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BERKSHIRE
THEATRE GROUP

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For immediate release, please: Friday, April 15, 2016

**Star of NBC's New Series
"Game of Silence"
Michael Raymond-James
Heads Cast as Brick in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof***

Pittsfield, MA – Berkshire Theatre Group announces casting for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, with TV and Film actor, **Michael Raymond-James** as Brick. Neil Genzlinger (*New York Times*) suggests that Raymond-James is "scary good," in NBC's new series *Game of Silence*, adding that he "injects a sense of ominous unpredictability into this well-made revenge thriller." In addition, Michael Raymond-James has appeared in hit shows such as, *True Blood* and *Once Upon a Time*, as well as the feature films, *Black Snake Moan* with Justin Timberlake, and *Jack Reacher* with Tom Cruise.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof's cast also features **Jim Beaver** as Big Daddy (TV: *Better Call Saul*, *Supernatural*, *Deadwood*; Film: *In Country*, *Magnolia*, *The Life of David Gale*), **Rebecca Brooksher** as Maggie (BTG: *Anna Christie*, *Period of Adjustment*; TV: *Elementary*, *Happyish*) and **Linda Gehringer** as Big Mama (BTG: *I Saw My Neighbor on the Train and I Didn't Even Smile*, *The Batting Cage*; TV: *Justified*; Film: *As Good as it Gets*). *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* runs at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage from Wednesday, June 22 through Saturday, July 16. A further announcement with complete casting will be made at later date.

Director David Auburn, says, "We will be taking a fresh look at this great American classic with an outstanding company of actors, aiming for a production that's as unexpected as it is visceral. I've worked with Rebecca Brooksher many times, going back to the Juilliard School. We last collaborated at BTG on *Anna Christie*. I'm excited to be working with Jim Beaver, Linda Gehringer and Michael Raymond-James for the first time."

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof Cast
by Tennessee Williams

directed by David Auburn

at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage
BTG's Stockbridge Campus, 83 East Main Street

Previews: Wednesday, June 22 through Friday, June 24
Press Opening/Opening Night: Saturday, June 25 at 8pm
Talkback: Monday, June 27 after 7pm performance
Closing: Saturday, July 16 at 8pm
Tickets: Preview: \$45
Tickets: \$62
Sponsored by: Country Curtains and The Red Lion Inn

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof Cast:

Big Daddy: Jim Beaver
Big Mama: Linda Gehringer
Brick: Michael Raymond-James
Maggie: Rebecca Brooksher

Jim Beaver (Big Daddy) recently recurred on the hit shows *Better Call Saul* and *Mike and Molly*. Jim starred as Ellsworth on HBO's *Deadwood* and as Bobby Singer on CW's *Supernatural*. Jim first came to prominence as Bruce Willis's best friend in Norman Jewison's acclaimed film, *In Country*, and appeared in hit films such as *Magnolia*, *Joy Ride*, *Adaptation*, and leading role in *The Life of David Gale*. He will be featured in Guillermo del Toro's new film, *Haunted Peak*. As a stage actor, Jim has spent five seasons with the Dallas Shakespeare Festival, played lead roles in *Macbeth* in national tours, as well as regional theatre roles including Henry II in *The Lion in Winter* and the title role in *Charley's Aunt*. He is a three-time Los Angeles Dramalogue Critics Award® winner for his work writing and acting in his own plays, *Verdigris*, *Semper Fi* and *Sidekick*.

Rebecca Brooksher (Maggie) is thrilled to return to BTG after appearing in *Period of Adjustment* and *Anna Christie* at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage and *Sick* at The Unicorn Theatre. Other credits in the area include *Molly Sweeney*, *Blackbird*, and *Nina Variations* at Chester Theater Company and *All my Sons* and *Private Lives* at Barrington Stage. New York credits include: *The Real Thing* (Roundabout), *Loot* (Red Bull), *Dying City* (Lincoln Center, Lortel nomination Best Actress), *Love's Labor's Lost* (The Public Theater), *The Scariest* (Bleeker Street), *White People* (Atlantic Stage 2). Recent regional credits include: *Golden Age* (The Kennedy Center), *She Stoops to Conquer* and *Twelfth Night* (McCarter Theatre), *Monster at the Door* (Alley), *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare Theatre of NJ), and *Mr. Wolf* (Cleveland Playhouse). TV: *Elementary*, *Love Monkey*, *Ugly Betty*, *The Confession*; recurring on *Happyish*, *The Good Wife*, *Canterbury's Law*, *One Life to Live*. Film: *Cold Souls*, *The Muse*. Juilliard graduate (Group 34).

Linda Gehringer (Big Mama) has previously appeared at BTG in *I Saw My Neighbor on the Train* and *I Didn't Even Smile* and *The Batting Cage*. She most recently premiered in *Going to a Place Where You Already Are* at South Coast Repertory, also appearing there in the World Premieres of *The Parisian Woman*, *The Language Archive*, and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, a role she repeated in its New York Premiere at The Atlantic Theatre Company. She has

played leading roles in theaters across the country, including Seattle Repertory's premieres of *The Comparables* and *How to Write A New Book for the Bible* (also at Berkeley Rep: LADC nomination) and *The Crowd You're In With* at the Goodman Theatre (Jeff Award-nomination). Recent television credits include recurring roles on: *Justified* and *Touch*, and guest stars on *NCIS*, *Raising Hope*, *Weeds*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Without a Trace*, *Cold Case*, *Ally McBeal*, *Frasier* and *The West Wing*. Film: *Into the Storm*, *Kreep* and *As Good as it Gets*.

Michael Raymond-James (Brick) received his training at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in New York City, where he studied with esteemed acting coach George Loros. He currently resides in Los Angeles. Raymond-James finished filming *Carter & June* opposite Samaire Armstrong. Additionally, he was in director Christopher McQuarrie's *Jack Reacher* with Tom Cruise and *Road to Paloma* opposite Jason Momoa. Raymond-James made his feature film debut in *Black Snake Moan* with Christina Ricci and Samuel Jackson. He is a star on the new NBC's series *Game of Silence*. Before that, he ended a series regular run on ABC's *Once Upon a Time* opposite Ginnifer Goodwin and Jennifer Morrison. Previous to this, he led the cast of Sean Ryan's *Terriers*, opposite Donal Logue for FX. Other television credits include a series regular role on HBO's *True Blood*, as well as guest-starring roles for such shows as *The Walking Dead*, *Law & Order*, *ER*, *Boston Legal* and *CSI*. Also can be seen in the History Channel mini-series, *Son's of Liberty*.

About the Show:

"I've got the guts to die. What I want to know is do you have the guts to live?" asks the towering and domineering Big Daddy. Sometimes described as Williams' greatest play, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* was the playwrights' favorite. A powerful depiction of greed and deception that lies in the heart of a Southern American family, this Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning play will be directed by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning David Auburn (*Proof*), returning to the Fitzpatrick Main Stage where he has directed *A Delicate Balance*, *Period of Adjustment* and *Anna Christie*.

Mississippi plantation owner, the cantankerous Big Daddy, is celebrating his 65th birthday. His family has returned for the occasion, including his favorite son, the masculine Brick, and Brick's wife, the lonely and longing Maggie. Brick and Maggie's strained marriage plagues Big Daddy's mind, and he demands answers to why they haven't given him a grandchild yet. However, Big Daddy's family holds a powerful secret, and an ulterior motive as to why they have returned to the plantation. The families' troubled relationships and emotional lies become exposed in the timeless American treasure, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Performance Dates

Wednesday, June 22 at 7pm (Preview)
Thursday, June 23 at 7pm (Preview)
Friday, June 24 at 8pm (Preview)
Saturday, June 25 at 2pm and 8pm (Press Opening/Opening Night)
Monday, June 27 at 7pm (Talkback)
Tuesday, June 28 at 7pm
Wednesday, June 29 at 7pm
Thursday, June 30 at 7pm
Friday, July 1 at 8pm
Saturday, July 2 at 1pm and 8pm (note earlier matinee time)
Monday, July 4 at 7pm

Tuesday, July 5 at 7pm
Wednesday, July 6 at 7pm
Thursday, July 7 at 7pm
Friday, July 8 at 8pm
Saturday, July 9 at 2pm and 8pm
Monday, July 11 at 7pm
Tuesday, July 12 at 7pm
Wednesday, July 13 at 7pm
Thursday, July 14 at 7pm
Friday, July 15 at 8pm
Saturday, July 16 at 2pm and 8pm (Closing)

For more information about Berkshire Theatre Group and our upcoming season, please visit www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org

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About Berkshire Theatre Group

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. Having united in November of 2010 under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, these two institutions are providing the Berkshires and beyond with the finest in live theatre, music, dance and the visual arts in Stockbridge, MA and Pittsfield, MA. The Fitzpatrick Main Stage (314 seats), cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, was originally designed and built by Stanford White as the Stockbridge Casino in 1888. The intimate Unicorn Theatre (122 seats) is a home for emerging artists and new theatrical ideas. The Colonial in Pittsfield (780 seats) re-opened in August of 2006, following a \$21 million restoration, and boasts pristine acoustics, classic gilded age architecture and state-of-the-art technical systems. The Colonial is available to rent for performance events as well as other events/functions. For more information about renting our facilities, contact Ashlei Perkins at ashlei@berkshiretheatre.org, or (413)448-8084 x18. BTG also performs at The Garage, a music venue located in the lobby of The Colonial. BTG serves over 100,000 patrons per year and reaches over 13,000 students through its educational and outreach programs. To purchase tickets, call (413) 997-4444 or go online to www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org.