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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THEATRE UNBOUND CELEBRATES MOTHERS, AVENGES FATHERS A 15th Season of Childbearing and Sword Wielding

(Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota) Ivey Award-Winning Theatre Unbound announces a fifteenth season of innovative productions that bring both women's stories and women artists to the stage, offering opportunities for female artists to build their craft and careers, and creating a space for audiences to experience stories about complex and compelling female characters.

“This season turned out to be book-ended by one show about mothers and another about fathers – but not at all similar in style,” says **Stacey Poirier**, Theatre Unbound Artistic Director. “Our season opener, *Motherhood Out Loud*, celebrates all the joyful, silly, sad, sometimes maddening things that go along with having a mother or being a mother. It is a collection of short vignettes written by a wide range of playwrights from **Lisa Loomer** (*Girl, Interrupted*) to **Cheryl L. West** (*Jar the Floor*) and tied together by a string of hilarious motherhood montage bits. We'll close the season with a sleek, **all-female cast version of Shakespeare's *Hamlet***, performed with a small ensemble cast in minimalist style.”

New Theatre Unbound Company Member **Julie Phillips** directs *Motherhood Out Loud*. She has worked professionally as an actor, director, dramaturg, stage manager, voice/dialect coach, and movement choreographer. Directing and Co-Directing credits include: *As You Like it*, *Dr. Faustus*, *The Tempest*, *Afternoon at the Seaside*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Phillips earned her MFA at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2007.

Leah Adcock-Starr directs *Hamlet*. She has a BA from Hamline University in Theatre Arts and Religious Studies and will complete her MFA in Directing from the University of Washington School of Drama in 2015. Her directing experience with the Bard includes: a swingin' *Twelfth Night*, a minimalist and movement driven *Julius Caesar*, and a promenade STOMP inspired production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has also created a new adaptation of *Love's Labor's Lost* for an ensemble of teenage girls, was assistant director to Greg Banks on an immersive and Ivey Award Winning production of *Romeo and Juliet* for Children's Theatre Company and wrote and directed a brand new adaptation of Christopher Marlowe's *Tragical History of Doctor Faustus* for two actors and a cello.

The crowd-pleasing *Girl Shorts Festival* returns, highlighting the shorter works of some well-known women playwrights as well as introducing fresh talent. Once again the festival will also feature short works by other small, local performance groups including Table Salt Productions, 20% Theatre Company, Gadfly Theatre Productions and Raw Sugar.

Rounding out the season is the most raucous and challenging theatrical event of the year – Theatre Unbound's annual **24:00:00 Xtreme Theatre Smackdown**, an evening of short plays, written, rehearsed and performed – all within 24 hours.

Theatre Unbound is one of a dozen or so women's theatre companies across the nation working to shrink the gender gap on America's stages. Others include Airmid Theatre in Long Island, NY; The Women's Theatre Project in Boca Raton, FL; Echo Theatre in Dallas, TX; Looking for Lilith Theatre Company in Louisville, KY; Artemisia Theatre in Chicago; Venus Theatre in Laurel, MD; and The Women's Project in New York, NY.

Theatre Unbound's 2014-2015 season:

October 4 - 19, 2014

Motherhood Out Loud

Written by Leslie Ayvazian, Brooke Berman, David Cale, Jessica Goldberg, Beth Henley, Lameece Issaq, Claire LaZebnik, Lisa Loomer, Michele Lowe, Marco Pennette, Theresa Rebeck, Luanne Rice, Annie Weisman and Cheryl L. West. Conceived by Susan R. Rose and Joan Stein

From adoption to surrogacy to gay parenting – a candid (and often comic) look at the traditional notion of parenthood.

Presented at Open Eye Figure Theater, 506 E 24th St, Minneapolis

January 10, 2015

24:00:00 Xtreme Theatre Smackdown

6 new short plays written and fully staged in just 24 hours! Theatrical thrills and spills – you witness the results - one night only!

Presented at Anne Simley Theatre, Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul

March 7-15, 2015

Girl Shorts

A festival of one-act plays by women, about women. Featuring Table Salt Productions, 20% Theatre Company, Gadfly Theatre Productions, Raw Sugar and more.

Presented at Riverside People's Center, 425 20th Ave S, Minneapolis

May 16 – 31, 2015

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's classic ghost story performed by an all-female cast.

Presented at JSB Tek Box at the Cowles Center, 528 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis

Theatre Unbound delivers thought-provoking live theatre conceived and created by women, providing audiences with engaging, rarely-seen perspectives on issues that are relevant and universal.

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