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PRESS RELEASE

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Miami Beach Announces Miami New Drama as the Resident Theater Company of the Colony Theatre

Miami Beach, FL — The City of Miami Beach is pleased to announce its partnership with Miami New Drama (MIND), a theater company founded by internationally renowned artists Michel Hausmann and Moisés Kaufman. Beginning October 1, 2016, the company will assume operations of the historic City of Miami Beach owned Colony Theatre, located at 1040 Lincoln Road.

"This city has desired the presence of a strong resident theater company for years," said Miami Beach Commissioner Joy Malakoff. "I am delighted Michel Hausmann's Miami New Drama will now bring exciting and innovative theater to Miami Beach."

Miami Beach is home to major cultural arts organizations and performing arts groups, including Miami City Ballet, New World Symphony, The Bass, Wolfsonian FIU, ArtCenter South Florida, The Rhythm Foundation, and O Cinema, among others. Adding Miami New Drama to the mix will be an additional component of the well-rounded cultural personality that sets Miami Beach apart from the rest of the region.

"We feel strongly that the city's investment in bringing Miami New Drama to the Colony Theatre will further elevate Miami Beach as an international cultural destination and put our city on the spectrum for theatrical excellence" said Jimmy L. Morales, Miami Beach City Manager.

As noted by Miami Beach Commissioner Ricky Arriola, "Miami New Drama is just the organization we need to propel Miami Beach's arts & culture scene to the next level. Miami New Drama is a professional resident theatre company that proved their talent by producing *The Golem of Havana*, which broke all previous records held at the Colony Theatre. I can't wait to see what they do next!"

Artistic Director Michel Hausmann and Managing Director Lisa Dozier King, who both have extensive backgrounds in national and international theatre arts, lead the operational transition. Completing the team will be Elayne Bryan who has been named as the General Manager and is known locally for her work with multiple arts organizations in South Florida.

"Miami New Drama's mission is to present work that celebrates, and is designed for, Miami's unique multicultural audience," said Artistic Director Michel Hausmann. "Programming will include an eclectic mix

of original plays, musicals, classics and world premieres including work commissioned specifically for MIND. We will be drawing on the best local, national, and international talent to create and perform work that resonates with our unique city. Great theater has the ability to transform lives and create community. Our work will be as diverse, multicultural and dynamic as the city itself, and I am proud to have the opportunity to bring this to fruition.”

Miami New Drama made its first big splash on the South Florida Theater scene this January with its production of *The Golem of Havana* at the Colony Theatre. Written and directed by MIND’s founding Artistic Director, Michel Hausmann, the show had a sold-out extended run that broke box office records and cemented the company’s future at the Colony.

Miami New Drama will open its season at the Colony with *The Tallest Tree in the Forest*. The critically acclaimed show is written and performed by Daniel Beaty and directed by MIND’s co-founder Moisés Kaufman. The production is set to preview in two performances, Thursday and Friday, October 27 and 28, with the official opening Saturday, October 29, 2016.

The Colony Theatre opened January 20, 1935 as a Paramount Pictures movie house. The facility recently emerged from a 3-year \$6.5 million renovation to restore its original Art Deco grandeur and update its stage and technical equipment.

ABOUT MIAMI NEW DRAMA:

MIND is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 presenting and producing organization committed to theatrical excellence and theater-making as a means of social engagement, cultural conversation and human interaction. We present world-class relevant work by American, Latin American, and international artists designed for the intersections of Miami’s multicultural 21st century audience. By sharing work where cultures dialogue and communities intersect, we aim to reach audiences as diverse as the city itself.

Michel Hausmann, Founding Artistic Director is a Venezuelan-born theater director, producer and writer. He is the co-founder and artistic director of Palo de Agua, a leading Venezuelan theater production company. Michel is the bookwriter and director of *The Golem Of Havana* a new original musical, which premiered at LaMama in August of 2013 and received it’s a world premiere at Barrington Stage Company in July of 2014. Hausmann’s Off Broadway credits include the New York Premiere of Vassily Sigarev’s *Black Milk* at East 13th Theater and the New York premiere of *The Color Of Desire*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Nilo Cruz. In Venezuela he directed the world premiere of *Los Navegaos*, the last play by renowned Venezuelan playwright Isaac Chocrón as well as successful productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Producers* that enjoyed an audience of 170,000 spectators. With Moisés Kaufman, he co-directed the Venezuelan premiere of *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. Michel received a BA from Emerson College and an M.F.A in theater directing from Columbia University. Hausmann is a New York Theater Workshop 2050 Fellow, a Shubert Presidential Fellow a Richard Rodgers Award finalist.

Moisés Kaufman, Co-Founder, Artistic Associate

Moisés Kaufman is a Tony and Emmy-nominated director and award-winning playwright. He is the Co-founder and Artistic Director of Tectonic Theater Project. Kaufman’s plays *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* and *The Laramie Project* have been among the most performed plays in America over the last decade. In 2013, Kaufman directed *The Laramie Project Cycle* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, marking the first time *The Laramie Project* and *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* ran in repertory. He directed his first opera in 2014, *El Gato con Botas* (Puss in Boots) at the New Victory Theater. Kaufman directed *Tallest Tree in the Forest* starring Daniel Beaty at Brooklyn Academy of Music, Harvey Theater in 2015. Mr. Kaufman also directed the film adaptation of *The Laramie Project*, which aired on HBO. It was the opening night selection at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival and won a Special Mention for Best First Film at the Berlin Film Festival. Mr. Kaufman received two Emmy Award nominations for Best Director and Best Writer. Prior directing credits- Broadway: *The Heiress* starring

Academy Award nominee Jessica Chastain and David Strathairn; *33 Variations* starring Jane Fonda (written by Kaufman and received Tony nomination for Best Play); the Pulitzer-nominated play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, with Academy Award winner Robin Williams; and the Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning *I Am My Own Wife* (Obie award for direction, Tony, Outer Critics, Lucille Lortell, Drama Desk Awards nomination); *Macbeth* with Live Schreiber (Shakespeare in the Park), *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Williamstown), *Master Class* with Rita Moreno (Berkeley Rep), *This is How it Goes* (Donmar Warehouse), *Women in Becket*, *Machinal*, *In the Winter of Cities*, and *The Nest*. Off-Broadway/Regional: *The Common Pursuit* (Roundabout Theater), *The Nightingale* (La Jolla Playhouse), an adaptation of Tennessee Williams' *One Arm* (Steppenwolf and Off-Broadway). Mr. Kaufman is a Guggenheim Playwrighting Fellow.

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