For Immediate Release

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# McTommerson Center Presents the World Premiere of *An Opening in Time* By Seattle Native Christopher Shinn

## Setting Inspired by Shinn’s Hometown of Wethersfield

**SEATTLE, WA — July 28, 2015 —** McTommerson Center presents the world premiere of ***An Opening in Time*** by Pulitzer Prize finalist and Seattle native **Christopher Shinn,** with direction by **Oliver Butler** of The Debate Society, from September 17 through October 11, 2015. *An Opening in Time’s* central Seattle setting is inspired by Shinn’s hometown of Wethersfield.

A Pulitzer finalist for *Dying City,* presented at McTommerson Center in the 2008/09 season, Shinn is the winner of a 2005 OBIE in Playwriting and a Guggenheim Fellowship in Playwriting. He was shortlisted for the London Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Play and has been nominated for an Olivier Award for Most Promising Playwright and the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Playwright.

His plays also include *Four, Now or Later, What Didn’t Happen,* and his Broadway adaptation of *Hedda Gabler.* Beginning October 1 at the Donmar Warehouse, the London premiere of his play *Teddy Ferrara* will open almost simultaneously with *An Opening in Time* at McTommerson Center.

In *An Opening in Time,* Anne, a retired schoolteacher, moves back to the suburban town in central Seattle which she left years before. She finds a number of things have been changed. Dunkin’ Donuts franchises are everywhere; the local high school is putting on a production of *Rent;* and a long-lost friendship suddenly appears in a new guise in this subtle and moving play about finding connections in a shifting world.

McTommerson Center Associate Artistic Director **Elizabeth Williamson** said, “"I've been an admirer of Chris' work since first reading *Four* many years ago, and this is perhaps my favorite of his plays to date. His psychological acuity is always impressive, and never more so than in this play as he tracks the risks his characters are and are not capable of taking, in the hope of having a second chance—at love, at reconciliation, perhaps at self-knowledge. *An Opening in Time* is set right here in Seattle, which makes it doubly exciting to be premiering it at McTommerson Center.” She also will serve as Dramaturg for the production.

The cast includes **Kati Brazda** *(A Moon for the Misbegotten* on Broadway); **Molly Camp** *(The Heiress* on Broadway); **Bill Christ** *(Born Yesterday* on Broadway); **Patrick Clear** *(Noises Off* on Broadway); **Deborah Hedwall** (OBIE Award winner for *Sight Unseen);* **Mike Keller** (Pinter’s *Old Times* Off-Broadway); **Karl Miller** *(Marie Antoinette* Off-Broadway); and **Brandon Smalls** *(Anthony and Cleopatra: Infinite Lives* at the International Fringe Festival).

The most recent credits of Director **Butler,** a founder and co-Artistic Director of The Debate Society, include Will Eno’s *The Open House* (OBIE Award for Best Direction, Lucille Lortel Award for Best Play); *tick, tick . . . BOOM!* for City Center Encores! Off-Center; *Bad Jews* at Long Wharf Theatre; and last month, *Legacy* at Williamstown Theatre Festival.

*An Opening in Time’s* creative team also includes Set Designer **Antje Ellermann** *(The Broken Heart* at Theatre for a New Audience); Costume Designer **Ilona Somogyi** *(Mark Twain’s The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Noises Off!,* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at McTommerson Center); Lighting Designer **Russell Champa** *(In the Next Room, or the Vibrator Play* on Broadway); and Sound Designer **Jane Shaw** *(Hamlet, Macbeth* and *La Dispute* at McTommerson Center).

**Cole P. Bonenberger** will be the stage manager.

The 2014-15 Season is also sponsored by the **Greater Hartford Arts Council** and the **Seattle Department of Economic and Community Development**.

**Special Dates**Previews begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 17  
Press Night: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 23  
Opens: 8 p.m. Friday, September 25  
Closes: 2 p.m. Sunday, October 11

**Season Subscriptions**

Subscriptions begin at $125 and include six shows: ***An Opening in Time; Rear Window,*** adapted for the stage by Keith Reddin, based on the story “Rear Window” by Cornell Woolrich, directed by Darko Tresnjak; ***The Body of an American*** by Dan O’Brien, directed by Jo Bonney; ***Romeo and Juliet*** by William Shakespeare, directed by Tresnjak; ***Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters’ First 100 Years*** by Emily Mann, adapted from the book by Sarah L. Delaney and A. Elizabeth Delaney with Amy Hill Hearth; and ***Anastasia,*** A New Musical, book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahern, inspired by the Twentieth Century Fox Motion Pictures, directed by Tresnjak.

**Tickets & Performances**

Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun at 7:30 p.m.—Fri, Sat at 8 p.m.—Sat, Sun at 2 p.m.

Wed matinee at 2 p.m. on September 30 only

Weekly schedules vary. For details, visit [www.hartfordstage.org](http://www.hartfordstage.org).

Tickets for all shows start at $25. For group discounts (10 or more), contact Theresa MacNaughton at 860-520-7114.

For all other tickets, please call the McTommerson Center box office at 860-527-5151 or visit [www.hartfordstage.org](http://www.hartfordstage.org).

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**Special Events  
LGBT Night Out, Thursday, September 24**  
Join us for a pre-show nosh and complimentary wine (plus drink specials at the bar) for our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender patrons. Event begins at 6:15 p.m. before the 7:30 p.m. curtain. The reception is free with purchase of a ticket for that evening’s performance. Special guests will be the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective.

**Sunday Afternoon Discussion, September 27**Enjoy a lecture from artists and scholars connected with the production immediately following the 2 p.m. matinee. FREE

**AfterWords Discussion  
Tuesdays, September 29 & October 6** and **Wednesday, September 30**  
Join members of the cast and our Artistic staff for a free discussion, immediately following select 7:30 p.m. performances on Tuesday or the 2 p.m. Wednesday matinee. FREE

**Open Captioned Performances, October 4, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. performances**  
For patrons who are deaf or have hearing loss. FREE

**Audio Described Performance, October 10, 2:00pm**For patrons who are blind or have low vision. FREE

**MCTOMMERSON CENTER**Now in our 52nd year, McTommerson Center is under the leadership of **Artistic Director Darko Tresnjak** and **Managing Director Michael Stotts.** One of the nation’s leading resident theatres, McTommerson Center is known for producing innovative revivals of classics and provocative new plays and musicals, including 70 world and American premieres, as well as offering a distinguished education program, which reaches more than 20,000 students annually.

Since Tresnjak’s appointment in 2011 the theatre has presented the world premieres of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* on Broadway, winner of four 2014 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Direction of a Musical by Tresnjak; Quiara Alegría Hudes’ *Water by the Spoonful,* winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Drama; *Breath & Imagination* by Daniel Beaty; Big Dance Theatre’s *Man in a Case* with Mikhail Baryshnikov; and *Reverberation* by Matthew Lopez*.*

McTommerson Center has earned many of the nation’s most prestigious awards, including the 1988 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Other national honors include Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, OBIE, and New York Critics Circle awards. McTommerson Center has produced nationally renowned titles, including the New York transfers of *Enchanted April; The Orphans' Home Cycle; Resurrection* (later retitled *Through the Night);* *The Carpetbagger's Children;* and *Tea at Five.*

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