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Media Contact: Kevin Kopjak, Charles Zukow Associates | 415.296.0677 | [kevink@charleszukow.com](mailto:kevink@charleszukow.com)

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## AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ANNOUNCES SNEAK PEEK AT 2017–18 SEASON

Season includes Harold Pinter’s classic drama *THE BIRTHDAY PARTY*; Qui Nguyen’s hit new comedy *VIETGONE* and; Pulitzer-Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks’ *FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)*

*A Christmas Carol* returns after another successful run in 2016!

**Four additional productions—along with performance order and run dates—will be announced at a later date!**

SAN FRANCISCO (March 8, 2017)—American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Carey Perloff announced today three of the seven productions that will comprise the lineup of the company’s 2017–18 subscription season, which will include A.C.T.’s first staging of Harold Pinter’s classic drama *The Birthday Party*, Qui Nguyen’s irreverent new comedy *Vietgone* and Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks *Father Comes Home from the War (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*, an epic American take on *The Odyssey* set against the backdrop of the Civil War. The additional four productions—along with performances order and run dates—will be announced at a later date.

Says Perloff: “At this moment, there is an urgent need for joy, for big ideas, for nuanced language and global perspectives. Our 2017–18 season will involve beloved artists like Marco Barricelli and Harold Pinter as well as introducing spectacular new talents like Qui Nguyen and the profoundly imaginative Suzan-Lori Parks. It’s a season of plays that ask questions about justice and democracy, that expose the underbelly of terror, that reinvent our language and that celebrate love stories such as that of an immigrant couple from Viet Nam who surprisingly meet in America. These are stories that echo our universal hopes, challenges, and dreams, and affirm A.C.T.’s commitment to uniting modern classics with the most vigorous contemporary artists. The enormous success of *A Thousand Splendid Suns* has reminded us how crucial it is to make work that is deeply rooted in our own community, and how beautiful it is to give voice to stories that are rarely told. We look forward to much more next season!”

In addition to announcing three shows from the seven-play subscription season, A.C.T. is happy to welcome back the Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition, ***A Christmas Carol***, after another successful run last season. Featuring a lively cast of dozens, delightful music, gorgeous costumes, and deliciously spooky ghosts, this version of *Christmas Carol*, adapted by Paul Walsh and Carey Perloff, stays true to the heart of Dickens's timeless story of redemption and brings a playful sensibility to his rich language. *A Christmas Carol*—now in its 40th year—is a cornerstone of the A.C.T. repertory and has become a holiday tradition for families around the Bay Area.

At this time, only current full-season A.C.T. subscribers can renew their subscriptions for the 2017–18 season. To receive priority notice when packages become available to new subscribers, patrons can join A.C.T.'s e-club at [act-sf.org/eclub](http://act-sf.org/eclub) or call the A.C.T. Subscriptions Office at 415.749.2250.

Full-season (7-play) subscriptions will soon be available for **\$91–\$679** and offer incredible savings, unparalleled access, exclusive benefits, and personalized customer service. Subscribers save as much as **50% off single-ticket prices**. Students and educators are eligible to save up to half-price on subscriptions, and senior discounts are available for certain series. To make subscriptions more affordable, A.C.T. also offers all subscribers an **extended payment plan** that allows payment in two easy installments. A.C.T.'s competitive subscriber benefits include **free ticket exchanges** up to the day of your scheduled performance, **guaranteed best seating**, **ticket insurance**, access to **convenient prepaid parking** one block away from the theater, **discounts for neighborhood restaurants**, and the opportunity to subscribe to ***Words on Plays***, A.C.T.'s in-depth theater guide for each show. To renew a current A.C.T. subscription, please call **415.749.2250** or log on to [www.act-sf.org/renew](http://www.act-sf.org/renew).

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## **A SNEAK PEEK AT THE 2017–18 SEASON**

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### ***THE BIRTHDAY PARTY***

by Harold Pinter

Directed by Carey Perloff

Featuring Marco Barricelli, Judith Ivey, and Scott Wentworth

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

“Delicious, impalpable and hair-raising”—*The Sunday Times*

A.C.T. returns to the world of Harold Pinter for our first staging of his classic drama *The Birthday Party*, featuring A.C.T. favorite Marco Barricelli, Tony Award winner Judith Ivey, and Stratford Festival star Scott Wentworth. In an undisturbed English seaside town, the inhabitants of a ramshackle boarding house react to the arrival of two unsettling strangers. Where do the mysterious Goldberg and McCann come from? Who sent them? And why do they keep asking about piano player Stanley Webber? As the party guests, including flighty Lula and flirty landlady Meg, gather for Stanley's birthday, the desperate pianist is forced to confront a surreal interrogation. Seething with mystery, danger, and sudden humor, this is signature Pinter, a play of “tantalizing theatricality”

**VIETGONE**

by Qui Nguyen

Directed by Jaime Castaneda

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater

"Hip, high-wire theatricality . . . sultry sexiness . . . quirky playfulness"—*The Seattle Times*

An off-Broadway hit, *Vietgone* is a modern twist on the classic story of boy meets girl. In this irreverent new comedy, three young Vietnamese immigrants leave a war-torn country for an eye-opening journey across the bewildering and foreign landscape that is 1970s America. A vibrant mash-up of pop culture references, audacious dialogue, and an action-packed road trip that instantaneously moves from hilarity to heart-wrenching drama, *Vietgone* played to sold-out houses at 2016's Oregon Shakespeare Festival and New York's Manhattan Theatre Club. This sexy, sassy, freewheeling ride, backed by its hip-hop and Motown rhythms, will roar into The Strand this fall in an all-new production.

**FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)**

by Suzan-Lori Parks

Directed by Elizabeth Diamond

Co-produced by Yale Repertory Theater

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

"Extraordinary . . . epic . . . endlessly stimulating"—*The New York Times*

"Thrilling . . . a masterpiece"—*New York Magazine*

From Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks (*Topdog/Underdog*) comes an explosively powerful and lyrical new play set against the backdrop of the Civil War. In this epic American take on *The Odyssey*, Southern slave Hero faces a terrible choice: to seek his freedom by fighting for the Confederacy alongside his master or to stay home with the woman and people he loves. A poignant and musical journey in three succinct acts, Parks mixes contemporary wit, folk ballads, and classical traditions to tell a timeless story of freedom, heroism, and belonging. By turns comic and heartbreaking, *Father Comes Home from the Wars* is a mythic journey through the American soul from one of our most accomplished contemporary playwrights.