CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF
FULL 12 PERSON CAST ANNOUNCED
Charles Leggett and Morgan Rowe join John Aylward, Laura Griffith, Brandon O’Neill, and Marianne Owen

Who: ACT – A Contemporary Theatre Mainstage
What: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams originally in ACT’s first season 1965
Where: ACT, The Allen Theatre, 700 Union Street, Downtown Seattle
When: Apr 17–May 17, 2015 (Press Opening April 23)
Tickets start at: Adults: $20 - $44; Students: $15; Age 25 & Under: $20; Seniors: $33
Available to ACTPass members. Now on sale: 206.292.7676 or www.acttheatre.org

Seattle, WA – March 25, 2015 – Rehearsals have begun for a scorching new revival of Tennessee Williams’ Cat on a Hot Tin Roof directed by Kurt Beattie in his final season as Artistic Director. The first play to kick off ACT’s 50th Anniversary harkens back to our inaugural 1965 season when Cat on a Hot Tin Roof had its Seattle Premiere directed by ACT founder Gregory A. Falls.

The play centers around the lavish celebration of the family patriarch and affluent Southerner Big Daddy Pollitt on his 65th birthday. The family has learned that Big Daddy is dying of cancer, but they conceal that fact from him as they jockey for influence over his fortune. Maggie the Cat tries to awaken her despondent husband Brick from an alcoholic stupor before the rest of the family succeeds in their greedy pursuit of money, land, and power.

ACT has assembled a cast of veteran favorites and Broadway alumni, as well as theatre and television stars, to portray the iconic characters in this Mississippi Delta drama. John Aylward, who was last seen at ACT in The Prisoner of Second Avenue, will play Big Daddy. Mr. Aylward has become one of Seattle’s most recognizable national exports, with recurring roles on ER, The West Wing, and Mad Men, to name a few. Critically acclaimed actor and Gregory Award winning artist Charles Leggett joins the cast in the contentious role of Gooper, trying to usurp his more popular brother Brick. Morgan Rowe and Frank Lawler, previously seen at ACT in The Pitmen Painters will join the ranks to play the roles of Gooper’s wife Mae and Reverend Tooker. Off-Broadway, Seattle stage, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival veteran Larry Paulsen will play the deceptive Doctor Baugh. Seen in scores of professional Seattle productions, the always impressive Marianne Owen will play Big Mama.

Coming off their successful pairing in the 5th Avenue Theatre’s production of Carousel, Laura Griffith and Brandon O’Neill will have the unique opportunity to go from performing a classic musical in front of thousands a night to performing a classic American drama in the intimate in-the-round setting of ACT’s Allen Theatre. Both Brandon and Laura have recently had success in leading roles on Broadway, but have now moved to Seattle to pursue theatre full-time in the Pacific Northwest.
CAST
John Aylward* - Big Daddy
Kyle Ballard - Buster
Kai Borch - Sonny
Annika Carlson - Dixie
Laura Griffith* - Maggie
Frank Lawler - Reverend Tooker
Charles Leggett* - Gooper
Nina Makino - Trixie
Brandon O’Neill* - Brick
Marianne Owen* - Big Mama
Larry Paulsen* - Doc Baugh
Morgan Rowe* - Mae

CREATIVE TEAM
Kurt Beattie - Director
Carey Wong - Scenic Designer
Melanie Burgess - Costume Designer
Mary Louise Geiger - Lighting Designer
Dominic Cody Kramers - Sound Designer
JR Welden* - Stage Manager
Michael B. Paul* - Assistant Stage Manager
Victoria Thompson - Production Assistant/Child Supervisor

*members of Actors’ Equity Association
Hi-Resolution photos of Brick and Maggie by John Cornicello available at www.bit.ly/CAT-ACT-photos For more hi-res photos, interviews, and information contact Mark Siano at mark.siano@acttheatre.org or 206-292-7660 x 1339

LEAD BIOGRAPHIES:

LAURA GRIFFITH Locally at the 5th: Julie in Carousel, Lady of the Lake in Spamalot, A Room with a View, The Music Man, Candide. Broadway: South Pacific, The Light In The Piazza, Sweet Smell Of Success, and Oklahoma! Europe: West Side Story. 1st National Tour: The Light In The Piazza (Helen Hayes Award nom). Regional: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Mark Taper Forum, Signature Theatre, Goodspeed Opera House, Utah Shakespeare Festival, California Music Theatre. Also three original Broadway Cast Recordings; appearances on Late Night With David Letterman, Live From Lincoln Center, three Tony Awards broadcasts.

BRANDON O'NEILL Locally: Hanuman in Ramayana (ACT, World Premiere, Broadway World Award, Footlight Award), First Date (Gregory Award nomination); At the 5th: The Pirate King, Pirates of Penzance (Gregory Award nomination); Gabe, First Date (Gregory Award nomination); Sky Masterson, Guys and Dolls (Footlight Award). Brandon is exceptionally happy to be home after originating the role of Kassim in Disney's Aladdin on Broadway. His voice can still be heard nightly on Broadway as The Voice of the Cave of Wonders.

MARIANNE OWEN was most recently seen at ACT in Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike and before that in Middletown, Assisted Living, and One Slight Hitch. She was also recently in The Hound of the Baskervilles at Seattle Repertory Theatre, and has performed at Book-It, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Seattle Children’s Theatre, Empty Space, Village Theatre, and Intiman. A founding member of the American Repertory Theatre Company, she has worked at N.Y. Public Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, La Jolla Playhouse, Playwrights’ Horizons, Guthrie Theatre, and the Goodman Theatre to name a few.

This production of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof produced in part with a generous gift from 4Culture.

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof Mainstage Performances:**
Friday, April 17, 8:00pm
Saturday, April 18, 8:00pm
Sunday, April 19, 7:00pm
Tuesday, April 21, 7:30pm (Behind The Scenes)
Wednesday, April 22, 7:30pm
**Thursday, April 23, 7:30pm – OPENING NIGHT**
Friday, April 24, 8:00pm
Saturday, April 25, 2:00pm and 8:00pm
Sunday, April 26, 1:00pm and 7:00pm
Tuesday, April 28, 7:30pm
Wednesday, April 29, 7:30pm
Thursday, April 30, 2:00pm and 7:30pm
Friday, May 1, 8:00pm
Saturday, May 2, 8:00pm
Sunday, May 3, 1:00pm and 7:00pm
Tuesday, May 5, 7:30pm
Wednesday, May 6, 7:30pm
Thursday, May 7, 7:30pm
Friday, May 8, 8:00pm
Saturday, May 9, 2:00pm and 8:00pm
Sunday, May 10, 1:00pm and 7:00pm
Tuesday, May 12, 7:30pm
Wednesday, May 13, 7:30pm
Thursday, May 14, 7:30pm
Friday, May 15, 8:00pm
Saturday, May 16, 8:00pm
Sunday, May 17, 1:00pm and 7:00pm (Closing performance)

**About ACT Theatre**
ACT is the only local theatre dedicated to producing contemporary work with promising playwrights and local performing artists since 1965. ACT is a cultural engine that makes plays, dance, music, and film that touch us through its annual Mainstage Play series and new works generated from the Young Playwrights Program, ACTlab, and New Works for the American Stage commissioning program. Because contemporary life demands examination, ACT is driven to inspire and strengthen our diverse community through works that advance our understanding of human life. ACT is an interactive community where artists and the public witness, contemplate and engage in dialogue on today’s thought-provoking issues, ideas, and art, presented with intelligence, insight, and humor. Dedicated to the advancement and preservation of today’s contemporary work for future generations, ACT is a destination for contemporary theatre and arts in downtown Seattle.
ACT gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our 2015 Season Sponsors: ArtsFund, The John Graham Foundation, 4Culture, The Mayor’s Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, and The Shubert Foundation.

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