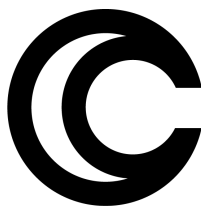


Open Circle Theatre produces high-quality, inventive theatre productions that provide opportunities for professional theatre artists with and without disabilities.



open circle theatre

500 King Farm Blvd., #102
Rockville, MD 20850
240/683-8934
OCTpress1@gmail.com
www.opencircletheatre.org

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
240/683-8934
OCTpress1@gmail.com

SILVER SPRING, MD -- Open Circle Theatre (OCT) reminds you to save the date and **RSVP*** to OCTpress1@gmail.com 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.).

###