

Russ Widdall to Portray Robert F. Kennedy in Philadelphia Premiere Play this Fall

Film and television actor Russ Widdall will portray Senator Robert F. Kennedy October 18 through November 4 in the Philadelphia premiere of "RFK" at New City Stage Company's new administrative office on Avenue of the Arts.

Philadelphia, PA ([PRWEB](#)) June 29, 2012 -- New City Stage Company is thrilled to present the Philadelphia premiere of "[RFK](#)" by Jack Holmes this fall, October 18 - November 4, 2012 on Avenue of the Arts. Just in time for election season! This play is a historically accurate solo performance which biographies the last 4 years of politician Robert F. Kennedy's life, from 1964 to 1968, and features music, film and footage from the era. The show is being directed by producing artistic director Ginger Dayle, who is also making her directing debut. This is the first show of New City's 2012-13 season. Ticket information is available at www.NewCityStage.org and by calling 215-563-7500.

The show begins in 1964 when President Johnson decided not to ask Senator Kennedy to be his running mate up until RFK's untimely assassination during the 1968 presidential election. It also includes background information on his personal life as well as his relationships with brother President John F. Kennedy, sister-in-law Jacqueline Kennedy and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Russ Widdall had been performing professionally in Philadelphia and nationally for over 20 years and has been Co-Artistic Director at New City Stage Company for 3 years. He has performed in television, film and theatre, featuring several productions at the Walnut Street Theatre and the regular role of Ron Lowenthal on HBO's "The Wire." "RFK" will be his third one-man show. He performed Sam Shepard's poetry monologues "Savage/Love" and "Tongues" for New City Stage during the 2011 Philadelphia Fringe and Live Arts Festival and it was revived for 5 performances in the spring of this year. The show has also been invited to participate in the 2013 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Mr. Widdall's ability as a solo performer has contributed greatly to its success. He also has recent experience working in an educational context and mentoring college students, having been hired several times by the University of the Arts to participate in productions and staged readings.

The show will be performed for 3 weeks from October 18 until November 4, 2012 with possibility of an extension. The show will be performed at New City Stage's new rehearsal and office space on Avenue of the Arts. The performance space is site specific and the seating will be extremely limited. The production will also feature dramaturgy on Kennedy's life, including television and radio footage of his political career.

Individual tickets go on sale on August 15. Subscriptions for New City's 2012-12 season go on sale August 1. Tickets can be purchased by [visiting our web site](#).

Student groups, particularly university and high school students studying political science, are given priority when purchasing tickets. Reservations can be made now by contacting the Educational Artistic Associate Kevin Rodden at (215) 563-7500 ext. 5 or via email at [Kevin\(dot\)Rodden\(at\)NewCityStage\(dot\)org](mailto:Kevin(dot)Rodden(at)NewCityStage(dot)org).

Teachers and professors bringing student groups of 8 or more will receive the discounted student rate for tickets, as well as 1 complimentary chaperone ticket per 10 student tickets purchased. New City has a study guide that will be available as of September 1st that all ticket holders are entitled to. Please inquire in advance to have copies printed or emailed to your group.



New City Stage's overall objective for this project is to create a dialogue about politics amongst college students who are voting for the first time. As Educational Artistic Associate Kevin Rodden has noted, there are many parallels between the Obama administration and the Kennedy era. "RFK's impassioned pleas for social justice speak to a rare breed of political animal: a man willing to break with his party on conviction; a man for whom great intelligence is a cross to bear, and a gift to share; a man who shared a dream with the Man who had a Dream."

This educational theatre production is being generously funded by the [Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Project Stream](#), [the Samuel S. Fels Fund](#), [Bank of America](#), and the [Wyncote Foundation](#)



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