



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACTS:

Gus Schulenburg | gschulenburg@tcg.org | 212-609-5955

Salma S. Zohdi | szohdi@tcg.org | 212-609-5955

Bana Miller | bmiller@bluestarfam.org | 910-578-4841

Leslie Flom | lflom@cfrt.org | 910-323-4234 x 223

Blue Star Theatres and Cape Fear Regional Theatre Present Event for Military Families ***Blue Star Theatres Now Includes Over 150 Theatres Nationwide***

New York, NY – Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for theatre, and Blue Star Families, the country’s largest chapter-based military families non-profit organization, are pleased to announce that on Saturday, November 5, a Blue Star Theatres event will be held from 2:00–4:00 p.m. ET by Cape Fear Regional Theatre (CFRT), 1209 Hay Street, Fayetteville, NC 28305. The event will include remarks by **Adrian Budhu**, deputy director/chief operating officer, TCG; **Tom Quaintance**, artistic director, Cape Fear Regional Theatre; and **Kanchan Gautam**, Blue Star Families chapter director at Fort Bragg. In this event for military families, students who have worked with CFRT artists at their schools will present scenes from Shakespeare’s *Henry V* with props, costumes, lights, and music; attendees will also receive discounted tickets for that evening’s full performance of *Henry V* at CFRT. Learn more and RSVP for the event by emailing janisl@cfrt.org with the number of students and family members who wish to attend.

“What better way to celebrate the month of Veterans Day than by bringing theatre to the community of Fort Bragg, the largest military base in the world?” asked **Teresa Eyring**, executive director, TCG. “We are thrilled to be working closely with Cape Fear Regional Theatre on this event and are grateful for our partnership with Blue Star Families to expand this program throughout the country.”

One hundred fifty-three theatres in 42 U.S. states and territories have now joined the **Blue Star Theatres** program, providing a variety of theatre offerings to military personnel and their families. This initiative recognizes the profound contributions of service families and seeks to build stronger connections among theatres, military families, and their communities through unique programming, special discounts, and more.

“We are very proud to be a Blue Star Theatre,” says **Tom Quaintance**, artistic director, CFRT. “Our community deeply understands the sacrifices that are made by our service men and women and their families. From on-stage performances of shows such as *Downrange: Voices from the Homefront* to education programs for youth to partnerships we’ve established in the community, it is important to us that we serve as a place where our entire community—including our military families—can come to laugh harder, think deeper, share their experiences, and grow together as a community.”

“Programs like Blue Star Theatres connect our local military and civilian communities and offer families fun and enriching activities to enjoy together,” said **Kathy Roth-Douquet**, CEO, Blue Star Families. “We are excited about the growth of the program thanks to the generous support of the MetLife Foundation and the contributions of TCG and the growing number of theatres across the country.”



Under the umbrella of TCG's **Veterans and Theatre Institute** (VTI), a pilot program for veterans and active military personnel developed as a result of the partnerships and learnings of TCG's **Blue Star Theatres** (BST), TCG's first official artist-in-residence **Maurice Decaul** is headed to North Carolina this same weekend to prepare VTI's next workshop to train veterans to experience, study, and create theatre.

TCG and Blue Star Families connect theatres with local bases and military families and develop and disseminate best practices for engaging with deployed personnel, veterans, and service families. The Blue Star Theatres grant program supports projects that can include talk-backs, outreach programs, sponsored tickets, performances, playwriting workshops, readings, or workshops that focus on military themes and service. For more information about the Blue Star Theatres grant program, visit <http://www.tcgcircle.org/category/blue-star-theatres/>.

One hundred fifty-three TCG Member Theatres have signed on to participate in Blue Star Theatres. To find the full list, visit: <http://www.tcg.org/advocacy/bluestar/map.cfm>.

Blue Star Families builds communities that support military families by connecting research and data to programs and solutions, including career development tools, local community events for families, and caregiver support. Since its inception in 2009, Blue Star Families has engaged tens of thousands of volunteers and served more than 1.5 million military family members. Blue Star Families believes that all military families should be able to serve and simultaneously build thriving and healthy families. With Blue Star Families, military families can find answers to their challenges anywhere they are. Visit bluestarfam.org for more information.

MetLife Foundation was created in 1976 to continue MetLife's long tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Today, the Foundation is dedicated to advancing financial inclusion, committing \$200 million over the next five years to help build a secure future for individuals and communities around the world. MetLife Foundation is affiliated with MetLife, Inc, a leading global provider of insurance, annuities, and employee benefit programs, serving 90 million customers. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, MetLife holds leading market positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. For more information, visit www.metlife.org.

Since 1962, **Cape Fear Regional Theatre** (CFRT) has served as a place for the diverse community of Fayetteville (home of Fort Bragg and the 82nd Airborne) and the broader region to come together to laugh harder, think deeper, share experiences and grow as a community through the power of live theatre. CFRT features a three-story complex with a 309-seat main stage and brings in actors, writers, and designers from throughout the country. CFRT's six-show main stage season and robust education and outreach programs serve over 42,000 audience members a year from all ages and varying socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, including nearly 7,000 students from around the region. More at www.cfrt.org.

The **Veterans and Theatre Institute** (VTI) is a pilot program launched by TCG for veterans and active military personnel to experience, study, and create theatre. By developing unique curricula for four communities through engagement with military and community partners, VTI aims to build sustainable relationships among veterans and the theatre community. Playwright and veteran **Maurice Decaul** leads



VTI as TCG's first official artist-in-residence, constructing curriculum and programming over a three-year development period. VTI is supported by **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's** Building Demand for the Arts program.

For over 50 years, **Theatre Communications Group** (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, has existed to strengthen, nurture, and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. TCG's constituency has grown from a handful of groundbreaking theatres to nearly 700 member theatres and affiliate organizations and more than 11,000 individuals nationwide. TCG offers its members networking and knowledge-building opportunities through conferences, events, research, and communications; awards grants, approximately \$2 million per year, to theatre companies and individual artists; advocates on the federal level; and serves as the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute, connecting its constituents to the global theatre community. TCG is North America's largest independent publisher of dramatic literature, with 14 Pulitzer Prizes for Best Play on the TCG booklist. It also publishes the award-winning *American Theatre* magazine and ARTSEARCH®, the essential source for a career in the arts. In all of its endeavors, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field, and promote a larger public understanding of, and appreciation for, the theatre. www.tcg.org.

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