



## **ACCLAIMED ACTOR DAVID PAYNE STARS IN “AN EVENING WITH C.S. LEWIS” FEB. 21-23 AT TEMPLE OF MUSIC & ART; TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

TUCSON, Ariz. (Nov. 4, 2019): – Emery Entertainment, Inc., in partnership with Arizona Theatre Company (*Sean Daniels, Artistic Director; Billy Russo, Managing Director*) presents **An Evening with CS Lewis** at the Temple of Music & Art, Feb. 21-23. Tickets are \$50 and on sale now.

Tickets for general seating are \$60 and are available at the Temple of Music & Art box office or by calling (520) 622-2823.

The year is 1962 and C.S. Lewis, the famous British author, is hosting a group of American writers at his home near Oxford. They are about to experience a captivating evening with a man whose engaging conversation and spontaneous humor made him one of the great raconteurs of his day. Seated in his living room, he recalls the people and events that inspired his thoughts and shaped his life; of his friendship with J.R.R. Tolkien, why he nearly abandoned the Narnia Chronicles, how he came to embrace Christianity and of the American woman who turned his life upside down.

David Payne’s **An Evening with CS Lewis** has proved to be an enthralling theatrical experience, one which has led many thousands to discover, or rediscover, the continuing impact of a man who died over 50 years ago and whose collected works made him one of the literary giants of the 20th Century.

London born actor/playwright David Payne’s first encounter with C.S. Lewis was when, as a teenager, he was given a copy of Lewis’ best-selling book *Screwtape Letters*. Little did he realize that some 40 years later he would be gaining a reputation for his portrayals of its famous author.

He has played Lewis in a number of productions of *Shadowlands*, in his self-penned *Weep for Joy*, in more than

500 presentations of *An Evening with C.S. Lewis (My Life's Journey)* and *St. Jack & The Dragon* a touching yet sometimes hilarious account about the relationship between Lewis and his adopted mother, Janie Moore. Payne's latest self-penned Lewis based show is *Wardrobes & Rings*, which focuses on the very last meeting between Lewis and his great friend, J.R.R. Tolkien.

To learn more about David Payne, visit [www.aneveningwithcslewis.com](http://www.aneveningwithcslewis.com). For more information about Arizona Theatre Company, visit [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org).

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Friday, Feb. 21 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 22 at 4 and 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m.

### **Contact:**

Steve Carr, The Kur Carr Group, Inc., (602) 317-3040

About Arizona Theatre Company: Under new leadership, and now celebrating its 53rd-season, Arizona Theatre Company is truly "The State Theatre." Our company boasts the largest subscriber base of any performing arts organization in Arizona, with more than 130,000 people each year attending performances at the historic Temple of Music and Art in Tucson, and the elegant Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix.

Each season of high quality productions reflects the rich variety of world theatre – from classic to contemporary plays, from musicals to new works – audiences enjoy the rich emotional experience and joy that can only be captured through live theatre. ATC is the preeminent professional theatre in the state of Arizona. Under the direction of Artistic Director Sean Daniels and Managing Director Billy Russo, ATC operates in two cities – unlike any other League of Resident Theaters (LORT) company in the country.

ATC shares the passion of the theatre through a wide array of outreach programs, educational opportunities, access initiatives, and community events. With more than 700 Education & Engagement activities through the schools and summer programs, ATC focuses on teaching Arizona's youth about the creative power of dramatic literature and **how it can enrich their own lives in multiple ways.**

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