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For Immediate Release

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**Oregon Contemporary Theatre Opens 2021-2022 Season
with Cheryl Strayed's *Tiny Beautiful Things***

Live and In Person Performances, November 12-28, 2021

EUGENE, OR — Oregon Contemporary Theatre is proud to return to live and in person performances with ***Tiny Beautiful Things* by Cheryl Strayed**, adapted by Nia Vardalos, co-conceived by Marshall Heyman, Thomas Kail and Nia Vardalos, and directed by Inga Wilson. ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** runs November 12 through November 28 at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 West Broadway in downtown Eugene. Season subscriptions are available now, and single show tickets are available beginning November 1 by calling 541-465-1506 or online at octheatre.org.

Few advice columns offer insight as sharp, witty and warm as “Dear Sugar.” With text and inspiration from some of the column’s most notable letter submissions, the anonymous “Sugar”—now known to be best-selling author Cheryl Strayed—uses empathy and personal experience to offer guidance for obstacles large and small. ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** is a play about reaching when you’re stuck, healing when you’re broken and finding the courage to take on questions that have no clear answers.

“***Tiny Beautiful Things*** is a perfect re-introduction to live theatre as a place to share stories, empathy and hope,” said OCT Producing Artistic Director Craig Willis. “We’re thrilled to welcome artists and patrons back to OCT with Cheryl Strayed’s unique blend of humor and heart.”

Tiny Beautiful Things features an ensemble cast including Eric Braman (*Bunfight!*), Patrick Disney (*The Cake, Becky’s New Car*), Chelsey Megli (*Bunfight!, Melancholy Play*) and Tracy Nygard (*Fun Home, Melancholy Play*).

The production team for ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** includes director Inga Wilson, lighting designer Emily Bolivar, costume designer DeMara Cabrera, scenic designer Jeffrey Cook, sound designer Taylor Freeman and props designer Zoe Pouliot. Colleen Rooney is the production stage manager.

Cheryl Strayed (Author) is the author of the #1 New York Times bestselling memoir *Wild*, the New York Times bestsellers ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** and *Brave Enough*, and the novel *Torch*. Strayed's books have been translated into nearly forty languages around the world and have been adapted for both the screen and the stage. Strayed is the host of the hit podcasts Sugar Calling and Dear Sugars, which she co-hosted with Steve Almond. Her essays have been published in *The Best American Essays*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post Magazine*, *Vogue*, *Salon*, *The Sun*, *Tin House*, *New York Times Book Review* and elsewhere. Strayed holds an

MFA in fiction writing from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

Nia Vardalos (Adapter) is an actress, director, producer and screenwriter. She is an accomplished alum of Chicago's Second City whose stage credits include Jennie in Theatre20's *Company*, directed by Gary Griffin, and writer and actor for twelve Second City revues (Jeff Award winner). Vardalos adapted and starred in the original production of ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** at The Public Theater in 2016, reprising the role at the Public in 2017 and again at the Pasadena Playhouse in California. She is best known for starring in and writing the romantic comedy film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (2002), which garnered her nominations for the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture Comedy or Musical. In addition to her screenplay credits, Vardalos is the author of the New York Times bestseller *Instant Mom*.

Pay-What-You-Can preview performances of ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** are on November 10 and November 11 at 7:30pm. Tickets for all performances November 12 through November 28 begin at \$20. All performances are at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 West Broadway in downtown Eugene.

For more information or to order tickets, visit octheatre.org or call the OCT Box Office: (541)465-1506.

Critical praise for ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** :

Critic's Pick! "***Tiny Beautiful Things*** is about the endangered art of listening to—and really hearing and responding to—other people... a sustained theatrical exercise in empathy!" —*NY Times*

"Provocative, poignant and rich." —*NY Daily News*

"Catharsis, that ancient communal ritual of purging and healing... a show that aims to open our eyes to the tiny moments when the world surprises us with care." —*New York Magazine*

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Tiny Beautiful Things Performance Calendar

Wednesday, November 10	7:30pm	Preview (\$15 suggested or Pay-What-You-Can)
Thursday, November 11	7:30pm	Preview (\$15 tickets or Pay-What-You-Can)
Friday, November 12	7:30pm	Opening Night Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Saturday, November 13	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Thursday, November 18	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Friday, November 19	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Saturday, November 20	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Sunday, November 21	2:00pm	Matinee, Tickets start at \$20

Friday, November 26	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Saturday, November 27	7:30pm	Performance, Tickets start at \$20
Sunday, November 28	2:00pm	Matinee, Tickets start at \$20

For more information, visit www.octheatre.org or call the OCT Box Office: (541)465-1506.