For Immediate Release
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**Pig Iron Theatre Company Reprises Gentleman Volunteers as Part of the Company’s 20th Anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of World War I
*Sweeping Drama Runs December 10-27***

PHILADELPHIA – As part of its 20th Anniversary, Pig Iron Theatre Company returns to one of the most popular works in its repertoire of unusual theatrical creations. The company will remount ***Gentleman Volunteers***, a sweeping drama of American idealism and unlikely love affairs, set against the chaos of World War I. The piece is performed in promenade, and the audience follows the action around the space. ***Gentleman Volunteers*** will run with a brand new cast December 10-27 at Christ Church Neighborhood House, 20 N. American Street. The show will open Friday, December 11 at 8 p.m. Tickets cost $20-$30 and are available online at [www.pigiron.org](http://www.pigiron.org).

During the first of two sold-out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe, in 1999 *The Scotsman* said of ***Gentlemen Volunteers***, “The production is an aesthetic triumph yet reaches beyond aestheticism to be full of humanity. It's a thing of beauty and a joy.” The production, which features live music and an award-winning low-tech, all-acoustic sound-design, went on to tour to New York, London, and across Europe. The site-specific piece is an intimate performance matched to a highly physical performance style, with the actors creating all the effects – even turning their own lights on and off.

A new cast brings this epic romance back to where it began in Pig Iron’s home town. Set against the chaos of World War I, Gentleman Volunteers follows two American ambulance drivers from the idyllic campus of Yale University to the battlefields of France. American writers and artists from Ernest Hemingway to John Dos Passos to a young Walt Disney all signed up for the American Field Service in 1916. Some were pacificists wanting to volunteer for the fledgling Red Cross; others wanted to test their manhood in a war everyone assumed would be short-lived, frustrated that America was sitting on the sidelines. ***Gentlemen Volunteers*** draws inspiration from these stories, and presents the young idealists’ encounters with love and loss in the style of classic films such as *Casablanca.*

The new cast includes Philadelphia actors Melissa Krodman as Francoise and Scott Shepherd as Vincent. Michael Castillejos plays five instruments as the One-Man-Band. Bryant Martin is Rich and Lauren Ashley Carter is Mary.

Additionally, the **original cast** will perform two special benefit performances of the piece that launched their careers back in 1999. Cassandra Friend will travel from England where she now runs her own theater company, and Pig Iron favorites Quinn Bauriedel and James Sugg will come out of “actor-retirement” to reprise their roles. The benefit performances will be Saturday, December 19th at 8pm and Sunday, December 20th at 3 p.m. Benefit tickets range in price from $100 to $200. Reservations to these special performances need to be made by emailing Maya Choldin, maya@pigiron.org

The original cast includes Emmanuelle "Manu" Delpech as Francoise, James Sugg as One-Man-Band, Dito van Reigersberg as Rich, Quinn Bauriedel as Vincent, and Cassandra Friend as Mary.

Dan Rothenberg directs and Jill Keys is the Costume Designer. This piece includes a minimal set and Foley-style sound design created by James Sugg and performed by Michael Castillejos.

**Facts**December 10-27, 2015
Tickets $20-$30Christ Church Neighborhood House, 20 N. American St., Philadelphia, PA

 **Performance Dates**
Thursday, December 10, 7:00 PM **PREVIEW**
Friday, December 11, 8:00 PM **OPENING**
Saturday, December 12, 3:00 PM
Saturday, December 12, 8:00 PM
Sunday, December 12, 3:00 PM
Sunday, December 13, 7:00 PM
Tuesday, December 15, 8:00 PM
Wednesday, December 16, 8:00 PM
Thursday, December 17, 8:00 PM
Friday, December 18, 8:00 PM
Monday, December 21, 7:00 PM
Tuesday, December 22, 7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 23, 7:00 PM
Saturday, December 26, 8:00 PM
Sunday, December 27, 3:00 PM

**About Pig Iron Theatre Company**Founded in 1995, Pig Iron Theatre Company is dedicated to the creation of new and exuberant performance works that defy easy categorization. To date the company has premiered 30 original works, garnering praise from audiences, peers, and critics. The New York Times hailed Pig Iron as “one of the few groups successfully taking theatre in new directions.”

Rather than beginning work from a script, Pig Iron begins with an idea and with bodies moving in space, allowing the ensemble to forge the piece through focused improvisation and discussion. This unique creation process has yielded an extraordinary array of performance pieces ranging from minimalist to maximalist, from dance-theatre to cabaret. Pig Iron’s original creations have received two OBIE Awards, two Total Theatre Awards from the Edinburgh Fringe, eight Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre (and 40 nominations) and a listing as one of the top 10 productions of the year in the New York Times. Pig Iron’s work has been developed in residencies at New York’s Public Theatre, Toni Morrison’s Atelier program at Princeton University, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Playmakers Rep, and La Jolla Playhouse among others. Pig Iron’s productions have been presented at Dance Theatre Workshop and Abrons Arts Center (NYC), Z Space (San Francisco), Woolly Mammoth (DC), Festival Konfrontacje Teatralne (Lublin, Poland), Teatr Rozmaitosci (Warsaw, Poland), Camden People’s Theatre (London), October Arts Festival (Ennis, Ireland), Strictly Mundial Festival (Salvador, Brazil), the Under the Radar Festival (NYC), as well as six tours to Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In 2015, Pig Iron partnered with the University of the Arts to begin offering an MFA in Devised Performance. The partnership will continue to offer a two- year Certificate in Devised Performance at the Pig Iron School for Advanced Performance Training.