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**Investigative Theatre Shakes Things Up as the Annenberg Center Presents
The Civilians: *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards***

Named Best of 2010 by the *New York Times*, *Time Out New York* and *The New Yorker*,
Now Making its Philadelphia Premiere, **January 18-28, 2012**

(Philadelphia, January 4, 2012) —The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts' long-lauded tradition of bringing world-renowned theatre companies to Philadelphia audiences takes a new spin this winter, with the Philadelphia premiere of the docu-musical, *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards* by The Civilians. In an 11-day performance run from **January 18-28, 2012**, this piece of investigative theatre heralded by the *The New York Times* as "fresh, inventive and entertaining," is sure to engage and impassion audience members with its relevant and current tale of a development mega-project with a chain-like and oft inadvertent effect on a neighborhood.

****Please note date changes:** Performances of *In the Footprint* will take place at the Harold Prince Theater on Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 PM; Thursday, January 19 at 7 PM; Friday, January 20 at 7:30 PM; Saturday, January 21 at 7:30 PM; Sunday, January 22 at 2 PM; Tuesday, January 24 at 7 PM; Wednesday, January 25 at 7:30 PM; Saturday, January 28 at 2 PM and 7:30 PM. Tickets start at \$20. For tickets or for more information, please visit AnnenbergCenter.org or call 215.898.3900. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office.

Written and directed by Steven Cosson with music and lyrics by Michael Friedman, *In the Footprint* chronicles the largest development project in Brooklyn's history, from the politically-charged debates between developers and residents through to the present-day happenings. Featuring adapted, real-life accounts from major players in the battle, the docu-drama musical addresses issues of race, class, gender, urban planning, community and economics, all with a cutting-edge and tongue-in-cheek disposition. In a flourish of dialogue and music, *In the Footprint* is what *New York Magazine* calls, "social theater at its best."

The Civilians is the center for investigative theatre, supporting the development and production of new theatre from creative inquiries into the most vital questions of the present. The Civilians expands the scope of American theatre and champions innovation by tackling complex and under-explored subjects, enabling artists to enrich their processes through in-depth interaction with their topics, diversifying artistic voices and audiences and integrating theatre with new media. Development often involves community residencies, travel, face-to-face conversations and extensive research. This high degree of engagement with the public continues into production, inviting the audience to be active participants through ongoing channels of dialogue. The company provides a home for a multidisciplinary group of artists and partners with regional theatre and arts presenters in New York, nationally and internationally.

Since its founding in 2001, The Civilians has supported the creation of eleven original shows—*Canard, Canard, Goose?*, *The Ladies*, *Paris Commune*, *Gone Missing*, *Way to Go!*, *(I am) Nobody's Lunch*, *Shadow of Himself*, *This Beautiful City*, *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards*, *Maple and Vine* and *Tales from My Parents' Divorce*. The Civilians' projects have been produced at numerous theatres in New York including The Public Theater and Vineyard Theatre; nationally at Center Theatre Group, A.R.T., La Jolla Playhouse, HBO's US Comedy Festival, Studio Theatre and Actors Theatre of Louisville among others. Works by the company have toured extensively to arts presenters and festivals with presentations in over 40 cities nationally and internationally. The Civilians made its UK debut with *Gone Missing* in 2004 at the Gate Theatre, and *(I Am) Nobody's Lunch* was a Fringe First Award winner at the 2006 Edinburgh Fringe leading to a London production at Soho Theatre.

In addition to the performances of *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards*, the Annenberg Center invites audience members to participate in a super-sized collection of its signature INSIGHTS events before and after the show. The Annenberg Center and Penn Design are presenting an array of informative and engaging events surrounding *In the Footprint* that are FREE for all ticket holders. Discuss the polarizing themes from the work, especially as they relate to current-day Philadelphia, ask questions and engage with experts on the subject—including most notably, former **Mayor John Street** the developer behind the Northern Liberties boom, **Bart Blatstein**, the play's composer/lyricist and **Chestnut Hill native, Michael**

Friedman and **New York City Councilwoman Tish James**, who is depicted in the play. A full schedule is available at AnnenbergCenter.org/INSIGHTS.

In addition to pre- and post-performance events surrounding the performances, ticket holders are invited to attend two community forums bookending the play:

Megaprojects: Can we balance individual and social goods?

January 17 at 7 PM (University of Penn's Meyerson Hall, Lower Gallery): Panel discussion on the history and long-controversial politics of major urban projects. Moderated by John Landis, Crossways Professor of City and Regional Planning, and featuring Marilyn Taylor, Dean, School of Design; Eugenie Birch, Prof., Urban Research & Education; Laura Wolf-Powers, Asst. Prof., City & Regional Planning; Susan Wachter, Prof., Real Estate & Finance; Paulette Adams, People's Emergency Center CDC; and Jim Burnett, Executive Director of the West Philadelphia Financial Services Institution.

January 31 at 7 PM (Annenberg Center, Room #511): Public forum and discussion featuring community members, stakeholders and developers with ties right here in Philadelphia, moderated by journalist **Heshimu Jaramoji** and organized by **Harris Steinberg**, Executive Director, Penn Praxis and **Harris Sokoloff**, Director, Penn Project for Civic Engagement, both central figures in the Delaware Riverfront Planning Process. Notable panelists include former **Mayor John Street**, **Bart Blatstein**, the developer behind the Northern Liberties boom, **Alan Greenberger**, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, City of Philadelphia and **Chris Satullo**, WHYY.

INSIGHTS—Performance Enhancement Events

The Annenberg Center offers a range of exciting and informative pre- and post-performance events that are free for all ticket holders. Featuring discussions led by Penn faculty members, area experts and guest artists, these events are designed to illuminate the work on stage. For more information, visit AnnenbergCenter.org/INSIGHTS.

40th Anniversary Season

For the past 40 years, the Annenberg Center has dedicated itself to the advancement of a diverse and thriving cultural community through the pursuit of excellence, innovation and intellectual engagement in the realms of music, theatre and dance. To celebrate the momentous occasion, the Annenberg Center has put together one of the most expansive seasons ever—a nod towards the colorful history of presenting the best of the best from all corners of the globe. With highly acclaimed artists from six continents, audiences can take a journey around the world without leaving their seat. From Zakir Hussain of India and Chunky Move of Australia to the Gate Theatre of Ireland to the Spirit of Uganda from Africa, audience members will see the world in a whole new way.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experience.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding, 29-year Dance Celebration series—presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates—touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 28-year Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States.

Through a generous grant from The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Annenberg Center showcases outstanding local artists each year through its exciting and diverse By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close, Jessica Tandy in Beckett's *Not I*, and Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Irene Worth and Christopher Walken. University of Pennsylvania alumnus and noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince staged many of his plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway.

Generous support for the 11/12 Annenberg Center season is provided by The National Endowment for the Arts, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Philadelphia Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies and The University of Pennsylvania. The Sheraton Philadelphia is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

For additional press information or to set up interviews, please contact:

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