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**For Immediate Release**

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**Oregon Contemporary Theatre Kicks Off 2017/2018 Season**

**With *Middletown, A* Playful Comedy by Will Eno**

***September 22 – October 14, 2017***

**Eugene, OR — Oregon Contemporary Theatre** starts their 2017/2018 season with Will Eno’s charming modern comedy, ***Middletown***, playing September 22nd through October 14th, 2017. All performances are at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, located at 194 W. Broadway in downtown Eugene. Tickets are available online at [www.octheatre.org](http://www.octheatre.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) or by calling (541) 465-1506.

Mary Swanson just moved to Middletown. About to have her first child, she is eager to enjoy the neighborly bonds a small town promises. But life in Middletown is complicated: neighbors are near strangers, and moments of connection are fleeting. ***Middletown***is a playful, poignant portrait of a town with two lives, one ordinary and visible, the other epic and mysterious. This charming comedy travels from the local library to the stars and points in between, all while exploring the unexpected connections among the inhabitants of one small American town. Pulitzer Prize-nominated playwright Will Eno meditates on life in ***Middletown*** with his signature blend of absurdity and beauty.

The ensemble cast of ***Middletown*** includes OCT veterans Erica Towe (*The Revolutionists, Silent Sky*), Russell Dyball (*Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The Big Meal*), Storm Kennedy (*Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Becky’s New Car*), Robert Hirsh (*A Christmas Carol*, *Clybourne Park*), Kari Welch (*The Big Meal*, *Rapture, Blister, Burn*), Jerilyn Armstrong (*The Big Meal*), Sharon Sless (*Silent Sky, Eurydice*), and Kelly Oristano (*Melancholy Play*). Ensemble members making OCT debuts are Shawn Bookey, Sabrina Gross, Matt Holland, and Joel Ibáñez. The artistic team for ***Middletown***includes director Tara Wibrew, scenic designer Jerry Hooker, costume designer Jeanette deJong, lighting and projection designer Kat Matthews, properties master Margot Glaser, and sound designer Bradley Branam. Jennifer Sandgathe is the production stage manager.

Will Eno (*Playwright)* is a Residency Five Fellow at the Signature Theatre in New York. His one-man play, *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize and has been translated into more than a dozen languages. Eno’s other award-winning works include *Middletown*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *Title and Deed*, *The Open House*,and *Wakey, Wakey*. His play *Gnit*, a loving but aggressive adaptation of *Peer Gynt*, premiered at the Actor’s Theatre of Louisville in 2013. Eno is a recipient of the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Award.

Pay-what-you-can preview performances for ***Middletown***are September 20th and 21st at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now on Oregon Contemporary Theatre’s website, [www.octheatre.org](http://www.octheatre.org). Tickets may also be purchased at (541) 465-1506 or by visiting the OCT Box Office at 194 W Broadway.

Critical praise for ***Middletown***:

“Reminiscent of Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town*, if it had been penned by Dr. Seuss and edited by Samuel Beckett.” – *Chicago Tribune*

“Delicate, moving, piercing, tart, funny, gorgeous. Mr. Eno’s gift may be unmatched among writers of his generation. Glimmers from start to finish.” – *New York Times*

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**Performance Calendar**

Wednesday September 20 7:30 pm – Pay-What-You-Can Preview Performance

Thursday September 21 7:30 pm – Pay-What-You-Can Preview Performance

Friday September 22 7:30 pm – $35; Opening Night/Post-Show Reception

Saturday September 23 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

Thursday September 28 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

Friday September 29 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

Saturday September 30 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

Sunday October 1 2:00 pm – Tickets starting at $20; Post-Show Talk-Back

Thursday October 5 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

Friday October 6 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

Saturday October 7 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

Sunday October 8 2:00 pm – Tickets starting at $20; Post-Show Talk-Back

Thursday October 12 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

Friday October 13 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

Saturday October 14 7:30 pm – Tickets starting at $20

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