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For Immediate Release

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Oregon Contemporary Theatre Starts 2019 with Riotous Comedy
***THE UNDERSTUDY* by Theresa Rebeck**
January 18 – February 3, 2019

EUGENE, OREGON – Backstage tension turns into onstage antics in Theresa Rebeck's comic masterpiece *The Understudy*, kicking off the New Year at Oregon Contemporary Theatre. *The Understudy* runs January 18 through February 3 at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 West Broadway in downtown Eugene. Tickets are available online at www.octheatre.org or by calling 541-465-1506.

When a smug Hollywood action star lands a prestigious role in Franz Kafka's newly discovered play on Broadway, things couldn't be better... until he meets his understudy. The charmingly ditzy stage manager must prevent a battle royale from developing between the two rival actors. Egos and wits clash backstage, begging the question: will the show go on? Spirited and laugh-out-loud funny, *The Understudy* places the backstage friction of a frenzied rehearsal center stage with vivacious satire and Kafkaesque theatrics.

"Theresa Rebeck has been a force to be reckoned with both in the American Theatre and in television for many years now. *The Understudy* demonstrates Rebeck's knack for clever comedy. And I think audiences will enjoy being pulled out of the winter doldrums as they laugh at the antics of this terrific acting ensemble and production team," said Craig Willis, OCT's Producing Artistic Director. "We're very fortunate to have John Schmor's deft directing style to steer this challenging and quirky comedy."

The Understudy features an all-star ensemble of OCT comedy veterans. Inga R. Wilson (*Venus in Fur*, *The Revolutionists*) and Tom Wilson (*The 39 Steps*, *Hand To God*, *The Great Gatsby*) are reunited with director John Schmor. This trio worked together on OCT's 2017 highly acclaimed production of *The 39 Steps*. Completing the cast is Andrew Beck (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *The Great Gatsby*).

The production team for *The Understudy* includes director John Schmor, sound and projection designer Ryan Rusby, costume designer Heather Kidd, props designer Kat Matthews, lighting designer Michael Peterson and scenic designer Jeffrey Cook. Christle O'Neill is the production stage manager.

Theresa Rebeck (*Playwright*) is a widely produced playwright in the United States and abroad. Select works include *Seminar*, *What We're Up Against*, *Mauritius*, *The Scene*, *The Water's Edge*, *Loose Knit*, *The Family of Mann*, *Spike Heels*, *Bad Dates*, *The Butterfly Collection*, *Our House*, *View of the Dome* and *The Understudy*. *Ominium Gatherum*, which she co-authored with Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros,

was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2003. She has won the National Theatre Conference Award, The William Inge New Voices Playwriting Award, an IRNE Award for Best New Play, and the Elliot Norton Award for various works. She has published two novels through Shaye Areheart/Random House and has taught writing at Brandeis University and Columbia University.

Pay-What-You-Can preview performances of ***The Understudy*** are on January 16 and 17 at 7:30pm. For more information or to order tickets, visit www.octheatre.org or call the OCT Box Office: (541)465-1506. All performances are at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 West Broadway in downtown Eugene.

Critical praise for ***The Understudy***:

"A masterpiece of comic clockwork, raucously funny!" -- *The Wall Street Journal*

"Pointed observations on the frustrations of trying to be an artist in a crassly commercial world... a fast, funny 90 minutes." -- *Backstage.com*

"Laughter, affection, and appreciation for the acting art... ***The Understudy***'s a rip-roaring success." -- *Oregon Arts Watch*

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The Understudy Performance Calendar

Wednesday, January 16	7:30pm	Preview (\$15 suggested or Pay-What-You-Can)
Thursday, January 17	7:30pm	Preview (\$15 tickets or Pay-What-You-Can)
Friday, January 18	7:30pm	Opening Night (\$40 includes wine, beer, and dessert reception with the cast after the performance)
Saturday, January 19	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Thursday, January 24	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Friday, January 25	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Saturday, January 26	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Sunday, January 27	2:00pm	Matinee, Tickets start at \$20
Thursday, January 31	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Friday, February 1	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Saturday, February 2	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Sunday, February 3	2:00pm	Matinee, Tickets start at \$20

Discounts are available for current students with student ID. For more information, visit www.octheatre.org or call the OCT Box Office: (541)465-1506.