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For Immediate Release

Pre-Production Photos: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wp5iazwztfbzd9q/AAAxMvoE0KpJqUtS8_rhzG1a?dl=0

UNEXPECTED STAGE COMPANY
Presents Samuel D. Hunter's
The Few
JULY 11-AUGUST 4
RIVER ROAD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION BUILDING

Montgomery County-based Unexpected Stage Company celebrates its 10th season

BETHESDA, MD (May 23, 2019) This summer marks the 10th season for **Unexpected Stage Company**, which will present ***The Few***, a drama about the search for connection by MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Grant recipient **Samuel D. Hunter** (*A Bright New Boise*). The production will run July 11 to August 4 in the Fireside Room, an intimate 38-seat venue at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation Building, located at 6301 River Road in Bethesda.

General admission tickets, priced \$10 to \$29.50, are on sale via phone at 800-838-3006, online at www.unexpectedstage.org, and at the door subject to availability. A special Pay-What-You-Wish preview performance is scheduled for Thursday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m.; reservations are recommended. For information, please call 301-337-8290 or visit www.unexpectedstage.org.

It's 1999; uncertainty and instability are in the air. Four years earlier, Bryan abandoned his labor of love, a newspaper for truckers that he founded with his friends. Now he's returned to small-town Idaho with no word of where he's been, and everything has changed. One friend is gone, the other – his former lover – has traded idealism for realism, and their new-ish co-worker is emotionally invested in a paper now filled with personal ads instead of perspectives. Hunter's play is a "compassionate, gently-hued drama about lonely lives" (*The New York Times*) desperately searching for a renewed faith in humanity.

“Wow – our 10th season! My wife Rachel and I planned to have three children, but in reality we have four,” shares Unexpected Stage Company Co-founder Chris Goodrich, who also directs ***The Few***. “We have nurtured this company, pampered it, soothed it, diapered it, and watched it grow, with the help of so many along the way. We hope to be kick-ass parents at this point as we

watch this child mature every day. This summer we dive into a new world for us – one with the compelling tropes of connection, disconnection, loneliness, and intimate humanity – but this time through the lens of the trucking community. Buckle up!”

The cast of *The Few* features **Baakari Wilder** (Broadway’s *Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk*; Unexpected Stage Company’s *Trifles*) as Bryan, **Dawn Thomas Reidy** (Unexpected Stage Company’s *Romeo and Juliet: Love Knows No Bounds*) as QZ, and **Andrew Flurer** (Pallas Theatre Collective’s *Assassins*) as Matthew. Voiceover actors currently include award-winning D.C.-area playwright **Audrey Cefaly**, **Ira Joe Fisher** (former weather reporter for the CBS Saturday Early Show), **Michael Grenham** (executive manager and conservatory director at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting), and **Zach Brewster-Geisz** (Unexpected Stage Company’s *Oblivion*).

Playwright **Samuel D. Hunter** is best known for captivating dramas set in his home state of Idaho, exploring themes of empathy and social isolation. A 2014 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Grant, Hunter’s work includes *A Bright New Boise*, *The Whale*, *The Healing*, and *A Great Wilderness*.

In addition to Goodrich, the creative team includes **Alison Mark** (set design), **Andrew Dodge** (lighting design), and **Matthew Mills** (sound design).

The Few

By Samuel D. Hunter

July 11-August 4

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation Building – Fireside Room

6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD

Show Schedule:

- Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Sundays at 2 p.m.

General Admission Tickets: \$10 - \$29.50

Pay-What-You-Wish preview performance: Thursday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Discounts available for students, seniors, military, and groups.

ABOUT UNEXPECTED STAGE COMPANY

Celebrating its tenth season in 2019, **Unexpected Stage Company** is a professional regional theater company founded by Christopher Goodrich and Rachel Stroud-Goodrich. The company dedicates itself to honoring the intricacies and intimacies of the complete human experience and, to that end, seeks to unite people, place, and storytelling in order to explore interconnection. Past productions include Helen Hayes Award Recommended productions of *Be a Good Little Widow*, *Oblivion*, *Candy and Dorothy*, and *The Lady in the Van*. Other audience or critical favorites include Alex and Olmsted’s *Milo the Magnificent*, Deb Margolin’s *8 STOPS*, and Kooman and Dimond’s *Dani Girl* (three Helen Hayes Award nominations). Visit www.unexpectedstage.org and www.facebook.com/unexpectedstage.

This project is supported in part by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

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Unexpected Stage gratefully acknowledges The Center for Organizational Excellence for its generous support.

***The Few** is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.*

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