

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Artistry Presents Clifford Odets' Classic *Awake and Sing!*

(Bloomington, MN) Artistry is pleased to present Clifford Odets' enduring *Awake and Sing!* which will play in the Black Box Theater at Bloomington Center for the Arts, September 15 – October 7, 2018, directed by Artistry's Producing Artistic Director **Benjamin McGovern**.

The Berger family is at home in the Bronx, unaware that everything is about to change... forever. In this classic drama by Clifford Odets, idealistic family patriarch Jacob wrestles with the staunch realism of his daughter, Bessie, whose economic anxiety fills every corner of the tiny apartment three generations share. But even the Great Depression can't shake the youngest members of the Berger family, who are certain that a better tomorrow is just beyond the horizon. *Awake and Sing!* is a timely story of how far a family will go to ensure that every generation secures a brighter future. With its beautiful, distinctive language, this play reveals why Odets became an inspiration for writers like Arthur Miller, Neil Simon, and so many others who followed.

Benjamin McGovern is in his third season as Artistry's Producing Artistic Director. His 2017 production of *Wit* won an IVEY Award for "Emotional Impact," and he recently directed the critically-acclaimed *Follies*. *Awake and Sing!* is the first show McGovern will helm in Artistry's 2018-2019 season.

The ensemble cast features faces both new and familiar to Artistry's stage. **Ryan London Levin**, who gained accolades for his performance as Jamie in Artistry's production of *The Last Five Years*, will take on the central role of Ralph Berger. **Paul Rutledge**, who was the hapless Gary Lejeune in last season's *Noises Off*, will play Moe Axelrod. Appearing on Artistry's stage for the first time are local powerhouse actresses **Kate Guentzel** and **Miriam Schwartz** as mother-and-daughter Bessie and Hennie Berger, as well as **Dan Hopman** (Myron Berger) and **Charles Numrich** (Jacob Berger). For full cast, see below.

Artistry is an independent theater and visual arts nonprofit that serves a regional audience of more than 94,000 people annually. In pursuit of artistic excellence, Artistry engages our region's most talented artists in work that welcomes and develops audiences and opens hearts and minds. Our vision: a diverse, distinctive, and progressive community widely recognized for making art and artists essential to a vibrant social fabric and civic life.

Awake and Sing! Fast Facts

Written by:	Clifford Odets
Director:	Benjamin McGovern
Scenic/Properties Designer:	Katie Phillips
Sound Designer:	C. Andrew Mayer

CAST

Corey DiNardo – Sam Feinschreiber
Kate Guentzel * – Bessie Berger
Howard Held – Uncle Morty
Dan Hopman – Myron Berger
Ryan London Levin – Ralph Berger
Charles Numrich – Jacob Berger
Paul Rutledge – Moe Axelrod
Miriam Schwartz – Hennie Berger

* Member of Actor’s Equity Association

Location: Black Box Theater in the Bloomington Center for the Arts
1800 W Old Shakopee Rd
Bloomington, MN 5543

Admission: \$15 - \$46

For Tickets: Call the Artistry Box Office at 952-563-8575
Or go online at artistrymn.org.

Attached Photo: Ryan London Levin (foreground) and Miriam Schwartz (background). Photo by Devon Cox.

Awake and Sing! Performance Schedule

Friday, September 14 at 7:30pm (Preview)
Saturday, September 15 at 7:30pm (Opening Night)
Sunday, September 16 at 2:00pm
Thursday, September 20 at 7:30pm
Friday, September 21 at 7:30pm
Saturday, September 22 at 7:30pm
Sunday, September 23 at 2:00pm (Talk Back, ASL-Interpreted Performance)
Monday, September 24 at 7:30pm (Pay-What-You-Can)
Thursday, September 27 at 7:30pm
Friday, September 28 at 7:30pm
Saturday, September 29 at 7:30pm
Sunday, September 30 at 2:00pm (Audio Described Performance)
Thursday, October 4 at 7:30pm
Friday, October 5 at 7:30pm
Saturday, October 6 at 7:30pm
Sunday, October 7 at 2:00pm

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