Open Circle Theatre produces high-quality, inventive theatre productions that provide opportunities for professional theatre artists with and without disabilities.



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NEWS RELEASE

SAVE THE DATE and RSVP for *The Who's Tommy*: Press Night - Friday, October 28, 2016 at 8 pm

For Immediate Release:

October 7, 2016

Contact: Doretha "Doe" Dixon

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SILVER SPRING, MD -- Open Circle Theatre (OCT) reminds you to save the date and **RSVP* to** <u>OCTpress1@gmail.com</u> for Press Night / Opening Night on Friday, October 28 at 8 pm to experience its upcoming production of *The Who's Tommy*, directed by Artistic Director **Suzanne Richard** with Music and Lyrics by Pete Townshend, Book by Pete Townshend and Des McAnuff. After a five-year hiatus, OCT is back on the DC-area theater scene with a challenging piece based on the beloved rock opera of the 70's. *Tommy* uses driving rock rhythms to explore the story of a young boy traumatized by a violent act as he struggles through different stages of his recovery. Featuring Music Direction by **Jake Null** (2016 Helen Hayes Award Winner, for *Avenue Q*,), Choreography by **Dance Exchange** (**Cassie Meador**, Executive Artistic Director, and **Matthew Cumbie**, Associate Artistic Director), and **Neil (Michael) Sprouse** as Lead ASL Master, *The Who's Tommy* runs **October 27 through November 20**, **2016** at the **Silver Spring Black Box Theatre**.

Part of OCT's founding philosophy is that disability can enhance the artistic experience and inspire aesthetic innovation. Pete Townshend, the driving artistic voice behind The Who, uses Tommy's status as "that deaf, dumb and blind boy" as a metaphor for the abuse of his childhood and his eventual struggle to find balance as a rock superstar. In this performance, audiences can explore with the artists on and off stage what happens when disability becomes more than a metaphor? What happens if, when Tommy turns around to speak for the first time, it's in American Sign Language? #DeafTalent

The Who's Tommy stars Russell Harvard (Broadway's Spring Awakening, I Was Most Alive With You, Tribes, and television's Fargo) as older Tommy, Will Hayes (The Man in the Iron Mask, Colossal, Camp David) as Tommy (in the mirror), Malcolm Lee as Captain Walker, Autumn Seavey Hicks as Mrs. Walker. Rounding out the principals are Mikey Cafarelli as Uncle Ernie, Carl Williams as Cousin Kevin, Maggie Walker as the Acid Queen and Molly Janiga as Sally Simpson.

*OCT would like to offer complimentary tickets to you and a +1.

Please visit the website at http://opencircletheatre.org/events/current-production/ for more information (full description, ensemble cast list, etc.).