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Theatre to begin 43rd season with “irresistible” comedy:

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY UNIT AT MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER OF NEW YORK CITY

By Halley Feiffer

September 23 – October 15, 2017

City Theatre Main Stage

“Raunchy and fearless.” – *TheaterMania*

Pittsburgh, PA (August 29, 2017) – **City Theatre** dives into a fresh season of new plays with an off-Broadway hit comedy by playwright Halley Feiffer, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center of New York City*. Directed by City Theatre newcomer Joshua Kahan Brody, the production runs on the Main Stage September 23 – October 15, 2017. Tickets are on sale now.

“We’re excited to kick off another season of bold storytelling and fresh perspectives with Halley Feiffer’s poignant, wild ride of a play,” said **City Theatre Artistic Producer, Reginald L. Douglas**. “I think everyone can agree that laughter is the best medicine, and boy, could we use some laughs right now. I’m sure audiences will find Halley’s unique gift for finding comedy and romance in spite of the awkward setting, to be a pitch-perfect and hilarious way to usher in the fall.”

About *A Funny Thing Happened...* Sparks fly when struggling stand-up Karla meets super-nerd Don after their mothers are assigned to the same room in the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. A wickedly funny tale of finding love—and lust—in the strangest of places, *A Funny Thing Happened...* is a meet-cute for the modern era that *The New York Times* called “irresistible.” Rated R for dark humor and dirty mouths.

“It’s really interesting as you get older and meet more people and have more in-depth conversations, you realize that your way of going through the world might not be the way that everyone does,” said **playwright Halley Feiffer**. “I’ve always chosen humor to cope with anything really. It just comes naturally to me. Both of my parents are incredibly funny people; that’s how I was raised and it’s in my blood. So I’ve found myself making jokes at the most inappropriate moments. I’ve also found it rather pleasantly surprising how healing it can be—and how responsive others may be to it, too—in ways that you might not expect. Even in the most painful of circumstances it really is, in my experience, the most effective tool to move through them with compassion and lightness.”

City Theatre's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center of New York City* is directed by Joshua Kahan Brody. The cast includes **Jenni Putney** in her City Theatre debut as Karla, **Tim McGeever** (*Hand to God*, City Theatre, 2016) as Don, **Kendra McLaughlin** as Geena, and **Helena Ruoti** (*Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, City Theatre, 2013) as Marcie. **Tony Ferrieri** is scenic designer, **Michael Montgomery** is costume designer, **Andrew David Ostrowski** is lighting designer, **Zachary Beattie Brown** is sound designer, and **Patti Kelly** is stage manager. The production is sponsored by City Theatre Board President Beth W. Newbold and Patrick Winkler.

Halley Feiffer's writing credits include *I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center of New York City*, and *How To Make Friends And Then Kill Them*. Her plays have been produced around the country and in the UK, and have been developed by Second Stage, New York Theatre Workshop, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, and elsewhere; they are published by Dramatists Play Service and Overlook Press. Her work has been commissioned by Playwrights Horizons, Williamstown Theater Festival and three times by Manhattan Theater Club. She has written for the Starz series *The One Percent* (co-created by Alejandro Iñárritu), the upcoming Showtime series *Purity* (based on the novel by Jonathan Franzen), and is developing an original television project with Indigenous Media and two original series with Scott Rudin Productions. She teaches Playwriting at NYU. Acting credits include the Broadway revivals of *The Front Page* and *The House of Blue Leaves*, as well as numerous off-Broadway productions including *Tigers Be Still*. Television and film work includes HBO's *Mildred Piece* and *Bored to Death* and the films *The Squid and the Whale*, *Margot at the Wedding*, and *He's Way More Famous than You*, which she also co-wrote.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY UNIT AT MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER OF NEW YORK CITY

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

September 23 – October 15, 2017

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 or call 412-431-2489.

PRESS & OPENING NIGHT

Friday, September 29 at 8:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

City Connects Happy Hour Wednesday, September 27 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 YWCA – featured City Connects partner for the evening – will take place on the stage immediately before the performance.

Post-Show Talkbacks Sundays October 1 and 8, 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, October 6 at 8:00 p.m.

Join the cast and artistic team for a party in the Gordon Lounge following the performance, with a standup set by special guests Gab Bonesso and Zach Funk, presented in partnership with Comedy Arts Pittsburgh. Complimentary house wine, Penn Brewery beer, and light snacks will be provided. Tickets are just \$25 for the evening with promocode GREENROOM.

Pay What You Want Saturday, October 7 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, October 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Open Caption & Audio Description Sunday, October 15 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.

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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