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**Month Day, Year** – National Players, America’s longest-running touring theatre company, will perform *Walk Two Moons by Tom Arvetis, based on Sharon Creech’s Newbery Medal-winning novel*, at \*VENUE\* on **DAY OF WK, MONTH DAY at 0:00 AM/PM**. Admission is \$XX. National Players is the professional touring troupe and signature outreach program of Olney Theatre Center in Olney, Maryland.

National Players is an **entirely self-contained and self-sustaining tour**, meaning that the ensemble members who act in the plays also serve as the tour’s stagehands, electricians, truck drivers, wardrobe crew, and much more. It is an ensemble of true “theatre-makers” in the fullest sense of the word.

After her mother suddenly leaves, 13-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a cross-country road trip to retrace her mother’s footsteps. To pass the time, she tells them stories of the eccentric characters she has encountered, the most eccentric of which being Phoebe – Sal’s best friend and the main character in the stories she tells. Phoebe’s story bursts with wild conspiracy theories of her own missing mother, which helps Sal confront her own loss. But with a deadline looming, Sal might not make it in time to reunite with the one person she wants to find most.

Told primarily through memory, National Players weaves together a story that is both heartrending and heartwarming. Follow National Players on their journey in this moving adaptation of the award-winning novel about family, identity, and coming-of-age.

Says **director Jenna Duncan**, “*In Walk Two Moons*, Sal’s once-small world breaks open as she has to face the reality of life’s most unpredictable turns. What she learns in the play, though, and what makes me so thrilled to be touring this to a multitude of audiences, is that she’s not the only one coping with sudden shifts, losses, and growth. Every character in this play is on a journey of their own, and every audience member will have their own lens that they watch this show through. I hope that as Sal learns that she has to spend time walking in someone else’s shoes before understanding their actions or struggles, anyone from any background who sees the show can feel a new understanding of another’s journey unlike their own.”

**Jenna Duncan** is the Associate Artistic Director/Casting Director at Olney Theatre Center. Previous DC directing credits include *The Heidi Chronicles* (Rep Stage), *Flood City* (Theatre Alliance), *What Every Girl Should Know* (Forum Theatre), *Walk Two Moons*; *The Giver*

(National Players), *Urinetown* (Monumental Theatre Company), *Lucky Stiff* (Imagination Stage), *JQA* (American University), and others. She is also a freelance casting director in the DC area and is currently working on *The Wolves* (Catholic University) and *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Adventure Theatre MTC).

**Miranda Pepin** plays the central character Sal and **Emma Stern** is her best friend Phoebe. The rest of the ensemble handles multiple roles including **Lisa Buch** as Mrs. W and Sugar, **Saira Grewal** as Margeret, Mary Lou, Bickle, Nurse and Doctor, **Matt Merline** as Mr. B, Lunatic and Brother, **Faith Ore** as Gramps and Sheriff, **Cedrick L. Riggs, Jr.** as Boy, Ben and the Officer, Anna Shafer as Gram and Partridge, and **John J. Yazzo** as John and Mr. W. **Liz Monasky** is the stage manager for the tour.

**Patti Kalil** is the set designer, with costumes designed by **Jen Gillette**. **Sarah Tundermann** designs lights for the traveling troupe and **Justin Schmitz** is the sound designer. **Casey Kaleba** is the fight choreographer.

## **ABOUT NATIONAL PLAYERS**

Established in 1949 and based at Olney Theatre Center since 1952, National Players is America's longest-running touring company. Founded on the principle of prioritizing areas with limited access to theatre, National Players company consists of 10 early-career theatre artists who spend 10 months touring the United States with their three-play repertory to a variety of diverse populations and venues from performing arts centers, universities, but also public schools, rural community centers, and penitentiaries. National Players also acts as an educational ambassador, teaching theatre-related courses to students of all ages and backgrounds. Though it travels thousands of miles and serves tens of thousands of people each year, National Players always comes home to Olney, Maryland. Learn more at: [nationalplayers.org](http://nationalplayers.org)

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## **ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER**

### **Mission**

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces, presents and tours extraordinary performances for a diversity of audiences, and educates and inspires the next generation of theater-makers.

### **Vision**

We strive every day to unleash the creative potential of our artists and audiences, and in so doing, become a nationally-prominent destination for the most impactful theater performance and education.

### **History**

Once a summer stock retreat in rural Maryland, Olney Theatre Center is now an award-winning, year-round regional theatre surrounded in a 15-mile radius by 1.6 million people representing three of the most ethnically diverse counties in America. Since our founding in 1938, some of the biggest names in theatre have appeared on our stages: from "Golden Era" stars like Helen Hayes and Tallulah Bankhead to contemporary artists like Sir Ian McKellen, Robin De Jesús, and many others. OTC welcomed Artistic Director Jason Loewith and Managing Director Debbie Ellinghaus in 2013 and 2014, respectively, who established a new artistic strategy to broaden programming with the goal of nurturing a diversity of voices and audiences. Olney Theatre Center now produces musicals and plays under the three rubrics of Classic, Contemporary and Family programming. Since 2013 Olney Theatre Center has twice won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Production, the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play and presented six world premieres. Complementing this work, OTC fulfills its mission as a teaching theater with educational programs like the Our Play program in local 5th grade classrooms, a summer camp and a year-round professional apprentice program. National Players, now in its 70th Season, is the hallmark outreach program of OTC, a unique ensemble touring innovative theater to communities large and small across the United States.

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