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MICHAEL BLOOM CLOSES OUT HIS TENURE AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE

CLEVELAND, OH (May 23, 2013) – Cleveland Play House (CPH) announced today that, with the May 19 finale of its 2012-13 season, Artistic Director Michael Bloom will close out his tenure with the theatre company.

“I am proud to have been a part of CPH for the past nine years,” Bloom said. “We have an exceptional team and an extraordinary organization producing top-quality theatre. It’s a valuable asset for Northeast Ohio. Now that we’ve wrapped up the 2012-2013 Season, and planning for next year is complete, I feel comfortable moving on. And I know CPH is in good hands as it moves to its second century.”

“In his nine seasons with CPH, Michael has made many important contributions to the nation’s first regional theatre,” said Board Chair Sandra Kiely Kolb. “He has significantly raised CPH’s production standards, attracted top-caliber talent to Cleveland, and played a key role in our historic relocation to Playhouse Square. We are grateful for his service and wish him much future success.”

CPH’s Board of Directors will form a committee to conduct a national search for new artistic leadership. Pending the selection, Associate Artistic Director Laura Kepley will serve as Interim Artistic Director for the 2013-14 Season, which was announced last March.

According to Kolb, the CPH Board will roll out a new strategic plan this summer to guide the company to its 2015 centennial and beyond. “We are confident that during this interim period, CPH artists, management and staff will sustain the highest professional standards and deliver a dynamic season of programming,” she said. “Looking toward our centennial in 2015, we welcome the opportunity to reach out to Northeast Ohio audiences with powerful, contemporary productions that continue to position CPH as an essential community resource and a premier national theatre.”

Kepley assumes her interim responsibilities immediately, and will direct next season’s production of *Venus in Fur* as previously announced. She joined CPH as Associate Artistic Director in 2010, and has directed acclaimed CPH productions of *My Name is Asher Lev*, *In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play*, *A Carol for Cleveland* and *Good People*. She has been responsible for coordinating programming for New Ground Theatre Festival, which just completed its highly successful 2013 edition. Prior to coming to CPH, she was Resident Director and Artistic Associate at Trinity Repertory Theatre in Providence, RI for four seasons, spending a year as interim director of the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA in Directing Program. She has directed at Asolo Repertory Theatre, Trinity Rep, and Contemporary American Theatre Festival, among others. A native Ohioan, Kepley received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her Masters in Fine Arts from Brown University/Trinity Rep. She is a Drama League

Fellow and a recipient of the 2009-2011 National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group Career Development Program for Directors.

About Cleveland Play House

Founded in 1915, Cleveland Play House (CPH) is America's first professional regional theatre. Throughout its rich history, CPH has remained dedicated to its mission to inspire, stimulate and entertain diverse audiences in Northeast Ohio by producing plays and theatre education programs of the highest professional standards. It has produced more than 100 world and/or American premieres, and over its long history more than 12 million people have attended over 1,300 CPH productions. Today, CPH looks toward its centennial while performing in three state-of-the art venues at Playhouse Square in downtown Cleveland. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund Cleveland Play House with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. CPH is grateful to Cuyahoga County residents for supporting Cleveland Play House through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. For more information, go to: www.clevelandplayhouse.com

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