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For immediate release:
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Clarence Brown Theatre Opens 2017/2018 Season with the Tony-Winning “Peter and the Starcatcher”

Neverland comes to Knoxville when the Tony Award-winning production of “Peter and the Starcatcher” plays on the Clarence Brown Theatre mainstage August 30 – September 17. This magic-filled adventure features Peter, Molly Aster and the Lost Boys, who battle evil pirate, Black Stache, in their journey to keep their treasure safe and save the world. It’s suitable for ages 10 and up. A Talk Back with the cast will take place Sunday, September 10 following the matinee and the Open Captioned performance is Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 pm. Sponsors are Schaad Companies and Pilot Flying J. Media sponsors are WUOT, WUTK, B97.5, The Daily Beacon, WBIR, and the Knoxville News Sentinel.

“Peter and the Starcatcher” premiered on Broadway on April 15, 2012 at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre and ran for 319 performances and 18 previews. The play is based on the 2006 children’s novel, “Peter and the Starcatchers,” written by Pulitzer Prize winner and humorist Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson. The story, which is a prequel of sorts to J.M. Barrie’s “Peter and Wendy,” was adapted by Rick Elice into an award-winning Broadway show. “Peter and the Starcatcher” won five Tony Awards and eight Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Tina, Obie and Broadway.com Audience Choice Awards.

“Working on this show is a huge undertaking and a true delight. The script is an unabashed celebration of youth, with all its joys and challenges, and it invites the actors to be outrageously playful and imaginative. But within all that outrageousness, the story has a beautiful open-hearted quality that will leave audiences dewy-eyed, even as they burst out laughing,” said Director Casey Sams.

(Director) **Casey Sams** is head of Undergraduate Studies in Theatre at UT, where she works in both the graduate and undergraduate programs teaching Movement and Acting. In addition to the CBT, she’s had the great fortune to direct, choreograph or be the movement coach at such theatres as Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, The Round House Theatre (DC), The Utah Shakespearean Festival, PlayMakers Repertory Company (Chapel Hill), Virginia Stage Company (Norfolk), Knoxville Opera Company, and Vermont Stage Company (Burlington).

(Musical Director) **Terry Silver-Alford** is a member of the UT Theatre faculty and teaches Musical Theatre Performance, Introduction to the Theatre and Acting. In addition to directing and musically directing productions at the CBT, he has worked professionally as a director, musical director, performer and composer at theaters across the country, including the California Theatre Center, Madison Repertory, Madison Children’s Theatre, University of Madison Theatre and Opera Programs, Omaha Playhouse, Nebraska Caravan, Augusta Barn-Michigan, Fireside Theatre-Wisconsin, and Light Opera of Oklahoma.

The cast is comprised of visiting guest artists, UT Theatre faculty and graduate and undergraduate students, as well as community actors.

Visiting guest artist **Jason Edward Cook** (Boy/Peter) currently resides in New York City. He has performed at the Old Globe, Off Broadway and in such regional theatres as the PlayMakers Rep, NC Stage, and the Arkansas Rep, among others. His film credits include “Hits” (Sundance 2014) and “Rising Stars.”

Visiting guest artist **Charles Pasternak** (Black Stache) is the Artistic Director of The Porters of Hellsgate Theatre Company based in Los Angeles. Previous CBT credits include “The Busy Body” and “Titus Andronicus.” He has performed regionally in such theaters as the Indiana Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Sierra Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre New Jersey, Denver Center, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz, among many more.

UT Theatre professional, local professional and community actors include: **David Brian Alley** (Smee/Ensemble); **Terry Weber** (Mrs. Bumbrake/Teacher/Ensemble); **Doug James** (Alf/Ensemble); **Robert Parker Jenkins** (Ted/Ensemble); and **Mark Jennings** (Captain Scott).

UT Theatre graduate and undergraduate actors include **Jeff Dickamore** (Lord Aster/Ensemble); **Aaron Orlov** (Slank/Hawking Clam/Ensemble); **Jude Carl Vincent** (Gremplin/Fighting Prawn/Ensemble); **Jackson Burnette** (Prentiss/Ensemble); **Ellen Nikbakht** (Molly); and **Keegan Tucker** (Mack/Sanchez/Ensemble).

The creative team for this production includes: visiting guest designers **Matthew M. Nielson** (Sound Designer) and **Nevena Prodanovic** (Projections Designer); UT MFA candidate **Erin Reed** (Costume Designer); UT Theatre faculty **Christopher Pickart** (Scenic Designer) and **Kenton Yeager** (Lighting Designer). Also assisting are **Patrick Lanczki** (Production Stage Manager); **Lauren Winder** (Assistant Director); **Alice Trent** (Associate Lighting Designer); **Carol Mayo Jenkins** (Voice/Text Coach); **Charles R. Miller** (Fight Choreographer); **Savannah Smith** (Assistant Stage Manager); **Julie Stark** (Assistant Stage Manager); and **Danielle Pressley** (Assistant Stage Manager).

Two Previews for “Peter and the Starcatcher” are Wednesday, August 30 and Thursday, August 31 followed by Opening Night Friday, September 1. The production runs through September 17. UT faculty/staff, senior citizens, military personnel, children and students receive discounts. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre box office at 865-974-5161, Knoxville Tickets at 865-656-4444 or order online 24/7 at www.clarencebrowntheatre.com

With a dual mission to train the next generation of theatre artists and to provide top quality professional theatre, 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 Interim Managing Director Tom Cervone, the CBT season runs from September through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama.

For more information, tickets or accessibility accommodation requests including Open Captioning, American Sign Language, and assistive technologies, please call the CBT Box Office at 865-974-5161 or visit us online at clarencebrowntheatre.com/access. Stay Connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown) (#CBT1718Season) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).

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