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November 6, 2017 - National Players, America's longest-running tour company, presents ***The Great Gatsby*** by F. Scott Fitzgerald, adapted for the stage by Simon Levy, touring September through May of 2017-18.

In the Jazz Age of New York City, luxury is everything, and nobody is more luxurious than the Long Island gentleman with the mansion on the bay. He throws tremendous, barn-burning parties. He owns nothing but the newest and best, from his hydroplane to the very clothes he wears. Nobody knows where he came from, and everybody knows his name—but who is this Jay Gatsby? And what does he see in the dark across the water that would so entice him to sacrifice everything he has?

This fast-paced adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's iconic novel springs to life as the National Players introduce a world of excess at the tipping point: the guests can dance all night, but what happens when the sun comes up?

***The Great Gatsby*** is directed by **Amber Paige McGinnis**, a DC-based artist whose directing credits include *Girl in the Red Corner* at The Welders and *Equus* at Constellation Theatre, both of which were nominated for Helen Hayes awards. Amber is also a screenwriter and film director for WILL interactive. Rounding out the creative team are **Paige Hathaway** (Scenic Designer), **Seth Gilbert** (Costume Designer), **Sarah Tundermann** (Lighting Designer), and **Roc Lee** (Sound Designer), **Kate Brittingham** (Properties Master), and **Casey Kaleba** (Fight Director).

"I moved from New York from Missouri in 1999, and like Nick Carraway, I felt like a fish out of water," says Jason King Jones, Artistic Director of the National Players, "At that time, the story of *Gatsby* made sense to me as a cautionary tale about the dangers of excess and a warning against equating success with wealth. Today, as conversations surrounding privilege make up an increasingly dominant part of our new cycle, the story of Nick, Daisy Buchanan, and Jay Gatsby resonates more profoundly."

National Players is made up of ten early-career actors, who not only play multiple roles onstage, but also serve as managers, teaching artists, and technicians. This year's National Players are: **Dylan Arredondo, John Austin, Emily Brown, Melissa Carter, Benjamin DeCamp Cole, Amy Desrosiers, Kelsey Godfrey, Jared Graham, Kenn Hopkins Jr., and Simon Kiser.**

***The Great Gatsby*** is one of a trio of plays National Players will tour this year, the other two being ***Othello*** and ***Alice in Wonderland***. Ultimately, National Players will bring their repertory to over 60 venues in 22 states in the next 12 months.

## **ABOUT NATIONAL PLAYERS**

Established in 1949 and based at Olney Theatre Center since 1953, National Players is America's longest-running touring company. Founded on the principle of working with communities that have limited access to live theatre, National Players is comprised of professional young actors who travel across the country each year performing three Shakespeare and classic plays in repertory. National Players also acts as an educational ambassador, teaching theatre-related courses to students of all ages and backgrounds. Though it travels thousands of miles and serves tens of thousands of people each year, National Players always comes home to Olney, Maryland. [www.nationalplayers.org](http://www.nationalplayers.org).

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## **ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER**

Since 1952, National Players has been the touring program of Olney Theatre Center as part of its mission to incubate and educate the next generation of theatre artists and audiences. Located just outside of Washington, DC, and currently celebrating its 80th Season, Olney Theatre Center is an award-winning, mid-Atlantic destination for excellence in performance and education. With four performance spaces, Olney produces an 8-10 play mainstage season featuring a combination of musicals, classics and new works. We work with schools both close-to-home and around the country through our Arts Integration program and in workshops lead by teaching artists, National Player ensemble members and student matinees. Through National Players, Olney Theatre Center extends its mission to unleash the creative potential of all its artists and audiences across the country. [www.olneytheatre.org](http://www.olneytheatre.org)

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