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CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY WELCOMES NEW RESTAURANT PARTNER

Chester Common Table brings farm-fresh menu options to Main Street

Chester, MA—Chester Theatre Company (CTC), a professional theatre now in its 27th year, is pleased to welcome Chester Common Table to 30 Main Street in Chester, MA, in time for the theatre's 2016 summer season.

The opening of the restaurant is a dream come true for owners Aaron Allen and Erin Patrick, both of whom have backgrounds in theatre and the restaurant industry. Having met while Allen was working behind the bar at an area inn and Patrick was a stage manager at CTC, they subsequently found work elsewhere. "We were living in Washington D.C.," said Patrick, who runs Chester Common Table's front of house. "I was stage managing at Arena Stage and Aaron was their sound engineer. But our dream was to move back to Western Mass, buy a bit of land, grow food, and serve it to people in our own restaurant."

Allen, who grew up in Pittsfield, learned his trade in the kitchen of the former Candlelight Inn in Lenox, MA, where the focus was on classic French cooking. "We wanted a quiet, comfortable place where we could feed people the kind of quality food we like to eat."

The menu at Chester Common Table features the couple's take on popular comfort foods, such as a miso-based French Onion Soup, gluten-free Cajun Cornmeal Catfish, and Vegetarian Lasagna, as well as specials that will change weekly. "Specials will depend on what's coming out of the ground," said chef Allen. "We'll be offering more choices and switching things out more often as we get into the main growing season."

The couple has a commitment to sourcing locally. Meats for the restaurant come from Cream of the Crop farm in Russell. Other local farms supplying Chester Common Table are White Goose Gardens and Holiday Brook Farms in Dalton, and the Peace Haven Project in Becket. The walls are covered in work by local artists and the owners have plans to bring in area musicians.

Employees of Chester Theatre Company have already made Chester Common Table a popular gathering place. Master Carpenter Jack Boyle praised the personal touch and commitment to quality. "For me, it's food taken to another level in flavor and

presentation.” For his part, CTC Producing Artist Director Daniel Elihu Kramer is thrilled to welcome Chester Common Table as the theatre’s restaurant partner. “We share with them a commitment to the beauty of an afternoon or evening in Chester spent with good theatre, good food, and good friends.”

Restaurant hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30-11:00 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from noon to midnight; and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for brunch, with the regular menu available the rest of the day until 9:00 p.m. It will be closed on Tuesdays. The menu and general information can be found at www.chestercommontable.com, and by calling (413) 354-1076 or emailing the owners at chestercommontable@gmail.com.

CTC’s 2016 season includes the World Premiere of *My Jane* by Daniel Elihu Kramer (June 29-July 10); the Regional Premiere of *Oh God* by Anat Gov, produced in partnership with Israeli Stage (July 14-24); the Regional Premiere of *Sister Play* by Massachusetts playwright John Kolvenbach (August 3-14); and the Regional Premiere of *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall (August 18-28). Show times are 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and 2:00 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Ticket prices are \$37.50 for general audiences and \$10.00 for students and residents of Chester. Tickets may be purchased online at www.chestertheatre.org, or by phone at 1.800.595.4TIX (4849).

About Chester Theatre Company

Chester Theatre Company (CTC), a professional theatre company located in the foothills of the Berkshires, has been presenting high-quality productions with top-notch actors, directors, and designers from across the country since 1990. Now in its 27th season—the first under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Daniel Elihu Kramer—CTC produces 4 thought-provoking plays each summer in an intimate setting at Chester’s Historic Town Hall on 15 Middlefield Road in Chester, MA. Numerous CTC productions have gone on to Off-Broadway, regional, national and international engagements, among them Kramer’s own *Pride@Prejudice*. For further information, please call CTC at 413.354.7770, or visit www.chestertheatre.org.

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