FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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National Endowment for the Arts Awards more than $27.6 Million across the nation, including a $20,000 award to Writers Theatre for Arcadia, the inaugural production in the new theatre center

Glencoe, IL—The National Endowment for the Arts today announced awards totaling more than $27.6 million in its first funding round of fiscal year 2016, including an Art Works award of $20,000 to Writers Theatre to sponsor Tom Stoppard’s Arcadia, the inaugural production in the new theatre center designed by internationally renowned Studio Gang Architects led by Founder and Design Principal Jeanne Gang.

The Art Works category supports the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields. In its first 50 years, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded more than $5 billion in grants to recipients in every state and U.S. jurisdiction, the only arts funder in the nation to do so.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, “The arts are part of our everyday lives – no matter who you are or where you live – they have the power to transform individuals, spark economic vibrancy in communities, and transcend the boundaries across diverse sectors of society. Supporting projects like the one from Writers Theatre offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

“I cannot think of a more appropriate way to celebrate our history and herald our future at this critical moment, as we launch the first production in our stunning new theatre center than with Tom Stoppard’s magnificent play, Arcadia,” said Writers Theatre Artistic Director Michael Halberstam. “Drawing a breathtaking parallel between past and present, the play demonstrates how one event can lead to another, and, yet, by unfolding the events of two time periods almost simultaneously, it articulates, in poetic breadth and scientific depth, how unavoidably connected we are to our history and each other. We are honored to receive an Art Works Grant in support of Arcadia, and thank the NEA for its recognition of the seminal moment that this thrilling opening production represents for Writers Theatre.”

Arcadia by Tom Stoppard, directed by Michael Halberstam, will play March 16-April 24, 2016 in the Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Theatre in the new theatre center, 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe. Part detective story and part comedy of manners, Tom Stoppard’s elegant, time-jumping masterpiece forges a complex comedy of wit, romance, poetry, sex and scientific theory, introducing characters whose lives and passions intersect across the centuries. Directed by Artistic Director Michael Halberstam, who previously helmed WT’s hit productions of Stoppard’s The Real Thing and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Arcadia serves as an ideal first production in Writers Theatre’s new home.

To join the Twitter conversation about this announcement, please use #NEAFall15. For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, go to arts.gov

ABOUT WRITERS THEATRE
Over the past twenty-three seasons, Writers Theatre has become a major Chicagoland cultural destination with a national reputation for excellence. Under the artistic leadership of Michael Halberstam and the executive leadership of Kathryn M. Lipuma, Writers Theatre has been
deemed the “best drama company in the nation” by *The Wall Street Journal*. The company, which plays to a sold-out and discerning audience of 35,000 patrons each season, has garnered critical praise for the consistent high quality and intimacy of its artistry. Prized for the finest interpretations of classic and contemporary theatre in its two intensely intimate venues, Writers Theatre's acclaimed work includes Artistic Director Michael Halberstam's world premiere in Glencoe and subsequent productions of *A Minister’s Wife* at Lincoln Center Theater and West Coast premiere at the San Jose Repertory Theatre; David Cromer's productions of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Picnic*; and the commissioning, world premiere and New York premiere of *Crime and Punishment*, which has received more than 30 subsequent regional theater productions.

Writers Theatre continues with the $34 million **On to a New Stage Campaign**, which will establish the company's first permanent home in a new theatre center in downtown Glencoe, designed by the award-winning, internationally renowned **Studio Gang Architects**, led by Founder and Design Principal **Jeanne Gang**, in collaboration with Theatre Consultant **Auerbach Pollock Friedlander**. This will allow the Theatre to continue to grow to accommodate its audience, while maintaining its trademark intimacy. The new facility will resonate with and complement the Theatre's neighboring Glencoe community, adding tremendous value to Chicagoland and helping to establish the North Shore as a premier cultural destination.

Find Writers Theatre on Facebook at Facebook.com/WritersTheatre or follow @WritersTheatre on Twitter. For more information, visit www.writerstheatre.org.

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