

## Adrienne Arsht Center FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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## Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County dedicates its Carnival Studio Theater stage to Susan Westfall, Literary Director and Co-Founder of City Theatre

*New Susan Westfall Playwrights Stage honors Westfall's lifelong passion for arts and the community and her leadership throughout City Theatre's 19-year history*

**Dedication Ceremony, June 14 at 7:00 p.m.  
Opening Night of City Theatre's Summer Shorts 2014  
Carnival Studio Theater (Ziff Ballet Opera House)**

**MIAMI, FL** June 2, 2014 – The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is proud to announce that its Carnival Studio Theater stage has just been named the Susan Westfall Playwrights Stage in honor of City Theatre's Literary Director and Co-Founder. With this naming, the Arsht Center salutes Susan Westfall's contributions to South Florida theater and recognizes the generous contributions of Susan and husband **Alan Fein, Chair-Elect of the Performing Arts Center Trust Board and Stearns Weaver Miller Shareholder and Board Member.**

"The Arsht Center's Carnival Studio Theater is known as a hub for new and transformative theater productions from South Florida's incredible artist community - thanks in large part to the work produced and presented by our partners at City Theatre," said John Richard, President and CEO of the Arsht Center.

Susan Westfall co-founded City Theatre in 1996 and is currently the organization's Literary Director. City Theatre has been an Artistic Partner of the Center since 2006 and has been presenting its' annual short-play festival, Summer Shorts, for the past eight years in the Carnival Studio Theater.

"The Susan Westfall Playwrights Stage is dedicated to Susi's commitment to playwrights and playwriting. Over the past 30 years, Susi has worked vigorously to develop her craft – dozens of her plays have been produced and workshopped at the Arsht Center, throughout South Florida and across the country. I am so proud of her work and proud that so much of it has happened at Miami's cultural magnet - the Arsht

Center,” said Alan Fein. “All of these achievements have been made possible with the support of the Arsht Center, **Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A.**, who has had a long-standing commitment to City Theatre since its inception, as well as Carnival Corporation, The Miami Heat and the Key Biscayne Foundation.”

In addition to nurturing dozens of aspiring South Florida playwrights, Westfall developed Summer Shorts over the past 19 years into the nation’s leading festival of short plays. In the last three years she has also developed CityWrights – a nationally-recognized conference for playwrights held in Miami. As City Theatre’s Literary Director, Westfall supervises City Theatre’s outreach to playwrights, agents and publishers; coordinates the City Theatre National Award for Short Playwriting which recognizes and awards excellence in writing for the short play genre through annual submissions of 900+ plays; contributes to the play selections for company readings, programs and productions; and programs CityWrights: Professional Week for Playwrights. Her plays have been produced in South Florida theaters including City Theatre, Arsht Center, Actors’ Playhouse, New Theatre, Teatro Avante and the Coconut Grove Playhouse.

Approaching its 20th anniversary in 2015, under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director John Manzelli, City Theatre has evolved into a leading regional professional theater with a growing national reputation for its unique and innovative programming. As one of only a few theaters in the nation, and the only theater in Florida primarily invested in the solicitation, development and production of the short play genre, City Theatre has received 15,000+ submissions (with 927 submitted for 2014) of ten-minute scripts written by award-winning and emerging playwrights from South Florida and the nation. It has produced and presented more than 400 plays in an array of programming that includes: the annual Summer Shorts Festivals; the annual Shorts Gone Wild productions; Shorts 4 Kids year round in-school, community center and summer camp tours; the city-wide “City Reads for CityWrights” free public readings; the readings of plays by students, Master Playwrights and City Theatre National Award for Short Playwriting Contest finalists at CityWrights. Thousands of audiences have enjoyed Summer Shorts at the Ring Theatre on the University of Miami campus from 1996-2006 and then at the Carnival Studio Theater at the Arsht Center beginning in 2007.

*The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from individuals, corporations and local, state and national foundations.*

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