(Chicago, IL) Goodman Theatre and Golden Globe winner Regina Taylor unite Chicago communities through art and technology with the new play, stop. reset., which explores the intersection of race, class, sex and gender and the tensions between old ways and new digital-driven ways. Taylor, who celebrates 20 years as a Goodman Artistic Associate this year, has curated an extensive series of artistic collaborations and live events throughout the city to ignite conversation inspired by the play’s themes—including several dinner parties, the “OUTSIDE THE BOX” symposia series (May 17 and 18, June 5 and 9) and the “INSPIRES” series of artistic presentations (June 8, 14 and 15), involving community thought leaders from a cross-section of fields and generations, as well as student and professional artists. All discourse is documented and appears on StopReset.org, a special website Taylor developed as a virtual gathering place, featuring digital portals for theatergoers to explore and engage with the play prior to attending, while they are at the theater and continuing the connection post-performance. Written and directed by Taylor, stop. reset. appears May 23 – June 21 (opening night is Monday, June 1) in the Owen Theatre. Tickets ($10 - $40; subject to change) are on sale now by phone at 312.443.3800, at GoodmanTheatre.org/StopReset or at the box office (170 N. Dearborn). Visit GoodmanTheatre.org/StopReset Press Room for artist bios and photos. Edelman Worldwide is the Major Corporate Sponsor for the Owen Theatre season. Baxter International is the Contributing Sponsor and HSBC North American Holdings is the Opening Night sponsor for stop. reset. Flat Panel Televisions generously provided by Abt. The Joyce Foundation is the Principal Support of Artistic Development and Diversity Initiatives.

“The idea of stop. reset. came to me when my favorite bookstore closed, and I started to think about what the future will hold for books, what it will look like, and if I can accept it. The play is about change—and it’s also about identity, legacy and how we pass those things down in a time of societal upheaval with technology,” said playwright and director Regina Taylor. “I’ve had the unique opportunity in the last 20 years working at the Goodman to find my own voice, and part of that is having dialogue with the communities in Chicago that have helped shape my work. I’m excited to expand the life of the play beyond the stage, finding new ways to break down the walls of the theater and have conversations with audiences.”

In stop. reset., e-books and digital technologies are transforming the literary world, and Chicago businessman Alex Ames (Eugene Lee) must try to save his long-standing African American book publishing company from extinction. While his employees Jan (Jacqueline Williams), Chris (Eric Lynch), Deb (Lisa Tejero) and Tim (Tim Decker) fret over losing their jobs, Ames finds unlikely inspiration from a mysterious teenager—J. (Edgar Sanchez), who seems to be plugged into the future. The aging Ames is forced to discover how far he’s willing to go to survive. stop. reset. made its world premiere in 2013 at Signature Theatre Company in New York, where Taylor is a Residency Five playwright.

About the Website

Digital portals of storytelling within the show’s website, StopReset.org, immerse audiences in the world of the play. “The Play” portal houses detailed information about stop. reset., including bios and photos of the cast and creative team. The “Blogs” portal includes two web logs—“Director’s Blog” and “J’s Blog”—that give insight into Taylor’s creative process and more insight into the character of “J,” the mysterious teenager whose inventive, forward-thinking ideas may provide the solution to preserving Alex Ames’ legacy. The “Artist Responses” portal features two sub-components, “Student Interpretations” and “Artists & Innovators,” which feature projects by Chicago students, professional artists and institutions inspired by the play. The “Community” portal includes videos and podcasts of a cross-section of community thought leaders and leaders from various fields discussing their response to the play and its themes; four sub-groups in this portal include “Interviews,” “Symposia,” “Dinners,” and “Events.” The “Media” portal gives professional writers, comedians and filmmakers the opportunity to create their own works of art around the ideas of stop. reset., expanding the
Goodman Theatre Launches the Special Website, StopReset.org, for Regina Taylor’s New Play
Chicago Premiere Appears in the Owen Theatre, May 23 – June 21

play’s themes beyond the stage. Audiences can digitally mingle with the cast and creative team in “Connect”—the site’s social media portal, using Twitter, Instagram, Vine and Tumblr using the hashtag #StopReset—as they document the rehearsal and production process. Taylor and the Goodman are grateful to these individuals and community partners who have contributed to the website.

About the “OUTSIDE THE BOX” Symposia Series
To reserve tickets to these free topical digital age discussions, visit GoodmanTheatre.org/stopreset

- **ENDANGERED SPECIES** | Sunday, May 17 | 2pm at DuSable Museum of African America History (740 E. 56th Pl.)
In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Voter’s Rights Act, this intergenerational discussion addresses how African American identity has evolved over the last five decades. Moderated by Tracey A. Matthews of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, panelists for ENDANGERED SPECIES include WVON’s Melody Spann Cooper, Desirée Rogers, Robert Blackwell, Sr. and Reverend Vance Henry.

- **ARTISTS, SOCIAL CHANGE AND IDENTITY** | Monday, May 18 at 7:30pm | Gallery Guichard (436 E. 47th St.)
This symposium focuses on technology’s impact on cultural identity, gender and sexuality. Moderated by Barbara Allen, panelists for ARTISTS, SOCIAL CHANGE AND IDENTITY include Sandra Delgado, Billy Ocasio, Ginger Leopoldo, Roderick Hawkins and Jyreika Guest.

- **STUDENTS AND STOP. RESET.** | Friday, June 5 at 12 noon | Starter League (30 N. Racine Ave.)
Students age 16-21 discuss the technological and social changes occurring in their times.

- **PLACE IS THE SPACE** | Tuesday, June 9 at 7:30pm | Little Black Pearl (1060 E. 47th St.)
This symposium tackles community transformation in a technology-driven world. Panelists discuss topics such as re-shaping communities through art, and the future of communities that have been decimated by the destruction of public housing, the loss of industry, the foreclosure crisis and chronic disinvestment.

About the “INSPIRES” Series
To reserve tickets to these free events featuring Chicago artists’ response to the play, visit GoodmanTheatre.org/stopreset

- **stop. reset. INSPIRES at the Center for Inner City Studies** | Monday, June 8 at 7pm | 700 E. Oakwood Blvd.
An eclectic evening of original pieces inspired by stop. reset. Artists from across Chicagoland respond to the play with their own creations in a variety of mediums.

- **stop. reset. INSPIRES at Black Cinema House** | Sunday, June 14 at 7pm | 7200 S. Kimbark Ave.
An eclectic evening of original pieces inspired by stop. reset. Artists from across Chicagoland respond to the play with their own creations in a variety of mediums.

- **stop. reset. INSPIRES Storytelling** | Monday, June 15 at 5pm | Goodman Theatre
A multigenerational group of artists from Goodman’s various Education and Community Engagement programs explore the themes of stop. reset. through the writing and performing of personal narrative pieces.

About the Dinner Parties

Taylor invited a handful of Chicago scholars, business leaders, journalists and politicians to gather for three dinners inspired by the themes of the play. Excerpts from the dinners can be found on StopReset.org.

The first was a March 3 dinner themed “Soul Food for a New Century,” at the Currency Exchange Café in Washington Park. Three featured speakers discussed changes in methods of communications and transmitting information/stories—Dr. Haki Madhubuti, Founder and President of Third World Press; Frank Sennett, Director of Digital Strategy for Crain’s Chicago Business; and Ytasha Womak, author of Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-fi and Fantasy. Guests included Michelle T.Boone, Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Genevieve Thiers, entrepreneur and founder of Sittercity.com; Miguel Aguilar, of the Arts and Public Life initiative at the University of Chicago housed at the Arts Incubator; Dr. Carol Lee, Northwestern University professor of education in the School of Education and Social Policy and in African American Studies; Dr. Tracey Lewis-Elligan, associate professor of DePaul University’s Department of Sociology;
Rap Brown, arts and culture journalist, former gallery owner; and Elysabeth Alfano, TV and stage producer and host, moderated the discussion.

Taylor’s second dinner, “When our Methods of Storytelling Change, Do Our Stories?,” took place in the private home of Goodman Trustee Alice Sabl and her husband John on May 7. The dinner focused on the evolution of communication—oral history thought the printing press though Twitter—with the theme Speakers included Linda Johnson Rice of Johnson Publishing; Edith “Mama Edie” Armstrong, President of the National Association of Black Storytellers; Viktor Le; and writer Useni Perkins. Guests included civic leaders Les Coney, Neal Zucker, Julieanna Richardson, Sara Ziglar, Tanya Hilton and Kai El Zabar. Brian Bannon moderated the discussion.

The third dinner, “Re-imagining Chicago,” took place on May 13 at the Dream Café in Engelwood. Themes included the politics of access to technology and progress; neighborhood transformation—who benefits? How has politics informed the landscape? What are today’s movements? How has technology impacted activism and politics? Dr. Carol Adams moderated a panel that included community revisionist Bernard Loyd; journalist Maudlyne Ihejirika, young activist: Afrika Porter, sociologist Dr. Iva Carruthers. Guests included Donnie Smith, Tsehaye Hébert, Robert Miller, Maxine Leftwich, Aysha Butler and Willie J.R. Fleming.

### About Playwright/Director Regina Taylor

Regina Taylor celebrates her 20th year as an Artistic Associate with Goodman Theatre this season. With an impressive body of work that encompasses film, television, theater and writing, she was most recently seen in the acclaimed USA limited series “DIG.” She is well-known to television audiences for her role as Lilly Harper in the series I’ll Fly Away, and her portrayal earned her a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series and two Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. She also earned the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actress in a Drama for the hit CBS drama, The Unit.

In addition to her film and television work, Taylor holds the honor as being the first black woman to play Juliet on Broadway in William Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. Other theater credits include As You Like It, Macbeth, Machinal, The Illusion and Jar the Floor. Her plays include Oo-Bla-Dee: Drowning Crow; The Dreams of Sarah Breedlove; A Night in Tunisia; Escape from Paradise; Watermelon Rinds and Inside the Belly of the Beast.

Taylor’s Crowns continues to be one of the most performed musicals in the country, earning four Helen Hayes Awards including Taylor’s win for Best Direction as well as Best Regional Musical. Her trilogy The Trinity River Plays premiered as a co-production with the Dallas Theater Center and the Goodman, and was the recipient of the 2010 Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award. She also wrote and directed Post Black (a monologue played by Micki Grant, Carmen de Lavallade and Ruby Dee) for The River Crosses Rivers II Festival at New York’s Ensemble Studio Theatre. She is also a resident playwright at New York’s Signature Theatre Company.

She was named one of six 2012 Chicagoans of the Year by Chicago magazine and was awarded the 2013 Oscar Micheaux Award from the Chicago Film Critics Association and holds honorary doctorates from Columbia College, DePaul University and Lake Forest College.

Taylor’s work at Goodman Theatre over the past two decades includes the following plays:

1995/1996 – Escape from Paradise (Playwright/Performer; Goodman Studio)
1996/1997 – Transformations (Curator/Co-director; Goodman Studio)
1998/1999 – Oo-Bla-Dee (Playwright) (American Critics Association Award)
1999/2000 – Millennium Mambo (Curator/Co-writer/Performer; Goodman Studio)
2001/2002 – Drowning Crow (Playwright; Albert Theatre and on Broadway)
2003/2004 – Crowns (Playwright/Director; Albert Theatre) (Helen Hayes Award)
2005/2006 – The Dreams of Sarah Breedlove (Playwright/Director; Albert Theatre)
2008/2009 – Magnolia (Playwright; Albert Theatre)
2010/2011 – The Trinity River Plays (Playwright; Albert Theatre) (Edgerton Foundation Award)
2011/2012 – Crowns (Playwright/Director; Albert Theatre)
2014/2015 – stop. reset. (Playwright/Director; Owen Theatre)
Goodman Theatre Launches the Special Website, StopReset.org, for Regina Taylor’s New Play Chicago Premiere Appears in the Owen Theatre, May 23 – June 21

**stop. reset. At-A-Glance**

*Artists, dates and ticket prices are subject to change*

### STOP. RESET. WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY REGINA TAYLOR

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**EVENTS AND SPECIAL PERFORMANCES**

**May 31.** Artist Encounter: Meet Playwright/Director Regina Taylor, 5pm ($5; FREE for Subs/Donors/students)

**June 3.** Community Night, 6pm reception at Petterino’s, 7:30pm performance ($25 for reception and play)

**June 10.** Audio Described Performance, 7:30pm ($20)

**June 12 and 19.** Spoken Word Fridays – 6:30pm performance in Goodman Theatre’s Club Mezz (FREE)

**June 17.** Sign Interpreted Performance, 7:30pm ($20)

**Every Wednesday evening, May 27 – June 17.** PlayBacks – Discussions with actors immediately following the performance

**TICKETS ($10 - $40) AND DISCOUNTS**

**Tickets:** GoodmanTheatre.org/stopreset or call 312.443.3800. Fax: 312.443.3825; TTY/TDD: 312.443.3829.

**Box Office Hours:** 12noon - 5pm; on performance days, the office remains open until 30 minutes past curtain.

**MezzTix** – Half-price day-of-performance mezzanine tickets available at 10am online (promo code MEZZTIX)

**10Tix** – Student $10 tickets for any performance; limit four, with valid student ID (promo code 10TIX)

**Group Sales** – Discounted tickets for parties of 10+ – 312.443.3820

**Subscribe** – Three-Play Albert Theatre subscriptions start at $72 (GoodmanTheatre.org/Subscribe)

**WILD Card** – $199 flex pass including four mix/match Albert/Owen tickets (GoodmanTheatreorg/WildCard)

**Gift Certificates** – Available in any amount (GoodmanTheatre.org/GiftCertificates)

**About Goodman Theatre**

The Goodman’s 2014/2015 Season features nine productions on its two stages—six in the 856-seat Albert Theatre and three in the 400-seat flexible Owen Theatre, plus the annual New Stages Festival that includes additional developmental productions, and partner productions with The Second City and Albany Park Theater Project. On stage now: The Little Foxes by Lillian Hellman, directed by Henry Wishcamper (May 2 – June 7, in the Albert); stop. reset, written and directed by Regina Taylor, a Chicago premiere (May 23 – June 21, in the Owen); Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike by Christopher Durang, directed by Steve Scott, a Chicago premiere (June 20 – July 26, in the Albert); and Albany Park Theater Project’s Feast (July 24 – August 16, in the Owen). In addition, Henry Godinez directs A Work of Art by Elaine Romero, produced in association with Chicago Dramatists (June 19 – July 19 at Chicago Dramatists).
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Now celebrating its 90th year as Chicago’s flagship theater, Goodman Theatre is an artistic and community institution dedicated to the art of theater and to civic engagement in the issues of the contemporary world. The Goodman has transformed over the past 35 years into a world class theater and premier Chicago cultural institution distinguished by the quality and scope of its programming and its culturally and aesthetically diverse creative leadership; artistic priorities include new plays, reimagined classics, culturally specific works, musical theater and international collaborations. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Falls and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, achievements include the Goodman’s state-of-the-art two-theater complex in the heart of the downtown Theatre District. Over the past three decades, the Goodman has generated more than 150 world or American premieres, and nearly 30 new-work commissions. Joan Clifford is Chair of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, Swati Mehta is Women’s Board President and Gordon C.C. Liao is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals. American Airlines is the Exclusive Airline of Goodman Theatre.

“A mainstay of Chicago and beyond” (Chicago Sun-Times), the Goodman is internationally acclaimed for its “fresh work of magnitude and ambition (and) bold, risky theatrical choices” (Chicago Tribune). From new plays to “first-class revivals” (The New York Times), the Goodman has earned numerous awards for its productions: two Pulitzer Prizes; 22 Tony Awards, including Outstanding Regional Theatre (1992); and nearly 160 Joseph Jefferson Awards.

The 90th Anniversary “Season to Celebrate” programming is rooted in the same spirit that launched the Goodman in 1925—an array of dramatic fare, from classics to noteworthy contemporary works, innovative and often controversial, embracing genres from farces to searing social dramas—honoring the theater’s past and envisioning its future. The nine-play season began with an All-New Fall of works fostered and developed in the Goodman’s new play development programs followed by The August Wilson Celebration in spring 2015, the 10th anniversary of the playwright’s death and the 70th anniversary of his birth. This city-wide Celebration honors the longstanding collaboration between Wilson and the Goodman, the first theater in the world to produce all 10 works in his “American Century Cycle.”

Visit the special anniversary website, GoodmanTheatre.org/90, to see famous faces who’ve worked at the theater, browse photos of classic productions and read interviews with noted artists.

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