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The Highwood Theatre's Student Directing Fellowship Begins with a Professional Production of

'*Night, Mother*

The opening show of Highwood's 2016-2017 Season

Six Performances:

September 23rd, 24th, 30th and October 1st at 8:00 pm;

September 25th and October 2nd at 2:00 pm

at The Highwood Theatre in Downtown Silver Spring

The Highwood Theatre is thrilled to present the inaugural production of its new student Directing Fellowship program, *'Night Mother*, a Pulitzer Prize winning drama by Marsha Norman. Highwood's season opener and a professional production, *'Night Mother* is directed by high school junior Madison Middleton (whose 2015 original play *The Requiem* at Highwood earned critical acclaim and was named one of the top 10 productions of DC's Women's Voices Theater Festival) and features the talents of Melissa B. Robinson (as Thelma) and Jennifer Berry George (as Jessie).

This suspenseful drama paired with an immersive set design pulls audience members right into the living room of the country home shared by Thelma and her grown daughter Jessie. Planning on a quiet evening of manicures and small talk, their comfortable routine quickly deteriorates when Jessie brings a gun down from the attic. Sparks fly as they grapple with the pain, disappointment and resentment that's been festering for decades, and audiences are sucked into their dysfunctional relationship until the truth is finally revealed. A play this challenging isn't often left in the hands of a young new director; Highwood's Directing Fellowship is a one-of-a-kind program providing invaluable experience to talented local high school students.

Middleton, a high school junior, describes her experience in the program: "I've felt an enormous amount of support from the entire Highwood team. They make sure to let me know that they are genuinely excited. Every conversation we have about the show leaves me feeling electrified and beyond inspired." Matthew Nicola, Highwood's Artistic Director, weighs in on the impact of this show as part of the unique fellowship program: "*'Night, Mother* is an opportunity for Madison - one of Highwood's most accomplished students - to collaborate with two spectacular professional actresses on Marsha Norman's piece. All the forces have aligned with this production, and we could not be more excited to share this truly shocking, groundbreaking play with audiences."

OFFICES AND STUDIOS
914 Silver Spring Avenue, Suite 102
Silver Spring, MD 20910



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kevin Kearney

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Sarah Scott

'Night, Mother, produced by Highwood's Your Theatre division, is the premier production of the 2016-2017 Mainstage Season as well as the first show directed by a Student Directing Fellow. The Highwood Theatre's innovative Directing Fellowship program is focused on providing expert training to a select group of high school student applicants to direct high-quality theatre productions with casts and production teams comprised of both professional and student artists.

About The Highwood Theatre

The Highwood Theatre is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the community together through theatre. Now in its 14th Season, Highwood's guiding principle is "anyone can do theatre." Highwood was founded in 2004 and began executing its mission through seasons of professional-quality theatre featuring all-student casts, design teams, and production staff. In 2013, in conjunction with its relocation to the heart of downtown Silver Spring, The Highwood Theatre expanded to more fully carry out its mission and develop innovative, engaging programming for artists of all ages through professional and student productions, classes, and programs in schools and for home schooled students.

Directions to The Highwood Theatre in Silver Spring

The Highwood Theatre in Silver Spring is located at 914 Silver Spring Avenue, Suite 102, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Street parking is available near the venue, and there is a county garage less than one block away. Parking is free on weekends. Arriving by metro? From the Silver Spring metro station (Red Line), head Northeast on Colesville Road toward Wayne Avenue. Turn right onto Wayne Avenue, Right onto Georgia Avenue, and left onto Silver Spring Avenue. The Highwood Theatre will be on your right. This route takes about ten minutes.

Contact Information

Tickets: <http://www.thehighwoodtheatre.org/tickets.html>

The Highwood Theatre Office: 301-587-0697

General Information: info@thehighwoodtheatre.org

Website: www.thehighwoodtheatre.org

Calendar Listing

'Night, Mother, written by Marsha Norman, is a professional theatre production of The Highwood Theatre located in downtown Silver Spring. Performances are at 8:00 pm on Friday, September 23rd; Saturday, September 24th; Friday, September 30th, and Saturday, October 1st. Performances are at 2:00 pm on Sunday, September 25th and Sunday, October 2nd. Tickets are \$25 and are on sale now. Visit www.thehighwoodtheatre.org for more information.

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