

CONTACT: Rebecca Dzida  
Community Engagement & Touring Coordinator  
[rdzida@olneytheatre.org](mailto:rdzida@olneytheatre.org)  
240-722-6016

November 6, 2017 - National Players, America's longest-running tour company, presents Natsu Onoda Power's original adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, touring September through May of 2017-18.

All Alice wants is a little entertainment in the middle of a boring picnic. She spots an unusual rabbit, and chases it down a deep, deep hole—what she finds when she lands is more strange and exciting than she could have ever imagined.

In this high-energy, world-premiere adaptation, the National Players follow Alice through a constantly shifting world, as she explores a Wonderland you've never seen before, created with live projections, shadow puppetry, original music, pop-up books, flamingo mallets, a caterpillar tango, and more. Won't you come along with her?

*Alice in Wonderland* is adapted and directed by **Natsu Onoda Power**, an associate professor in Georgetown's Program in Theater and Performance Studies, where she has taught since 2005. As a playwright, her recent credits includes *Astro Boy and the God of Comics*, for which she won the 2015 Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Director in Small Theatre. Directing credits include David Henry Hwang's *Yellow Face* and Young Jean Lee's *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven*. Rounding out the creative team are **Paige Hathaway** (Scenic Designer), **Seth Gilbert** (Costume Designer), **Sarah Tundermann** (Lighting Designer), and **Roc Lee** (Sound Designer), **Kelly Colburn** and **Mark Alan Costello** (Projections), and **Kate Brittingham** (Properties Master).

"This production is unlike anything National Players has ever produced," says Jason King Jones, Artistic Director of the National Players, "but the concept remains constant and timely: how does one navigate a world where the rules keep changing?"

National Players is made up of ten early-career actors, who not only play multiple roles onstage, but also serve as managers, teaching artists, technicians, and drivers. 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**.

*Alice in Wonderland* is one of a trio of plays National Players will tour this year, the other two being *Othello* and *The Great Gatsby*. 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).

Follow National Players on Twitter [@nationalplayers](https://twitter.com/nationalplayers) or [twitter.com/NationalPlayers](https://twitter.com/NationalPlayers) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/NationalPlayers](https://facebook.com/NationalPlayers).

### **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)

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Twitter and Instagram [@olneytheatre](https://twitter.com/olneytheatre) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/olneytheatre](https://facebook.com/olneytheatre).

###