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Chester Theatre Company Welcomes Tara Franklin in a New Role Berkshire Native Named Associate Artistic Director/Director of Education

Chester, MA – **Tara Franklin**, well-known to area audiences for her stage work (including *Bar Mitzvah Boy*, *White Rabbit*, *Red Rabbit*, and *Sister Play* at Chester Theatre Company) has joined the staff of the organization in a dual role, that of **Associate Artistic Director/Director of Education**. Additionally, this summer she will appear in Martín Zimmerman’s *On the Exhale*, a one-woman tour-de-force written in the wake of the events at Sandy Hook.

“**Tara** is a remarkable theatre artist, well known to audiences throughout the area, and we're beyond thrilled to have her join our team,” said **Producing Artistic Director Daniel Elihu Kramer**. “In addition to bolstering our programming, **Tara** will mentor our summer interns, which will make an already wonderful program even better.”

“It is such a privilege to be part of Chester Theatre Company, both as an artist and as an educator,” said **Franklin**. “Being able to share meaningful stories with audiences is an incredible opportunity, but to also have the chance to participate in the education of the next generation makes my passion for the theatre truly realized.”

Each summer, Chester Theatre Company trains, houses and provides stipends for seven to eight interns, all of whom are embarking on their own professional careers in the arts.

A Berkshire native, **Franklin** has enjoyed a professional career in the theatre for the past twenty years, working in New York, Chicago and regionally. Locally, she has been seen in numerous productions with the Berkshire Theatre Group, where she also began her career as an educator, both as an artist-in-residence and the head of the apprenticeship program. In New York, she spent two years performing in Punchdrunk’s *Sleep No More*. An adjunct faculty member at Smith College, **Franklin** teaches acting and directed *Men On Boats* during last year’s mainstage season. She holds a BFA from NYU Tisch and an MFA from UConn.

About Chester Theatre Company

Chester Theatre Company, a professional theatre company located between the Berkshires and the Pioneer Valley, and convenient to both, is known for presenting high-quality productions with top-notch actors, directors, and designers from across the country since 1990. Co-founded by former Artistic Director of Dublin's Abbey Theatre, Vincent Dowling, CTC is now in its 30th season, and produces four thought-provoking plays each summer in the intimate setting of the Town Hall Theatre at 15 Middlefield Road in Chester, MA.

For further information, please call CTC at 413.354.7770, or visit www.chesterttheatre.org.

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