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**JEWEL THEATRE COMPANY RECEIVES
RECOGNITION FROM THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING**

**Jewel Theatre Company wins prized National Theatre Company Grant honor
from Founder of the Tony Awards**

October 5, 2017 – Santa Cruz, CA – Jewel Theatre Company is pleased to announce that the **American Theatre Wing, best known as the creator of the Antoinette Perry “Tony” Awards**, is awarding Jewel Theatre Company with one of the **2017 National Theatre Company grants**.

Created by American Theatre Wing to recognize and support the most promising emerging theatre companies, the 2017 grants for Initial Support are being presented to nine companies from around the country. Companies chosen to receive the grants have articulated a distinctive mission, cultivated an audience, and nurtured a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre.

This year marked the second year implementing new guidelines, creating Second-Time Support grants which are being presented to three companies. These grants for the 2017 will be distributed for general operating support to companies who have already received the National Theatre Company Grant in grant cycles occurring between 2010 and 2016. It is the American Theatre Wing’s hope to provide additional support for companies who plan to advance their work in a significant way and have a strategic goal to build the organization’s capacity to continue to innovate and create a more dynamic American Theatre and have described an actionable plan to achieve that goal.

“The recognition from the American Theatre Wing is a tremendous honor,” said Julie James, Artistic Director of Jewel Theatre Company. “As we enter our 13th season, and our 3rd season at the beautiful new Colligan Theater at the Tannery Arts Center, we are grateful for this acknowledgment on the national level and humbled to be recognized with the other eleven outstanding theatre companies.”

More information about the National Theatre Company grants can be found at <http://americantheatrewing.org/program/national-theatre-co-grants/>

Information about JEWEL THEATRE COMPANY is available at www.JewelTheatre.net

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About JEWEL THEATRE COMPANY:

Jewel Theatre Company (JTC) is Santa Cruz’s only **year-round** professional theatre company, presenting 5+ productions each year. Founded in 2005, JTC operates under a contract with Actors’ Equity Association (the union for professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.) and is dedicated to creating extraordinary productions that explore and advance the art of theatre by entertaining,

enlightening and engaging the community. In November 2015, JTC moved into its current home at the Colligan Theater at the Tannery Arts Center in downtown Santa Cruz. JTC prides itself on bringing inspired, professional theatre to the Santa Cruz region, presenting lesser known plays as well as familiar favorites, from drama and musicals to comedies and classics.

JTC productions run the gamut from world premieres to rarely-seen plays to more well-known, popular fare, highlighting artistic excellence in all aspects of production – writing, acting, directing and design. JTC’s inaugural productions, *Love Match*, dubbed by critic Ann Bennett of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* as “Best Surprise” of 2005, and Nicky Silver’s dark comedy *Raised in Captivity*, described by the *Sentinel* as “vivacious,” “captivating,” and “a tricky kind of theater that requires a delicate balance to pull off, and JTC has brought just the right touch,” validated the company’s burgeoning reputation for presenting unique, quality theatre that is moving, funny, and philosophical, a reputation that continues to this day.

JTC’s repertoire includes rarely done material by iconic playwrights, such as Harold Pinter’s *One for the Road* (directed by Marco Barricelli), presented as a collaboration with Shakespeare Santa Cruz, as well as edgy newer material like *Next to Normal* (by Tom Kitt & Brian Yorkey, directed by Julie James). JTC also produces fresh interpretations of classic material such as Arthur Miller’s *All My Sons* (directed by Art Manke) and Tennessee Williams’ *A Streetcar Named Desire* (directed by Susan Myer Siltan), both of which played to full houses and critical acclaim. On the new works front, JTC has its second World Premiere play – *Coming of Age* by local playwright Kate Hawley, directed by Paul Whitworth – planned for 2018, after having presented its first World Premiere with Hawley’s *Complications from a Fall*, the West Coast premiere of two Lanford Wilson one-acts as chamber musicals by Kenneth Fuchs, a staged reading of a new musical about Peggy Guggenheim by Randy Scott Goldberg, and others.

About the AMERICAN THEATRE WING:

One hundred years ago, on the eve of America’s entry into World War I, seven suffragettes—all women of the theatre—came together to form The Stage Women’s War Relief. A century later, the spirit and vision behind the founding of American Theatre Wing remains a touchstone for all we do. The Wing continues to champion bravery, with a focus on developing the next generation of brave artists. The Wing advances the future of American Theatre by celebrating excellence and nurturing the next generation: on stage, behind the scenes, and in the audience. We envision an American Theatre that is as vital, multi-faceted, and diverse as the American people.

The Wing’s programs span the nation to invest in the growth and evolution of American Theatre. We provide theatre education opportunities for underserved students through the Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative, develop the next generation of theatre professionals through the SpringboardNYC and Theatre Intern Network programs, incubate innovative theatre across the country through the National Theatre Company Grants, foster the song of American Theatre through the Jonathan Larson® Grants, honor the best in New York theatrical design with the Henry Hewes Design Award, and illuminate the creative process through the Emmy-nominated “Working in the Theatre” documentary series. In addition to founding the Tony Awards® which are co-presented with The Broadway League, the American Theatre Wing co-presents the Obie Awards®, Off Broadway’s Highest Honor, with The Village Voice.

Visitors to AmericanTheatreWing.org can gain inspiration and insight into the artistic process through the Wing’s extensive media collection, and learn more about its programming for students, aspiring and working professionals, and audiences. Follow the Wing on Twitter and Instagram @TheWing, and on [Facebook.com/TheAmericanTheatreWing](https://www.facebook.com/TheAmericanTheatreWing).