

McCarter

THEATRE CENTER

Contact:

Hannah Arnold, LAK Public Relations, Inc.
212-329-1417, harnold@lakpr.com

Tom Miller, McCarter Theatre Center
609-258-6524, tmiller@mccarter.org

For Immediate Release

EMILY MANN TO RETIRE AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF MCCARTER THEATRE CENTER FOLLOWING 2019-2020 SEASON

Award-Winning Playwright and Director Celebrated as Fierce Champion of Works by Women and People of Color

Princeton, NJ – January 11, 2019 – Award-winning playwright and director Emily Mann, who has served as the Artistic Director and Resident Playwright of the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, New Jersey since 1990, will retire from the position following the upcoming 2019-2020 season, McCarter announced. A fierce champion of works by women and people of color, Mann’s final season, which will be announced in March, will be “Signature Emily” - a capstone series of plays celebrating diverse and emerging artists that will pay homage to her monumental 30-year tenure at McCarter.

“Three decades ago, McCarter took the brave and bold step of casting a young female artist as its artistic director, long before women writers and directors were widely embraced in American theater,” said Mann, whose play, *Gloria: A Life*, a bio-drama based on the life of Gloria Steinem opened off-Broadway in October. “After what has been an extraordinary journey, it is time to pass the torch to the next generation of artistic directors, many of whom I have been privileged to mentor, so that they may impart their own unique signatures at McCarter as I enter a new personal and professional chapter of writing and directing opportunities.”

“Emily ushered in an exceptionally robust artistic period that catapulted McCarter to the world stage. She has been a trailblazing force in shaping the course of American theater through her focus on diversity and inclusiveness and her passion for nurturing scores of emerging and established artists whose creative expression has challenged convention and enriched our collective community,” said Reginald M. Browne, Interim President, McCarter Board of Trustees. “Her imprint as an agent of change is as inspiring as it is indelible.”

“As both Emily and McCarter turn to our next acts, it is an honor to thank her for her lifetime of service to McCarter and salute her for the numerous achievements that have earned our theater and community worldwide recognition,” he added.

As McCarter's Artistic Director and Resident Playwright, Mann has overseen more than 160 productions, including more than 40 world premieres – creating a home for theater legends and amplifying the voices of women and people of color. During her tenure, the theater won the prestigious Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre and Emily herself was twice nominated for Tony Awards as a playwright and director. Her other numerous personal awards include: The Peabody Award, the Hull Warriner Award from the Dramatists Guild, a Helen Merrill Distinguished Playwright award, awards from the NAACP, eight Obie awards, a Guggenheim, the 2011 Person of the Year Award from the National Theater Conference, as well as the Margo Jones Award, given to a “citizen-of-the-theatre who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to the encouragement of the living theatre everywhere.” Mann also received an honorary Doctorate of Arts from Princeton University.

Over the next few months, McCarter's Board of Trustees will be formalizing a process for identifying the theater's next Artistic Director, with a commitment to build on Emily Mann's storied legacy to become an even more vibrant home for artists, audiences, students, trustees, and staff.

About Emily Mann

Emily Mann's nearly 50 McCarter directing credits include productions by Shakespeare, Chekhov, Ibsen, and Williams and the recent world premieres of Christopher Durang's *Turning Off the Morning News*; Ken Ludwig's adaptation of Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*; Rachel Bonds' *Five Mile Lake*; Danai Gurira's *The Convert*; Sarah Treem's *The How and the Why*; Christopher Durang's *Miss Witherspoon*; and Edward Albee's *Me, Myself & I*. Broadway: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *Execution of Justice*, *Having Our Say*. Her plays: *Having Our Say*, adapted from the book by Sarah L. Delany and A. Elizabeth Delany with Amy Hill Hearth; *Execution of Justice*; *Still Life*; *Annulla, An Autobiography*; *Greensboro (A Requiem)*; *Meshugah*; *Mrs. Packard*; and *Hoodwinked (a Primer on Radical Islamism)*. Her new play *Gloria: A Life* about the legacy of Gloria Steinem is currently running off-Broadway. Adaptations: *Baby Doll*, *Scenes from a Marriage*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *A Seagull in the Hamptons*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Antigone*. Currently in development: *The Pianist*.

About McCarter Theatre Center

McCarter's mission is to create world-class theater and present the finest artists for the engagement, education, and entertainment of the community. Winner of the 1994 Tony Award® for Outstanding Regional Theatre, world premieres include Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (2013 Tony® – Best Play); Tarell Alvin McCraney's *The Brother/Sister Plays*; Emily Mann's *Having Our Say*; and Danai Gurira's *The Convert*. McCarter brings artists from around the world to Princeton, New Jersey including Dianne Reeves, Esperanza Spalding, Andy Borowitz, and more. Education and outreach efforts serve tens of thousands through student matinees, in-school residencies, and adult classes. More at mccarter.org.

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