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MANAGING DIRECTOR MEGHAN PRESSMAN TO DEPART WOOLLY

(Washington, DC) **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** announces that at the end of its 2018-19 season this June, Meghan Pressman will step down as Managing Director following a five-year tenure. She will relocate to Los Angeles to take on the role of Managing Director at Center Theatre Group.

During the past five seasons, Woolly has produced and presented some of the highest-grossing shows of its nearly 40-year history (including *An Octoroon*, *Familiar*, *She the People*), raised over \$5M in special funding and grants, and built upon its national reputation as an innovation leader for the field, successfully transitioning from Co-Founding Artistic Director Howard Shalwitz to new Artistic Director María Manuela Goyanes.

Woolly Artistic Director María Manuela Goyanes expressed excitement for Meghan as well as gratitude for Pressman's work at the theater: "Few people may know this, but Meghan and I actually met almost 20 years ago as acting apprentices at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, which at the time was helmed by Michael Ritchie. It is sensational and full circle for our professional relationship that Meghan is now going to work with Michael at Center Theatre Group. I will be forever grateful to Meghan for her exceptional skill and grace in creating a smooth transition to my artistic leadership at Woolly. She has been a tremendous partner to me, and she leaves Woolly on solid footing to dream about our next 40 years. I know that everyone at Woolly joins me in wishing Meghan the very best for her next chapter."

Says President of Woolly Mammoth's Board of Directors Linette S. Hwu: "Woolly would not be the theater it is today without Meghan Pressman. From her first months on the job, she brought a level of rigor to the financial and business operations of Woolly that enabled us to keep pushing forward artistically and programmatically in the way that DC's theatergoers, and the national theater field, have come to expect of us. More recently, she was an instrumental part of our search for Howard's successor, and the fact that Woolly thrived during a period of such transition is a testament to Meghan's extraordinary effectiveness in her role. At a more personal level, I have so valued Meghan's partnership and friendship, and the only word to describe working with two amazing women leaders these last seven months is joy. On behalf of our board, I thank Meghan and wish her all good things in LA."

Says Pressman of her impending move: "I am saddened to leave Woolly during this electrifying moment of transition, but I am confident in the Woolly team to continue onward with María's thrilling new artistic vision in her inaugural season. Looking ahead, I'm excited about this amazing opportunity for me to build on Center Theatre Group's legacy of artistic ambition and excellence."

The search for Woolly's new Managing Director will be led by Greg Kandel and Management Consultants for the Arts.

ABOUT WOOLLY MAMMOTH

Woolly Mammoth is “the hottest theater company in town” (*Washington Post*); priding itself on developing, producing, and making theatre that isn’t off an assembly line. Led by Artistic Director María Manuela Goyanes and supported by a core company of artists, Woolly holds itself to a high standard of artistic excellence. Woolly is relentless in its desire to take risks, experiment, innovate, interrogate, and create a radically inclusive community.

ABOUT CENTER THEATRE GROUP

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under Artistic Director Michael Ritchie, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1600 to 2000-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics and circumstance to serve Los Angeles.