



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**theatre KAPOW reads *The American Dream* at the Currier Museum of Art
January 12, 2014**

theatre KAPOW continues its new ARTiculate Playreading Series in partnership with the Currier Museum of Art on January 12 at 2 pm. The second reading is of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee's one-act play *The American Dream*, read in relation to the Currier's exhibition *Signs from the Sixties: Robert Indiana's "Decade"*.

Edward Albee's one-act absurdist comedy turns a jaundiced eye on American values. When Albee wrote the play, the popular culture ideal of the American family was rooted firmly somewhere between "Father Knows Best" and "The Donna Reed Show." Albee himself described the play as, "an examination of the American Scene, an attack on the substitution of artificial for real values in our society, a condemnation of complacency, cruelty, emasculation, and vacuity; it is a stand against the fiction that everything in this slipping land of ours is peachy-keen."

One most significant print projects of pop-artist Robert Indiana (best known for the ubiquitous LOVE design), the Decade portfolio (1971), is on view at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH in the exhibition, *Signs from the Sixties: Robert Indiana's "Decade"* through April 30, 2014. "Indiana originally made the images in this show during the 1960s, yet his powerful visual statements about American identity resonate today," said Nina Gara Bozicnik, assistant curator at the Currier. "Both celebratory and critical, Indiana's enticing works reflect on his own life and the social dynamics of the decade. They invite us to ponder both the enduring promise and shortcomings of the American story." The first print in the portfolio is of a painting which Indiana titled "*The American Dream*," after seeing the first production of Albee's play in 1961.

The ARTiculate Playreading Series gives audiences the opportunity to hear new or rarely produced plays that relate to special exhibitions at the Currier or objects or artists in the museum's permanent collection. Following each reading, there will be a discussion and then audience members will have the opportunity to visit the galleries to view related artwork.

The reading of *The American Dream* will feature tKAPOW regulars Gail Angellis and Peter Josephson as Mommy and Daddy. Donna Goldfarb, who last appeared with tKAPOW in *'night, Mother* reads Grandma. Glenn Provost, last seen in *Buried Child*, reads the Young Man, and newcomer Deb Shaw completes the ensemble as Mrs. Barker.

The ARTiculate Playreading Series is supported by The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation and the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

Admission to the readings and participation in the discussions is free with museum admission (\$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$9 for students). **Passes for free admission to the museum** may be checked out from more than 90 public libraries across the state. Students, faculty and staff from seven area colleges also receive free admission to the museum.

About Edward Albee

Edward Albee received three Pulitzer Prizes for *A Delicate Balance* (1967), *Seascape*(1975) and *Three Tall Women* (1994). He received a Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2005, as well as Tony Awards for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1963) and *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* (2002). He is a member of the Dramatists Guild Council and president of the Edward F. Albee Foundation. Mr. Albee was awarded the Gold Medal in Drama from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1980, and in 1996 he received both the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts. In 2011, The MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH awarded Mr. Albee the Edward MacDowell Medal for lifetime contributions to his field.

About theatre KAPOW

theatre KAPOW (www.tkapow.com) develops ensemble productions of great dramatic literature to explore the human experience and inspire and challenge both artist and audience. tKAPOW places emphasis on the importance of rigorous formal training to develop an ensemble of skilled and dedicated theatre artists.

Now in its sixth season, tKAPOW has established a reputation for presenting important dramatic literature including productions by August Strindberg, Henrik Ibsen, Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Sarah Ruhl, and Tony Kushner. tKAPOW also supports the development of new work through an annual 24 Hour Play Festival and an original performance piece in the spring. The editors of New Hampshire Magazine named theatre KAPOW the Best Contemporary Theatre in New Hampshire for 2013.

theatre KAPOW is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

Visit www.tkapow.com to learn more.

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94. Wayne Asbury and Carey Cahoon in theatre KAPOW's ARTiculate Playreading Series at the Currier Museum of Art. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

120. Wayne Asbury and Carey Cahoon in theatre KAPOW's ARTiculate Playreading Series at the Currier Museum of Art. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

145. Wayne Asbury, Carey Cahoon, Peter Josephson, and Gina Carballo in theatre KAPOW's ARTiculate Playreading Series at the Currier Museum of Art. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.