FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CARLYLE BY THOMAS BRADSHAW OPENS MONDAY, APRIL 11 AT GOODMAN THEATRE

***PHOTOS AND BROADCAST QUALITY VIDEO ARE NOW AVAILABLE HERE IN THE PRESS ROOM; IN ADDITION, VISIT GOODMANTHEATRE.ORG/CARLYLE FOR A BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIDEO SERIES***

Go behind-the-scenes with “Carlyle Meyers” in a promotional video. Visit GoodmanTheatre.org/Carlyle

(Chicago, IL) Welcome to a new era in American politics! Preview performances are underway for Carlyle, Thomas Bradshaw's 75-minute exploration of the hot-button racial issues facing America today. As the Republican Party seeks a more progressive identity leading up to election season, a young African American lawyer named Carlyle Meyers (James Earl Jones II) takes the stage to share his journey from prep school to the GOP. Benjamin Kamine directs the newest work by Chicago-based Bradshaw—“a true satirist (and) significant presence in the world of theatrical cool” (New Yorker) and “one of America’s most audacious scribes” (Chicago Tribune). Carlyle appears in the Owen Theatre through May 1. For tickets ($10-$40), visit GoodmanTheatre.org, call 312.443.3800 or purchase in person at the Box Office at 170 N. Dearborn.

“I can’t imagine a play more current and urgent than Carlyle,” said Director Benjamin Kamine. “In today’s political climate, every moment of this play resonates; it’s exciting to get hit that hard and fast with something so funny, provocative and only a little over an hour—but will keep you thinking for days to come.”

In conjunction with the production, the Goodman has also issued a series of behind-the-scenes videos as part of its “Discover What’s NOW” audience insider program; view the series at GoodmanTheatre.org/Carlyle.

The all-Chicago cast features the aforementioned James Earl Jones II in the titular role, Tiffany Scott as his wife, Janice, Tim Rhoze as Carlyle’s Father, Levenix Riddle as Omar and ensemble members Jess Berry, Patrick Clear, Maureen Gallagher, Charlotte Speigner, Don Tieri and Nate Whelden. The design team includes Kevin Depinet (Sets), Rachel Healy (Costumes), Heather Gilbert (Lights) and Christopher Kriz (Sound). Tanya Palmer is the dramaturg and Donald E. Claxon is the production stage manager.

Thomas Bradshaw returns to the Goodman, where his play Mary made its world premiere in the 2010/2011 season. His other plays include Fulfillment (American Theater Company and The Flea Theater); Intimacy and Burning (The New Group); Job and Dawn (The Flea Theater); The Bereaved (Crowded Fire, Partial Comfort and the State Theater of Bielefeld in Germany); Southern Promises (PS122) and more. He has received fellowships from the Lark Play Development Center, Soho Rep (Streslin Fellow) and New York Theater Workshop. Bradshaw was the recipient of a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship, the 2010 Prince Prize and the 2012 Award from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. Bradshaw was the Playwright-in-Residence at The Soho Theatre in London in February 2009. His plays are published by TCG, Samuel French and Dramatic Publishing. Bradshaw received his MFA from Mac Wellman’s playwriting program at Brooklyn College and is an associate professor at Northwestern University. He is currently under commission from The Royal National Theatre in London, Marin Theatre Company and The Foundry Theatre.

Benjamin Kamine returns to Goodman Theatre, where he directed the 2014 New Stages Festival production of Carlyle. Recent credits include the New York premiere of Washer/Dryer by Nandita Shenoy (Ma-Yi Theater Company) and world premieres of Bradshaw’s Job and christopher oscar peña’s a cautionary tail (The Flea Theater);
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The Dum Dums by Joshua Conkel (Glass Mind Theatre); Pied! by Julia Meinwald and Gordon Leary (Polyphone Festival, University of the Arts); and Samsara by Lauren Yee (Chance Theater). Kamine is an associate artist at The Flea Theater and a Resident Director at the Jewish Plays Project. He has developed new plays with Ars Nova, Brooklyn College, Cape Cod Theatre Project, EST/Youngblood, The New Group and PlayPenn, among many others. He is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, was a member of the 2014/2015 Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab and was a 2014/2015 LABA Fellow. He is a member of the 2015/2016 Civilians R&D Group.

The Laurents/Hatcher Foundation is the Major Foundation Supporter of Carlyle; the Time Warner Foundation is the Lead Supporter of New Play Development; the Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation is the Major Supporter of New Play Development; the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation is the Major Supporter of New Work Development; the Glasser and Rosenthal Family and the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust are the Supporters of New Work Development.

EVENTS AND ACCESSIBILITY AT GOODMAN THEATRE

April 7, Politics and Pinot – 6pm; a pre-show reception hosted by the Scenemakers Board, followed by a 7:30pm performance and post-show party with cast; tickets are $65 with promo code PINOT (all proceeds go towards New Play Development at the Goodman)

April 8, Cocktails with Carlyle – 8pm performance, followed by a post-show event with signature cocktails and all-American food; tickets are $25 with promo code COCKTAILS

April 10, Artist Encounter – 5pm; a conversation with Thomas Bradshaw and Benjamin Kamine

April 13, College Night – 6pm; Pre-show reception and artistic presentation with promo code COLLEGE. Student ID needed.

April 24, Touch Tour Presentation – 12:30pm; a presentation detailing the set, costume and character elements; Audio Described Performance – 2pm; the action/text is audibly enhanced for patrons via headset.

May 1, Open Captioned Performance – 2pm; an LED sign presents dialogue in sync with the performance.

Visit GoodmanTheatre.org/Access for more information about Goodman Theatre’s accessibility efforts.

About Goodman Theatre

Called America’s “Best Regional Theatre” by Time magazine, Goodman Theatre has won international recognition for its artists, productions and programs, and is a major cultural, educational and economic pillar in Chicago. Founded in 1925 by William O. Goodman and his family in honor of their son Kenneth (an important figure in Chicago’s cultural renaissance in the early 1900s), Goodman Theatre has garnered hundreds of awards for artistic achievement and community engagement, including: two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards (including “Outstanding Regional Theatre” in 1992), nearly 160 Joseph Jefferson Awards and more. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Falls and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, the Goodman’s artistic priorities include new plays (more than 150 world or American premieres in the past 30 years), reimaged classics (including Falls’ nationally and internationally celebrated productions of Death of a Salesman, Long’s Day’s Journey into Night, King Lear and The Iceman Cometh, many in collaboration with actor Brian Dennehy), culturally specific work, musical theater (26 major productions in 20 years, including 10 world premieres) and international collaborations. Diversity and inclusion have been primary cornerstones of the Goodman’s mission for 30 years; over the past decade, 68% of the Goodman’s 35 world premieres were authored by women and/or playwrights of color, and the Goodman was the first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” Each year, the Goodman’s numerous education and community engagement programs—including the innovative Student Subscription Series, now in its 30th year—serve thousands of students, teachers, life-long learners and special constituencies. In addition, for nearly four decades the annual holiday tradition of A Christmas Carol has led to the creation of a new generation of theatergoers in Chicago.

Goodman Theatre’s leadership includes the distinguished members of the Artistic Collective: Brian Dennehy, Rebecca Gilman, Henry Godinez, Steve Scott, Chuck Smith, Regina Taylor, Henry Wishcamper and Mary Zimmerman.

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.

Visit the Goodman virtually at GoodmanTheatre.org, and on Twitter (@GoodmanTheatre), Facebook and Instagram.