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GHOST LIGHT
PERSONAL PORTRAITS OF BAY AREA ACTORS
EXHIBITION AT Z SPACE THEATRE
FEBRUARY 16 – MARCH 21, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO (17 January 2018) --- One of the Bay Area’s longest-tenured, most in-demand theatrical photographers, David Allen, offers a peek behind the scenes with “Ghost Light,” an exhibition featuring witty, outrageous, revealing, and tender looks at more than 20 of the region’s leading actors. “Ghost Light” will be on display from February 16 through March 21, 2018, at the Z Space Theatre Lobby Gallery, 450 Florida Street, San Francisco. Admission is free. Information is available at: Zspace.org

The local actors featured in this exhibit include some of the Bay Area’s most familiar faces, such as Charles Dean, Maureen McVerry, Dan Hiatt, Amy Resnick, Michael Gene Sullivan & Velina Brown, Alison Sacha Ross, the late Joan Mankin, L. Peter Callender, Joe Bellan, the late Barbara Oliver, Aldo Billingslea, James Carpenter, Julian Lopez-Morillas, Stacy Ross, Carrie Paff, Russell Blackwood, Madeline H. D. Brown, Nora el Samahy, Joy Carlin, Nancy Carlin & Howard Swain, Josh Kornbluth, and Charlie Varon.

“I have the luckiest job in the theatre world,” says Allen. “When I walk into the theatre for a production photo shoot all the creativeness is waiting to be documented. The split second timing in capturing the moment that illustrates the passion, the drama, the laughter, the energy, the lighting, the wardrobe, the set design and the direction are all set in place.” This exhibit, which takes its name from the single light always left on a stage when the theatre is unoccupied (universally known as the “Ghost Light”), was born from Allen’s passion in recording theatrical moments for the last twenty-five years throughout the Bay Area. “It’s my humble attempt to illustrate a few players in a different light,” says Allen.

MEDIA CONTACT: CARLA BEFERA & CO.
3600 WEST BAYSHORE ROAD, SUITE 203/ PALO ALTO, CA 94303
PHONE : 650.327.1200 FAX : 650.327.6700 EMAIL: INFO@CB-PR.COM

The concept of the project came from Irvin Penn's forced perspective studio style. In Allen's series, each actor is illuminated by a single light, and is isolated by a wedge-shaped background upon which he or she has a small stage to portray themselves, each in a different light as it were. The "Ghost Light" portraits, which were conceived collaborative with the actors in a "give and take style," are an expression of Allen's enduring love for the theatre, the people who bring it to life, and the gifts theatre companies bring to the community with their artistic and often thought-provoking productions. Adds Allen, "I love the lore around the light, as well, and how keeping that light on is believed to ward off bad spirits and other lurkers, so the name of the collection has many meanings for me."

David Allen was born in Berkeley, CA, and currently resides in Menlo Park. He began work as a photographer in the 1980s, on the staff of the *Contra Costa Sun* where he was a general news photographer. He opened David Allen Studios in 1991, quickly establishing himself as one of the area's busiest theatre photographers, capturing actor headshots, publicity photos and production shots for nearly every Bay Area theatre company, as well as many dance companies, symphonies, orchestras and other performing arts. Among the regional arts organizations for which he has taken photos: A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, Contra Costa Music Theatre, the Magic Theatre, TheatreWorks, San Jose Rep, California Shakespeare Festival, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, San Francisco Mime Troupe, Smuin Ballet, American Musical Theatre of San Jose, Marin Shakespeare Festival, Marin Theatre Company, Pocket Opera, Aurora Theatre, Lamplighters Musical Theatre, AlterTheatre, Noir City Film Festival, Ragazzi Boys Chorus, Thrillpeddlers, SF Playhouse, SHN, Beach Blanket Babylon, 42nd St. Moon, KQED, SF Ballet, BRAVA! For Women in the Arts. His photos have appeared thousands of times in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Mercury News*, *East Bay Times*, *Contra Costa Times*, *SF Weekly*, and every other Bay Area newspaper and magazine, as well as *The New York Times*, *American Theatre Magazine*, and other national and regional publications.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: One of the Bay Area's longest-tenured, most in-demand theatrical photographers, David Allen, offers a peek behind the scenes with "Ghost Light," an exhibition featuring witty, outrageous, revealing, and tender looks at more than 20 of the region's leading actors.

WHEN: February 16 – March 21, 2018

HOURS: Photos may be viewed prior to Z Space productions (see schedule here: www.zspace.org) or between 10am and 6pm by appointment.

WHERE: **Z Space Theatre Lobby Gallery**
450 Florida St, San Francisco, CA 94110

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: For information visit: Zspace.org

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PRESS: Carla Befera & Co. | 650.327.1200 | info@cb-pr.com

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos available here:
www.cb-pr.com/press/ghostlight.html