



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blue Star Theatres and Seattle Children's Theatre Present Event for Military Families

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 19, a Blue Star Theatres event will be held at 4:00 p.m. PT by Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT), 201 Thomas Street, Seattle, WA 98109. The event will include remarks by **Adrian Budhu**, deputy director/chief operating officer, TCG; **Karen Sharp**, managing director and **Courtney Sale**, artistic director, Seattle Children's Theatre; and **Vicki Farnsworth**, Blue Star Families chapter director at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) near Seattle. In this event for military families, SCT will offer workshops and tours in its theatre; 100 free tickets to the evening's performance of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, with subsequent tickets for that evening's show offered to military families at 50% off the regular price on a first come, first served basis; and free pizza for the entire audience following the 5:30 p.m. performance.

"After a divisive election, this Blue Star Theatres event presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our shared love for theatre and appreciation of military families" said **Teresa Eyring**, executive director, TCG. "We are thrilled to be working closely with Seattle Children's 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 excited to support Blue Star Theatres in this expansion of their programming," says Karen Sharp of SCT. "*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S Lewis shares a timely message of peace through unity. SCT is grateful to our military personnel and their families for their service and proud to partner with TCG in their efforts to provide meaningful theatre experiences for these deserving families."

"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."

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: www.tcg.org/Advocacy/BlueStarTheatres.aspx.



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.

Seattle Children's Theatre, which celebrates its 42nd season in 2016-2017, is internationally recognized as a leading producer of professional theatre, educational programs, and new scripts for young audiences. At the close of 2016, SCT will have produced over 251 plays, 110 of which are world premieres, entertaining, inspiring and educating over 4 million children. SCT's School Children Access Program provides \$1.4 million in significantly reduced or complimentary tickets for schools and community organizations in the Puget Sound Area. Learn more at www.sct.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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