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For Immediate Release

Imagination Stage Expands Programs Internationally to South Korea and India

BETHESDA, MD (July 11, 2017) Imagination Stage is thrilled to announce two opportunities to perform abroad. This July, Imagination Stage will travel to South Korea to perform the popular early childhood production, *Inside Out* at the **25th ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival**. The Imagination Stage Dance Theatre has also been invited to participate in the **15th International Delhi Children's Festival** this December. This will be the first time an American performing arts organization has been invited to participate in both festivals.

"We're excited to see and be seen around the world in the 21st Century," said Artistic Director **Janet Stanford**. "Imagination Stage has worked with international playwrights, composers, choreographers, and other guest artists for two decades. As we look to the future, we believe that cultural exchange is increasingly important to our work here at home, as well as to our role as a leading arts organization for children that represent the highest standard of TYA and arts education in our country."

She continued, "Travel not only broadens the mind, it opens us to fresh perspectives. We want our best professional work to be showcased at festivals around the world as a way of allowing people in other countries to see an inspirational and positive side of our national character that is not often portrayed in the news. And, we want our student artists to travel and share their passionate voices overseas while also learning what is in the minds and hearts of their peers from afar. The exchange of ideas and artistry and the new friendships that come with it can truly plant the seed for improved international and inter-cultural understanding. That, I believe, is a tree which we should all like to see grow and blossom."

INSIDE OUT

Imagination Stage will perform ***Inside Out*** at the 25th ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival July 21-22. *Inside Out* follows the story of two siblings who use their imaginations to turn their room into a wonderland of mess instead of getting ready for bed. While playing dress-up, a glove becomes a dancing fish, a shirt becomes a fantastic creature, and a sock dance rocks the closet. The audience even gets to join in on the fun and discover the joy of turning things inside out!

Megan Graves will play the role of Sister, a role that she originated in the 2014 premiere. Her previous Imagination Stage credits include *The BFG*, *The Night Fairy*, and *The Magic Finger*, among others. **Noah Schaefer** will play Brother. Previously he has understudied and performed in various ***My First Imagination Stage*** productions include, *Blue*, *Inside Out*, *Aquarium*, *Wake*

Up, Brother Bear!, and *Boxes, Boxes, Boxes!*

"We are so excited to bring *Inside Out* to Seoul, South Korea for the ASSETIJ International Children's Theatre Festival. We will be one of ten companies that will be highlighted during this festival, and we are pleased to acknowledge that we are the first US theatre company to be invited to perform in its 25-year existence," says Associate Artistic Director **Kathryn Chase Bryer**. "In addition to performing our show in Seoul, we will be traveling to Busan in order to present at a second children's theatre festival before returning to the United States at the end of July. We are thrilled to share this work, which we feel so passionately about, as we believe that theatre is a universal language and we are proud to represent our country as we exchange ideas with others from around the world."

ISTAGE DANCE THEATRE

Senior Faculty for Dance Education **Marcia Howard** is also excited for the Dance Theatre's international opportunity. "I am honored that the **IStage Dance Theatre** ensemble has been invited to participate in the Delhi International Children's Festival in New Delhi, India! This opportunity will be our first international trip to perform, bond with youth from different cultures, and experience India. The IStage Dance Theatre program is open for a few more dancers. Dancers who are accepted into the IStage Dance Theatre program will have the opportunity to travel to India in December 2017."

The IStage Dance Theatre program is an intensive, performance-based ensemble for dancers who demonstrate a strong foundation in dance technique. There are ten spots available for students in grades 7-12. **Audition dates are July 26 and August 10 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** Students interested in auditioning should contact Marcia Howard at mhoward@imaginationstage.org.

ABOUT THE 25TH ASSITEJ KOREA INTERNATIONAL SUMMER FESTIVAL

The **25th ASSITEJ Korea International Summer Festival** will be held from July 19 to 30, 2017. This Summer, 14 plays from 11 different countries are scheduled to be presented in Daehak-ro area and Jongno Children's Theatre. The theme for this year is "Curiosity on the stage!" As part of the annual festival, the 2017 Korea-China-Japan Performing Arts Festival for Children will be hosted by the Korean side from July 29 to 30. Each country will present one performance. In addition, a roundtable meeting will be held for experts from Korea, China, and Japan to discuss and share ideas to contribute to theatre for children and young people.

ABOUT THE 15TH DELHI INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The Delhi International Children's Festival is an annual event is organized by the **Ryan Foundation** and hosted by **Ryan International Schools**. The festival creates a holistic and creative space for children of the world to come and explore the Indian traditions and cultures. Through performances from across the globe, it gives children an opportunity to peek into a new culture. Over 10,000 children from India and other countries will meet to present their ideas, dreams, and hopes for the future.

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ABOUT IMAGINATION STAGE

Founded in 1979, Imagination Stage is a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to inspire creativity through theatre and arts education programs that nurture, challenge, and empower young people of all abilities. It offers year-round professional theatre for young audiences and classes in creative drama/acting, musical theatre, dance, and filmmaking for ages 1-18.

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