Outdoor Musical at Dallas Theater Center
Honors Essential Workers

DALLAS (June 14, 2021) - Dallas Theater Center honors essential workers with Working: A Musical, their first production for live audiences since March 2020. They offered several hundred complimentary tickets to employees of healthcare organizations with whom DTC has been working with during the pandemic. In addition, all essential workers will be offered discounted tickets and the house will also open earlier for them as well so they have first choice on general admission seating!

Based on Studs Terkel’s bestselling book, this unique musical features the real-life words of everyday working Americans. Through original songs by Stephen Schwartz (Wicked), Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton, In the Heights), James Taylor and others, Working lifts up the voices of teachers, waiters, truck drivers and other essential workers who often go unnoticed but whose work uplifts our lives day in and day out.

“The first song in Working begins with the words, ‘I hear America singing,’” said Kevin Moriarty, DTC’s Enloe/Rose Artistic Director. “Throughout the musical, the seven actors each step forward to portray real-life people who talk about what they do all day, and how they feel about what they do. Their words have been set to music by a variety of composers, each writing in their own musical style. Over the course of the evening, the voices of the individual workers combine together to form the tapestry of American life. Now, more than ever, we know how vital each person’s work is to keeping our community safe, healthy and strong. Working is the perfect opportunity to celebrate those contributions.”

The production marks the DTC directorial debut for Tiana Kaye Blair, a member of DTC’s Diane and Hal Brierley Resident Acting Company since 2016. Her directing work includes Spell 7 (Prairie View A&M University), Dutchman (Metamorphosis Theatre), and Mlima’s Tale (Second Thought Theatre). Her acting credits at DTC include: penny candy, Steel Magnolias, The Mountaintop and In The Heights. Blair is also a member of Progress Theatre, an international touring ensemble committed to using art to encourage social consciousness, cross-community dialogue amongst audiences diverse in race, age and spiritual background. She holds a B.A. from PVAMU and an M.F.A. from SMU.

“With this show, we want to honor the people who we belovedly called ‘essential workers’ in the pivotal moment that was 2020. Lifting up their stories, their family legacies, and the contributions they’ve made is how we honor the work they do every day and all that they’ve woven into the fabric of American society,” Tiana Kaye Blair, Director, Working.
The show will be presented outdoors at Annette Strauss Square in the AT&T Performing Arts Center. The production runs from July 7-18 with all performances beginning at 8:30 p.m. While the house will open at 8 p.m. for everyone, essential workers will be welcomed 30 minutes earlier. This is the first time DTC has hosted an in-person audience for a live performance in more than a year.

“We’re beyond excited to welcome audiences back to live theatrical performance,” said Moriarty. “We are immensely grateful to our subscribers and donors who have supported us throughout the pandemic. Because of their support, we’re able to produce this outdoor, concert-style production for our community this summer, as we look forward to our return to indoor performances with a full season of plays and musicals starting in September.”

Concessions will be available before the show. Masks are required for patrons entering and exiting Strass Square, but may be removed once they are in their seating area. Seating is general admission on the lawn with six feet of distance between patrons. Audience members should bring a blanket or chair that matches Strauss Square Guidelines (height not to exceed 4 inches). A limited supply of lawn chairs will be available for patrons to rent on a first come, first served basis. To view the guidelines or get tickets, go to https://www.dallastheatercenter.org/show/working-the-musical/ or call the box office at (214) 522-8499.

ABOUT DALLAS THEATER CENTER:
One of the leading regional theaters in the country and the 2017 Regional Theatre Tony Award® Recipient, Dallas Theater Center (DTC) performs to an audience of more than 100,000 North Texas residents annually. Founded in 1959, DTC is now a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and presents its Mainstage season at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, designed by REX/OMA. Joshua Prince-Ramus and Rem Koolhaas and at its original home, the Kalita Humphreys Theater, the only freestanding theater designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. Dallas Theater Center is one of only two theaters in Texas that is a member of the League of Resident Theatres, the largest and most prestigious non-profit professional theater association in the country. Under the leadership of Enloe/Rose Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty and Managing Director Jeffrey Woodward, Dallas Theater Center produces a year-round subscription series of classics, musicals, and new plays and an annual production of A Christmas Carol; extensive education programs, including the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winning Project Discovery, a partnership with Southern Methodist University’s Meadows School of the Arts; and many community collaborations. In 2017, in collaboration with Ignite/Arts Dallas at SMU Meadows School of the Arts and the AT&T Performing Arts Center, DTC launched Public Works Dallas, a groundbreaking community engagement and participatory theater project designed to deliberately blur the line between professional artists and community members, culminating in an annual production featuring more than 200 Dallas citizens performing a large scale theatrical production. Throughout its history, Dallas Theater Center has produced many new works, including The Texas Trilogy by Preston Jones in 1978; Robert Penn Warren’s All the King’s Men, adapted by Adrian Hall, in 1986; and recent premieres of Miller, Mississippi by Boo Killebrew; Stagger Lee by Will Power; Hood: The Robin Hood Musical Adventure by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn; Bella: An American Tall Tale by Kirsten Childs; penny candy by Jonathan Noron; Clarkston by Samuel D. Hunter and Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical by Robert Horn, Brandy Clark and Shane McAnally. Dallas Theater Center gratefully acknowledges the support of our season sponsors: Texas Instruments and Texas Instruments Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, Lexus, TACA, and Texas Commission on the Arts.

Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: At Dallas Theater Center, all are welcome. We want to be the best place to work and see theater, and to be a positive and transformational force in Dallas and beyond. We stand-up for equity, diversity, and inclusion across our company and community. As a leading national theater, we recognize that building an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment is central to our relevance and sustainability in the community we serve and love. We acknowledge the land upon which this production was filmed as the ancestral home of many Indigenous Peoples including the Caddo, Wichita, Tawakoni and Kiikaaapo, as well as the tribes that may have lived here and roamed the area including Comanche, Kiowa and Apache and those indigenous people whose names we don’t know anymore. We honor, revere and respect those who were stewards of this land long before we made it our home. We also acknowledge the neighborhood we inhabit as one of the original Freedman’s towns of Dallas built by those who were enslaved by European colonization.

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