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Winner Selected for Herb Lockwood Prize, Largest Statewide Prize in the Arts

Burlington, VT: (June 17, 2014) Burlington City Arts is pleased to announce the first recipient of the Herb Lockwood Prize - the largest prize of its kind in Vermont. Actor and director **Steve Small** of the Addison Repertory Theater Company in Middlebury, VT received the \$10,000 prize during a press conference on Tuesday afternoon at The BCA Center. The **Herb Lockwood Prize** aims to reward the pinnacle of arts leadership in Vermont by shining a light on the state's most inspiring artists. The Prize recognizes artists who produce significant work in the areas of visual arts, music, writing, drama, dance, film, and fine woodworking—while also having a beneficent influence on the community.

Steve was present at the press conference as well as Herb's brother Todd Lockwood, BCA Executive Director, Doreen Kraft, and Stephen P. Kiernan, Vermont author and childhood friend of Herb.

"Todd Lockwood started the phone call with "Are you sitting down?" Since that moment my mind has been spinning with how, why, who? I listened as he told me of his brother's life and love for and contributions to the arts. For Herb to have inspired his brother to establish this prize is an amazing thing. I'm thinking about family, mentors, friends, all the students I have had the honor of working with and the person who inspired me and pushed me the most, my long time teaching partner, Candace Burkle. I am so honored and grateful to be

the first recipient of the Herb Lockwood Prize,” Steve said in a statement about receiving the prize.

Steve Small is an actor and director of the Addison Repertory Theater Company in Middlebury, VT. He is one of the most skilled actors in the state of Vermont. His voice, attention to detail, emotional courage and willingness to go wherever the demands of a character lead, make him spellbinding on stage.

In the past three years Steve has played Bobby Gould in *Speed the Plow*, Roy in *Lone Star*, Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*, and Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. What remains common, in each role, are craft, energy, and a complete commitment to the personality he is creating on stage. These are familiar and iconic roles, as difficult to interpret with originality as anyone playing the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* or McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest*. Yet Steve's performances are fresh and unique.

What remains common, in each role, is craft, energy, and a complete commitment to the personality he is creating on stage. As a veteran actor, he is hilarious and shows deft comic timing. As the addled Lennie, who accidentally kills a woman he only wanted to touch for a second, he uses silence to powerful effect -- and is heartbreaking.

But Steve's greatest contribution is what he has done for kids. Addison Repertory Theater serves several purposes. First, it works with kids from local high schools to teach them about the theater. Kids write plays. They act. They dance. They learn technical skills, from set design to lighting to stage management to box office control. Some of these kids are already interested, and have been looking for a way to express their interest in theater that goes way beyond the typical school play. ART gives them important tasks that require competence, with other people depending on them, and with an audience that must be served. To a typical insecure adolescent, a standing ovation is much more than applause. It is a life-changing validation.

More about The Herb Lockwood Prize

Modeled on preeminent national awards in various disciplines, there is no application process, and artists will not know they are being considered for the Prize. The award selection committee will remain anonymous. Nominations are provided by a network of arts advisors, located throughout Vermont.

The Prize includes a minimum of \$5,000 from Herb Lockwood's family, plus additional funds donated by the public each year, making it the most generous annual arts award in the state of Vermont. \$10,000 has been raised for the 2014 Prize. BCA is honored to administer this prize created through the generosity of private donors.

Herb Lockwood was an inspirational figure in the Burlington arts and music scene in the 1980's. His impact on the region's arts and artists has proved to be enduring and profound. The breadth of art forms he practiced, and his influence on other artists in all manner of disciplines, created a legacy that remains inspirational decades later. The Herb Lockwood Prize seeks to recognize a person of comparable creativity and influence.

The purpose of the Prize is to validate the work of the recipient, to energize that artist's future, to encourage other artists to work ambitiously and to honor Herb Lockwood's memory by continuing his inspirational influence.

For more information, please visit www.HerbLockwoodPrize.org

About Herb Lockwood

A native of the Adirondacks, Herb Lockwood moved to Vermont in 1982. He gained recognition in a breathtaking variety of art forms: cartooning, painting, writing, woodworking, sculpture, storytelling and tai chi.

Above all, Herb Lockwood was a masterful musician. Formally trained on classical guitar, his musical inclinations knew no bounds—whether adapting ancient Irish jigs to a baritone bouzouki, creating a new vocal twist on an old standard, or ripping out riffs on a jazz

guitar. The trademark of his work in all cases was discipline, a fastidious attention to craft of the highest standards.

Those standards proved to be magnetic. His Burlington home became a gathering place for artists of all kinds. Young people came to him for instruction; older people declared that he had started them singing again after years of silence.

It must be said, however, that Herb Lockwood was also full of the unexpected. He was a connoisseur of the inside joke and loved whimsy. He specialized in finding comedy in darkness and in the mundane. But behind his humor and modesty lay immense talent and even greater compassion. Herb was a loving man, and his art was but one form of his love. Herb Lockwood died in a Burlington workplace accident in 1987 at age 27.

The Herb Lockwood Prize is an important part of Burlington City Arts, celebrating over 30 years of supporting the arts, which is dedicated to the promotion of excellence, experimentation, and education in all forms of contemporary art. For more information about gallery exhibitions, special events, classes and workshops, please call 802.865.7166 or visit BURLINGTONCITYARTS.ORG.

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