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**For Immediate Release**

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**Oregon Contemporary Theatre (OCT) Receives 2015 Lane County Cultural Coalition Grant, Expands Radical Hospitality Program**

**EUGENE, OREGON  -**  Oregon Contemporary Theatre (OCT) has been awarded a $2,500 Cultural Opportunity Grant by the Lane County Cultural Coalition (LCCC) in its 2015 grant cycle. This grant will go directly toward expanding OCT’s Radical Hospitality program, aimed at increasing accessibility to live theatre by removing social and economic barriers to attendance. The program includes free high school performances of Lauren Gunderson’s *Silent Sky*, expanding partnerships with local service organizations, and offering a Pay-What-You-Can performance for the first preview of every production.

Craig Willis, OCT’s Producing Artistic Director said, “We are extremely grateful for the Lane County Cultural Coalitions’ support. Their help enables OCT to fulfill our mission to use live theatre to support community dialogue and create positive change in the world around us. This grant supports critical outreach to economically disadvantaged members of our community who have a passion for arts participation.”

The LCCC advances its vision through the distribution of grant funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust in accordance with the Lane County Cultural Plan and the direction of the Oregon Cultural Trust. Cultural Opportunity Grants provide recognition and support to significant cultural programs and projects, preserving and enhancing Lane County’s diverse arts, heritage and humanities efforts. The standard for awarding these grants is based on an assessment of each organization's operation and its contribution toward the LCCC’s priorities of access, awareness, and education.

The Cultural Trust is a statewide cultural plan to raise significant new funds to invest in Oregon’s arts, humanities and heritage. Funds are distributed to local communities to support their cultural priorities through competitive grants for projects of regional and statewide significance and through grants to Oregon’s statewide cultural agencies to support their ongoing efforts.

Oregon Contemporary Theatre’s first Pay-What-You-Can performance will be the Wednesday, January 13th showing of Jason Robert Brown’s ***The Last Five Years*** starring Evynne Hollens and Ethan Crystal. ***The Last Five Years*** will continue with an additional low-cost preview on January 14th and continuing with performances through February 6th. Tickets are available at Oregon Contemporary Theatre website, [www.octheatre.org](http://www.octheatre.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), by calling (541) 465-1506 or by visiting the OCT Box Office at 194 W Broadway.

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