



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Kyle Bass named Associate Artistic Director at Syracuse Stage**



SYRACUSE, NY – Syracuse Stage artistic director Robert M. Hupp announced today the appointment of Kyle Bass as the company’s associate artistic director. For the past nine seasons, Bass has been a senior member of Syracuse Stage’s artistic staff serving most recently as resident dramaturg. As associate artistic director he will undertake a variety of artistic responsibilities including overseeing new play development for the theatre.

“I’m honored that Kyle Bass has accepted the position of associate artistic director,” said Hupp. “Kyle and I will work together to build on the theatre’s rich artistic history while we chart a new course of artistic identity and exploration. Kyle has been instrumental in the transition process. His experience as a playwright and dramaturg, combined with his keen insight and knowledge of the field, and his commitment to community engagement, make him an exceptional artistic partner for me, and an ideal artistic collaborator for Syracuse Stage.”

As resident dramaturg, Bass worked closely with former producing artistic director Tim Bond in selecting plays for Syracuse Stage seasons. He also provided dramaturgical support for numerous Syracuse Stage productions including *The Christians*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, August Wilson’s *The Piano Lesson*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Scorched*, *The Whipping Man*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Moby Dick*, *The Brothers Size*, *Red*,

*Caroline, or Change, Radio Golf, No Child...*, August Wilson's *Fences*, *The Price*, *Little Women*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*.

An accomplished playwright, Bass worked closely with Ping Chong on two Syracuse Stage projects that became part of Chong's *Undesirable Elements* series. *Tales From the Salt City* had its world premiere at Syracuse Stage in 2008. *Cry for Peace: Voices from the Congo*, which Bass co-wrote, premiered at Stage in 2012 and was subsequently produced at La MaMa Etc. in New York. His one-man play *Carver at Tuskegee* was produced as part of Syracuse Stage's *BackStory!* series.

"I'm honored to continue with Syracuse Stage as associate artistic director and excited to work with Bob Hupp. His commitment to developing and producing new plays and the emphasis he places on connecting the art of what we do to the heart of who we are both builds on Stage's history and shines a bold and necessary light toward the future of this organization. I'm thrilled to play a key role in the next chapter of Stage's history," Bass said.

Bass recently worked with MacArthur "Genius" Fellow Carrie Mae Weems on her theatre piece *Grace Notes: Reflections for Now*, which had its world premiere at the 2016 Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina. He also co-authored (with director-writer Kim Bass) the original screenplay *Day of Days*, a film starring award-winning veteran actor Tom Skerritt scheduled for release this year.

Bass' stage plays include *Tender Rain*, *Bleecker Street*, *Fall/Out*, produced by the Kitchen Theatre, *The Heart of Fear*, published in the journal *Stone Canoe*; and *Northeast*, which appeared in the journal *Callaloo*. He is currently at work on a new play titled *Possessing Harriet*, which was commissioned by the Onondaga Historical Association and developed at the Kitchen Theatre, and a screenplay adaptation of the novel *Milk* by Darcey Steinke.

In addition to his work at Syracuse Stage, Bass is a faculty member in the MFA Creative Writing Program at Goddard College and teaches playwriting in the Syracuse University Department of Drama, at Colgate University, and at Hobart & William Smith Colleges.

As a writer, Bass is a two-time recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (for fiction writing and for playwriting), a semi-finalist for the Princess Grace Playwriting Award, and a Pushcart Prize nominee. Bass's prose and other writings have appeared in the journals *Folio* and *Stone Canoe*, among others, and in the anthology *Alchemy of the Word: Writers Talk about Writing*. Kyle is drama editor for the award-winning journal *Stone Canoe*. He holds an MFA in Playwriting from Goddard College and is a proud member of the Dramatist Guild of America.

## ABOUT SYRACUSE STAGE

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre in residence at Syracuse University. Founded in 1974, Stage has produced more than 300 plays in over 40 seasons including a number of world, American, and East Coast premieres. Each season 70,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays, and bold interpretations of classics and musicals, featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves more than 15,000 students from 14 counties. A solid core of subscribers and supporters helps keep Syracuse Stage a vibrant artistic presence in Central New York. Additional support comes from the government, foundations, corporations and Syracuse University. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA), the University Hill Corporation and the East Genesee Regent Association. Syracuse Stage is a member of The League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the largest professional theatre association in the country.

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