September 27, 2018

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Tara Wibrew, Associate Producer

Telephone: 541-684-6988 x204

Email: tara@octheatre.org

**Oregon Contemporary Theatre Continues 2018-2019 Season with**

 **Edward Albee’s Masterwork *AT HOME AT THE ZOO***

**October 26 - November 11, 2018**

**EUGENE, OREGON –** Oregon Contemporary Theatre continues its 2018-2019 season with ***At Home At The Zoo***, a masterwork by renowned American playwright Edward Albee. ***At Home At The Zoo*** runs October 26 through November 11 at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 West Broadway in downtown Eugene. Tickets are available online at [www.octheatre.org](http://www.octheatre.org) or by calling 541-465-1506.

"I've been to the zoo." These opening words usher the audience into *The Zoo Story*, the play that launched Edward Albee's career. ***At Home at the Zoo*** combines *The Zoo Story* with a "prequel," *Homelife*, which Albee wrote 50 years later to complete his early masterwork. With jolts of brutality and Albee's signature dark humor, this revised seminal play explores both the love and the cruelty that we inflict on each other every day.

Oregon Contemporary Theatre’s Artistic Director Craig Willis directs ***At Home at the Zoo***. “Bitingly funny word-play is the hallmark of Albee’s characters,” noted Willis. “Part of the fun of exploring these two interwoven plays, written nearly 50 years apart, is discovering how Albee’s unique diction and language, made familiar by George and Martha in *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*?, is both foreshadowed and echoed by the characters in ***At Home At The Zoo***.”

***At Home at the Zoo*** stars Dan Pegoda as Peter. This marks Pegoda’s third Albee role with Willis directing (following *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?*). Joining Pegoda are OCT veterans Kari Welch (*Middletown*, *The Big Meal*) as Ann and Kelly Oristano (*Buried Child*, *Melancholy Play*) as Jerry.

The production team for ***At Home at the Zoo*** includes sound designer Gabe Carlin, fight choreographer William Hulings, costume designer Heather Kidd, lighting designer Kat Matthews, and scenic designer Craig Willis. Rebecca Blanchard is the production stage manager.

Edward Albee (*Playwright*) is widely considered to be one of the greatest playwrights in the history of American theatre. His early, popular one-acts, including *The Zoo Story*, established him as a critic of American values. Albee is best known for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, a Tony-Award winning play which was made into a film starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. Though the play was selected by the Pulitzer drama jury, the Pulitzer advisory committee overruled the decision due to the rough dialogue and suggestions of sexuality in the script. (No Pulitzer Prize for Drama was awarded that year.) Albee went on to receive three Pulitzers for his works *A Delicate Balance*, *Seascape* and *Three Tall Women*, among a host of accolades. He penned more than two-dozen plays, including ***At Home At The Zoo***, *The Ballad of Sad Cafe*, *Everything in the Garden*, *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* and *The Man Who Had Three Arms*.

Pay-What-You-Can preview performances of ***At Home at the Zoo*** are on October 24 and 25 at 7:30pm. For more information or to order tickets, visit [www.octheatre.org](http://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 ***At Home at the Zoo***:

“Electrifying, thrilling and illuminating.” –*The Village Voice*

“An essential and heartening experience… Edward Albee is a voice unparalleled in American Theater.” –*The New York Times*

# # #

***At Home at the Zoo*** Performance Calendar

Wednesday, October 24 7:30pm Preview ($15 suggested or Pay-What-You-Can)

Thursday, October 25 7:30pm Preview ($15 tickets or Pay-What-You-Can)

Friday, October 26 7:30pm Opening Night ($40 includes wine, beer, and dessert

reception with the cast after the performance)

Saturday, October 27 7:30pm Performance, Tickets start at $20

Thursday, November 1 7:30pm Performance, Tickets start at $20

Friday, November 2 7:30pm Performance, Tickets start at $20

Saturday, November 3 7:30pm Performance, Tickets start at $20

Sunday, November 4 2:00pm Matinee, Tickets start at $20

Thursday, November 8 7:30pm Performance, Tickets start at $20

Friday, November 9 7:30pm Performance, Tickets start at $20

Saturday, November 10 7:30pm Performance, Tickets start at $20

Sunday, November 11 2:00pm Matinee, Tickets start at $20

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