

wexner center
for the arts

For Immediate Release

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**ACCLAIMED THEATER DIRECTOR RICHARD MAXWELL
RETURNS TO THE WEXNER CENTER WITH *BOXING 2000***

COMICALLY DEADPAN PLAY TACKLES SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

“Experience the quickened, hopeful heartbeat that comes from watching that rare phenomenon, a genuinely original new talent at work.”—*The New York Times*

Hailed as one of the freshest theater writer-directors working today, **Richard Maxwell** brings his *Boxing 2000* to the Wexner Center for five performances **January 17–20**. The play, lauded as a major new work by this young talent, follows two brothers who decide to become amateur boxers—but in its one-hour run, the dark comedy veers off into such subjects as self-help, birthday presents, and more. Poignant, funny, and tragic, Maxwell’s characters spar in and out of the ring with bluntly delivered dialogue and extremely deadpan humor. Their darkly offbeat but keenly crafted performances echo an American scene of vast numbness that, nonetheless, retains a dim spark of hope.

Co-commissioned by the Wexner Center, the Hebbel-Theatre of Berlin, and the Kaaithheater in Brussels, *Boxing 2000* will be performed by Maxwell’s New York City Players on the Mershon Auditorium Stage at the Wexner Center. **Note:** The show is presented in a black-box setting with the audience seated on the Mershon Auditorium stage; seating is limited.

RICHARD MAXWELL

Richard Maxwell’s breakthrough work *House*, performed here in 2000, showcased his unusual, radically stripped-down style. Delivered with comically long pauses in the dialogue, Maxwell’s plays delve into the core of our daily existence—and by extension of American culture as a whole. *American Theatre* magazine called his works “inimitably special,” and *The New York Times* wrote this month that Maxwell is “one of the most original voices to emerge from experimental theater in many a year.” Prior to

news release

Boxing 2000's current U.S. tour, the Wexner Center was the only U.S. organization outside of New York City to have presented Maxwell, who is in demand at venues and important festivals abroad.

A native of West Fargo, North Dakota, Maxwell began developing his theatrical style in the early 1990s in Chicago, where he was co-founder of the acclaimed Cook County Theater Department. Maxwell's current ensemble, New York City Players, has produced eight new plays by Richard Maxwell, including *Drummer Wanted*—co-commissioned by the Wexner Center—which just completed its successful New York City run.

For further information on Richard Maxwell and New York City Players visit www.nycplayers.org.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

While at the Wexner Center, writer/director Richard Maxwell and members of New York City Players will meet with students of Ohio State's Department of Theatre to discuss Maxwell's unique approach to the stage.

EVENT SUPPORT

Lead support for the 2001–02 performing arts season is provided by **AT&T** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Major season support is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.** Additional season support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center** Foundation.

Produced by the **New York City Players** and co-commissioned by the **Wexner Center** with support from the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**, the **Hebbel-Theater** in Berlin, and the **Kaaitheater** in Brussels.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: Richard Maxwell: *Boxing 2000*

Description: Tragicomic play *Boxing 2000* by acclaimed writer-director Richard Maxwell performed by his ensemble New York City Players and presented by the Wexner Center.

Dates and times: Thursday–Friday, January 17–18 at 8 pm; Saturday, January 19 at 3 & 8 pm; Sunday, January 20 at 3 pm.

Running time: One hour, no intermission.

Location: Mershon Auditorium Stage at the Wexner Center, 1871 N. High St.

(Audience seated on stage; seating is limited.)

Tickets: \$16 general public, \$14 Wexner Center members and OSU students.

Ticket outlet: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

Images of *Boxing 2000* available upon request.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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