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**For Immediate Release**

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**Oregon Contemporary Theatre Presents Pulitzer Prize-Winning Family Drama,
Sam Shepard’s *Buried Child***

***April 6 – April 28, 2018***

**EUGENE, OREGON –** Oregon Contemporary Theatre continues its 26th season with Sam Shepard’s Pulitzer Prize-winning ***Buried Child***, directed by Joseph Gilg. ***Buried Child*** opens April 6th, 2018, and runs through April 28th, 2018. 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.

Equal parts dark comedy, family drama, and mysterious ceremony of renewal, ***Buried Child*** is the play that vaulted Sam Shepard into the first rank of American playwrights. Since its first appearance 40 years ago at San Francisco’s Magic Theatre, ***Buried Child*** has been universally acclaimed as a work of extraordinary vision and force. In 1979, the play won the first Pulitzer Prize ever awarded to a work premiering off-Broadway.

Corn has begun to grow again at a remote farmhouse where the fields have been fallow for decades. Vince (Jonathan Edwards) arrives with his girlfriend, Shelly (Leslie Jones), to visit his family, only to discover that no one recognizes him. Dysfunction reigns supreme among the house’s inhabitants: ranting grandparents Dodge and Haley (Robert Hirsh and Denise LaCroix), and their sons Bradley (Tony Stirpe) and Tilden (Kelly Oristano). The time has come for a twisted secret to come to light.

“OCT is dedicating to producing not only the finest works by today’s living authors, but also the masterworks by playwrights that continue to thrill modern audiences. And Sam Shepard is without question one of the finest American playwrights of the last 50 years. We programmed *Buried Child* before Sam Shepard died,” said OCT Artistic Director Craig Willis, “so it is with mixed emotions that we now offer this production as a tribute to one of the greatest voices in the American theater.”

***Buried Child*** features an ensemble cast, including OCT veterans Robert Hirsh (*Middletown*, *Clybourne Park*), Leslie Jones (*Melancholy Play*), Denise LaCroix, Kelly Oristano (*Middletown*, *Melancholy Play*), and Tony Stirpe (*Lucky Me*, *Next Fall*). Completing the ensemble are Randall Brous and Jonathan Edwards in their OCT debuts. The artistic team for ***Buried Child*** includes director Joseph Gilg, scenic designer Amy Dunn, sound designer Gabe Carlin, properties designer Tim Dunn, costume designer Heather Kidd, and lighting designer Michael A. Peterson. Jennifer Sandgathe is the production stage manager.

Sam Shepard (*Playwright)* was an American playwright, actor, author, screenwriter, and director whose body of work spanned half a century. Shepard received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1979 for his play *Buried Child*. Along with several books of short stories, essays, and memoirs, Shepard wrote nearly four-dozen plays, including: *True West*, *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Cowboy Mouth*, *Fool for Love*, and *A Lie of the Mind*. He won 10 Obie Awards for writing and directing, the most given to any writer or director. He was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of pilot Chuck Yeager in *The Right Stuff*. Shepard received the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Award as a master American dramatist in 2009. *New York Magazine* described him as "the greatest American playwright of his generation.”

Pay-What-You-Can preview performances for ***Buried Child*** are April 4th and April 5th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now an Oregon Contemporary Theatre’s website, [www.octheatre.org](http://www.octheatre.org). Tickets may also be purchased at (503) 465-1506 or by visiting the OCT Box Office at 194 W Broadway.

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**Performance Calendar**

 Wednesday Apr. 4 7:30 pm – Preview Performance

(Pay-What-You-Can, suggested $15 – general admission)

Thursday Apr. 5 7:30 pm – Preview Performance

(Pay-What-You-Can, suggested $15 – general admission)

 Friday Apr. 6 7:30 pm – $35; Opening Night/Post-Show Reception

 Saturday Apr. 7 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

Thursday Apr. 12 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Friday Apr. 13 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Saturday Apr. 14 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Sunday Apr. 15 2:00 pm - Tickets starting at $20; Talk-Back After the Performance

 Thursday Apr. 19 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Friday Apr. 20 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Saturday Apr. 21 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Sunday Apr. 22 2:00 pm - Tickets starting at $20; Talk-Back After the Performance

Thursday Apr. 26 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Friday Apr. 27 7:30 pm - Tickets starting at $20

 Saturday Apr. 28 7:30 pm - Tickets starting 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 at (541) 465-1506.