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NEWS RELEASE

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Beck Center presents Regional Premiere by Pulitzer Prize Winning Playwright Annie Baker's touching comedy Body Awareness opens October 7 in Studio Theater

Lakewood, OH—Beck Center for the Arts continues its eclectic 2016-2017 theater season with *Body Awareness* by **Annie Baker**, **October 7 through November 6, 2016** in the Studio Theater. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are now on sale. Buy early and save with promo code **BAKER** to receive \$5 off each adult/senior ticket purchased by October 6. **This production contains strong language and content.**

It's Body Awareness Week on campus and Phyllis, the organizer, and her partner, Joyce, are hosting a guest artist in their home. Their family is quickly divided as Frank, a photographer famous for his female nude portraits, settles in. Phyllis is disgusted by his work, but Joyce is rather intrigued by the whole thing. Meanwhile, Joyce's grown son Jared continues to deny his symptoms related to Asperger's Syndrome. Tensions rise as Jared turns to Frank for advice. *The New York Times* calls this **Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominee** "an engaging new comedy by a young playwright with a probing, understated voice."

Beck Center is pleased to welcome **David Vegh** as he makes his Studio Theater debut directing this smart and generous comedy. He is currently the Assistant Professor in the Department of Theater at Case Western Reserve University. As a member of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA) and SAG-AFTRA, Vegh has appeared onscreen in *Saving Private Ryan*, *Dexter*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and more. "I tend to like plays that walk a very fine line between comedy and drama," remarked Vegh. "If my stomach hurts from laughing so hard and then also be moved to the point of tears, that's my kind of show. That, to me, is life."

Body Awareness features a talented cast of four actors ready to bring Baker's play to life. **Julia Kolibab** and **Anne McEvoy** appear as partners Phyllis and Joyce, along with **Richie Gagen** as Joyce's son, Jared. **Rick Montgomery Jr.** joins the cast as Frank, a guest artist spending Body Awareness Week with the family. Equity actors Kolibab and Montgomery appear courtesy of the AEA, the union of actors and stage managers.

Tickets are \$31 for adults, \$27 for seniors (65 and older), and \$12 for students with a valid I.D. A \$3 service fee per ticket will be applied at time of purchase. Preview Night on Thursday, October 6 is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of four or more. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

This production of *Body Awareness* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. It is generously sponsored the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions on two stages, arts education programming for all ages and abilities, including dance, music, theater, visual arts, and creative arts therapies for individuals with special needs, outreach education, and free gallery exhibitions.

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