

CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program Graduate Elizabeth A. Davis Nominated for Tony® Award

CLEVELAND, OH (May 1, 2012) – Elizabeth A. Davis, a 2006 graduate of the Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Play House MFA Acting Program, received a Tony® Award nomination for Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical for *Once*, based on an Oscar®-winning independent film. *Once* led the pack in Tony® Award nominations announced today with a total of 11 nominations, including Best Musical. Since 1996, Cleveland Play House (CPH) has partnered with Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) to offer a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Acting. In 2003, the MFA classes and ensemble moved from the university to the CPH facilities to advance the connection between training and the professional theatre. This is the first Tony® Award nomination for a graduate of the MFA Acting Program. Davis provides a testimonial to the program in recent recruiting efforts by saying, “My Broadway debut is what my CWRU/CPH MFA is enabling me to do.” The winner of the Tony® Awards will be announced on June 10, 2012.

“All of us at the College of Arts and Sciences are thrilled for Elizabeth’s success. Having seen her moving performances on several occasions, I can say that it is no surprise that her talent has brought her acclaim so early in her career,” says **Dean Cyrus C. Taylor**. “Elizabeth has been generous with her time in supporting the current students in the MFA Acting Program, and I’m extremely proud that she received her theatrical training as part of our partnership with Cleveland Play House.”

“We at CPH are so proud of Elizabeth,” declares **CPH Artistic Director Michael Bloom**. “Her talent and character are indicative of the kind of actor the CWRU/CPH MFA strives to produce. Elizabeth’s success is yet another indication of the success of remarkable partnership with CWRU.”

“We are extremely proud of Elizabeth and her accomplishments,” states **Ron Wilson**, director of the CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program and chair of CWRU’s Department of Theater. “She has more than fulfilled our expectations.”

In 2011, CPH began performing in three state-of-the-art performance facilities at PlayhouseSquare, the largest performing arts center outside of New York City. The MFA Acting Program also occupies expansive rehearsal and class space along the CPH administrative offices adjacent to the theatres.

Founded in 1915, Cleveland Play House is America's first professional regional theatre. More than 11 million people have attended over 1,100 productions at Cleveland Play House – including more than 100 American and/or World Premieres. Today, under the leadership of Artistic Director Michael Bloom and Managing Director Kevin Moore, Cleveland Play House is an artist-driven theatre that serves the community by holding true to its mission: *To inspire, stimulate and entertain diverse audiences in Northeast Ohio by producing plays and theatre education programs of the highest professional standards.*

Cleveland Play House is funded through the generosity of Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, and The Ohio Arts Council helps to fund Cleveland Play House with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Case Western Reserve University is among the nation's leading research institutions. Founded in 1826 and shaped by the unique merger of the Case Institute of Technology and Western Reserve University, Case Western Reserve is distinguished by its strengths in education, research, service, and experiential learning. Located in Cleveland, Case Western Reserve offers nationally recognized programs in the Arts and Sciences, Dental Medicine, Engineering, Law, Management, Medicine, Nursing, and Social Work.

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