



Press Release

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Tickets On Sale Now for May 20th Clarence Brown Theatre Gala Honoring Paula Pell

Tickets to the Clarence Brown Theatre 2016 Gala are on sale now. Tickets are \$200 per person and can be reserved online at clarencebrowntheatre.com/gala. The event, which will be held May 20, 2016 from 7:00 – 11:00 pm at the Jackson Terminal, 213 W. Jackson Avenue, will honor Illinois native and University of Tennessee alumna, Paula Pell, with the CBT Artistic Achievement Award.

Inspired by Truman Capote's *Black & White Ball*, 2016 CBT Gala attendees can expect an elegant evening with lots of laughs from the Honoree herself. Guaranteed to be your favorite Friday evening of the year, attendees will enjoy cocktails, followed by a lavish full-course meal with Honoree Pell, Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean, Managing Director David B. Byrd, and passionate theater-goers from the Greater Knoxville area. The evening will also include a Live Auction for extravagant and exciting packages, including a relaxing Tennessee River Cruise on a private yacht for 8 or your very own party for 20 at the new Old City Wine Bar.

Famed behind-the-scenes comedy queen, Pell was a writer for "Saturday Night Live" for more than 20 years. During her time at SNL, she helped create memorable characters such as the "Spartan Cheerleaders," and later the middle school music teachers "The Culps," in addition to the ever-popular "Debbie Downer." She has guest-starred and written episodes for TV's hit series "30 Rock" and "Parks and Recreation" and wrote for the blockbuster comedies "Bridesmaids," "This is 40," and "The Heat," before writing her own screenplay – the 2015 hit "Sisters," starring Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. Currently, Pell and fellow UT alum/SNL writer James Anderson star in their own web series, "Hudson Valley Ballers," in which they play ex-SNL writers running a bed and breakfast in New York's Hudson Valley.

CBT 2016 Gala Chair Lyle Irish exclaims, "The Clarence Brown Theatre is excited to have Pell as its 2016 Gala Honoree. She is the latest in a list of stellar former honorees with ties to the University of Tennessee who are excelling in their artistic careers."

The CBT Gala benefits the Clarence Brown Theatre Artists Endowment, which helps bring professional guest artists from across the United States to the CBT to engage and teach undergraduate and graduate students, all while creating the world-class, professional theatre experiences Greater Knoxville audiences have come to expect.

Tickets are \$200. To reserve your ticket today, visit us online at clarencebrowntheatre.com/gala.

For more information, please contact Amanda Middleton at amiddle5@utk.edu or (865) 974-5654.

Members of the 2016 CBT Gala committee include: Lyle Irish, (Chair), Bob Lederer, Brenda Madigan, Rachel Wedding McClelland, Whitney Ray-Dawson, Robin Turner, Lacy Wallace, Melanie Wood, and Wendy Wortham.

With a dual mission to train the next generation of theatre artists and to provide top quality professional theatre, like that of a teaching hospital, the Clarence Brown Theatre at the University of Tennessee Knoxville is one of only 13 academic LORT (League of Resident Theatre) institutions in the nation. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean and Managing Director David B. Byrd, the CBT season runs from August through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama. Productions remaining in the 2015-2016 Season include World Premiere of “The Open Hand” and the musical hit “South Pacific.”

Stay Connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).

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