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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Baltimore Center Stage Announces Virtual Student Matinee Program of *Where We Stand*

The Student Matinee Program is in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education and Baltimore City Public Schools

Baltimore, MD, April 22, 2020---- Baltimore Center Stage announced today a Virtual Student Matinee program of their production of *Where We Stand* by Donnetta Lavinia Grays. Beginning April 27, virtual classrooms throughout Maryland will gain free access to a digital recording of the play and a tailored curriculum for students in grades 7-12. The BCS Virtual Student Matinee is offered in partnership with the [Office of Fine Arts of the Maryland State Department of Education](#) and the [Baltimore City Public Schools](#) Office of Fine Arts.

"While the idea of not gathering in person for our student matinees was initially disappointing, we quickly realized that schools moving online gave us the unique opportunity to reach far more students than ever before," said Adena Verner, Baltimore Center Stage's Director of Learning and Social Accountability. "We are so excited to share this play and this custom-designed curriculum for middle and high school classrooms in Maryland and beyond."

To ensure that the student matinee is accessible to all students, Baltimore Center Stage will offer the play in digital video, digital audio, and analog summary format. The accompanying curriculum is adaptable for both Drama and English Language Arts classrooms, and all activities are aligned with both the National Common Core and Maryland State Department of Education standards. A virtual talkback with the playwright/performer Donnetta Lavinia Grays is in the works to provide students with an even more in-depth window into the creative process.

"Providing the students of Baltimore City Public Schools with the opportunity to take part in culturally enriched and artistic opportunities like attending theater performances to scale can be challenging," said Chan'nel Howard, Fine Arts Coordinator for Baltimore City Public Schools. "Having the ability to virtually offer the matinee to our students exponentially increases the number of students that will be able to see the performance."

"As the State Theater of Maryland, Baltimore Center Stage has a long history of supporting the educational work of teachers and students with their productions," said Alysia Lee, Coordinator of Fine Arts at the Maryland State Department of Education. "This student matinee initiative is a further demonstration of the innovation and deep partnership of BCS."

Schools, teachers and homeschool networks interested in learning more should email education@centerstage.org. Teachers may register online at www.centerstage.org/www-virtual-student-matinee.

For media related inquiries and interview requests please contact the Communications office. For general information, visit www.centerstage.org or call the box office at 410.332.0033.

About *Where We Stand*

This brand-new fable of penance is filled with humor, heart, and music. When a town is running low on compassion and a man is stripped of companionship, just one kind stranger can tip the scales. Join in community as one passionate storyteller spins a supernatural tale of loneliness seduced by kindness and asks us “what do we owe each other?”

About Baltimore Center Stage

Designated the State Theater of Maryland in 1978, Baltimore Center Stage provides the highest quality theater and programming for all members of our communities, including youth and families, under the leadership of Artistic Director Stephanie Ybarra and Executive Director Michael Ross. Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations and imaginations by producing an eclectic season of professional productions across two mainstages and an intimate 99-seat theater, through engaging community programs, and with inspiring education programs. Everything we do at Center Stage is led by our core values—chief among them being Access For All. Our mission is heavily rooted in providing active and open accessibility for everyone, regardless of any and all barriers, to our Mainstage performances, education initiatives, and community programming.

Baltimore Center Stage is Open for Storytelling

Despite having to close the building and cancel all live performances amidst ongoing concerns of the spread of COVID-19, Baltimore Center Stage has committed to remaining “open for storytelling” and serving the community. Baltimore Center Stage takes the financial commitment to our artists, craftspeople, freelancers and staff very seriously. To that end, the theater has begun adapting and innovating practices to preserve as many opportunities as possible for the community. Baltimore Center Stage has created masks and face shields and donated them to Mercy Medical Center. The theater has recently made digital access of *Where We Stand* available for all existing ticketholders. Additional tickets have been made available for a “Pay What You Can” ticket price starting at \$5. Additionally, Baltimore Center Stage launched “BCS Camp at Home,” a free, virtual learning platform designed specifically with the caregiver and at-home student in mind, as schools are closed across the nation. Baltimore Center Stage is also a leading partner of “Play at Home,” a series of micro commissioned plays designed to be read at home alone or aloud with loved ones. For more information on available virtual programming including *Where We Stand*, BCS Camp at Home, and Play at Home, please go to our website at www.centerstage.org

