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CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY WELCOMES A NEW PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, A NEW MATINEE, AND NEW CAST TALKBACK

Chester, MA—There are changes at the helm and on the schedule for Chester Theatre Company (CTC), which is gearing up for its 2016 season, the 27th in the theatre's history. Producing Artistic Director Daniel Elihu Kramer succeeds retiring Artistic Director Byam Stevens, a Friday matinee has been added, with an audience talkback with the cast to follow that matinee.

Kramer previously served as the company's Associate Artistic Director from 2012 to 2015. Over the years he has earned a national reputation for his award-winning work as a director, playwright, filmmaker, and educator. CTC audiences know his directing work from past productions, including the immensely popular *The Amish Project*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Tryst*, and *Blink*. In addition, he wrote CTC's 2011 hit *Pride @Prejudice*.

Another change will be to the Friday performance schedule, when a 2:00 p.m. matinee will replace the evening performance. This will make CTC one of the only performing arts venues in the area with a Friday matinee.

"Our matinees have always been in demand," said Kramer. "By changing the Friday performance schedule from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., we will be able to accommodate more of our long-time patrons, and attract new audiences who have not yet discovered CTC. It will also give us the ability to schedule an audience talkback with the cast after the matinee. It's wonderful for actors and theater-goers to be able to have a conversation about the experience they just shared."

"Because of the wealth of theatre, dance, and music in the region, people's weekend evenings tend to fill up quickly," added Kramer. "A Friday matinee is unusual. It opens up an opportunity for people with full schedules to add CTC to their theatre going."

The four-play season will run from June 29th through August 28th at the Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA. For more information, contact Chester Theatre Company by email at info@chestertheatre.org, or by phone at 413.354.7771.

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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 413.354.7771, or visit www.chestertheatre.org.

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