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**GRoW @ The Wallis Presents
the World Premiere of CRE Outreach's
MARCHING ON
An Original Play Written and Performed by
Eight Military Veterans that Brings to Life
Their Personal Stories from Boot Camp to Returning Home,
Highlighting Difficulty of Transitioning Back into Society,
Thursday, June 28 & Friday, June 29, 2018, 8 pm**

(Theatrical Run Continues at The Blue Door in Culver City, July 13-22, 2018)

(Beverly Hills, CA – May 31, 2018) GRoW @ The Wallis presents the world premiere of CRE Outreach's production of **MARCHING ON** – an original play written by and starring eight military veterans from Veterans Empowerment Theatre (VET), an organization dedicated to presenting a first-hand view of the soldiers' experiences in their rawest form, unfiltered by press, political, or military censorship – in a special engagement at The Wallis' Lovelace Studio Theater, on Thursday, June 28 and Friday, June 29, 2018 at 8pm. This artistic journey brings veterans' personal stories to life from boot camp to returning home, highlighting the difficulty of transitioning back into society and exposing the inner turmoil of the lasting scars, both external and internal, endured from combat. For one veteran, her transition unlocks memories that have been hidden away for years, another feels rejected because of the color of his skin, while others realize that, above all, family matters most. Though alone in their stories, these heroes come together as a unit as they search for the strength to keep marching on.

Directed by Greg Shane, Artistic Director of CRE Outreach, **MARCHING ON** features Veterans Empowerment Theatre (VET) members Josie Benford (AL Army National Guard), Irene Cruz (U.S. Marine Corps), Paul E. Johnson (U.S. Navy), Monty Montgomery (U.S. Air Force),

Jefferson Reid (U.S. Army), Mason Vokes (Reno Air National Guard), Judith Welch (U.S. Army), and Carla Brame Wilkerson (U.S. Marine Corps). **MARCHING ON** is supported in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency. (Learn more at arts.ca.gov.)

“It is an honor for The Wallis to premiere this vital theatrical work,” says Paul Crewes, The Wallis’ Artistic Director. “We recognize the extremely important work Veterans Empowerment Theatre is doing to help give a voice to America’s military veterans, enabling them to express themselves and share their experiences in such a meaningful and impactful capacity.”

Running time for **MARCHING ON** is 90 minutes with a 10-minute intermission. Single tickets are now available at \$15. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit TheWallis.org/Marching or call The Wallis Ticket Services Office at 310.746.4000. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard., Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

(The play continues its theatrical run July 13-22, 2018, at The Blue Door, 9617 Venice Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm. Opened in April 2018, The Blue Door, CRE Outreach’s new theater in Culver City, is the first theatre of its kind: a dedicated performing space for the voices and stories of people historically marginalized by society.)

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented more than 250 dance, theatre, opera, classical music and family programs to an ever-expanding audience. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Paul Crewes and Managing Director Rachel Fine, The Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world's most talented and sought-after artists. Featuring eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its notability as the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe.

The mission of The Wallis is to create, present and celebrate unique performing arts events and educational programs that reflect the rich cultural diversity of our community. Nominated for 47 Ovation Awards, seven L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards and the recipient of six architectural awards, The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike.

The Official Sponsors of The Wallis' 2017/18 Season include: Delta Air Lines (Official Airline Sponsor), Montage Beverly Hills (Preferred Hotel) Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills (Official Automotive Sponsor) and Meridith Baer Home (Official Décor Sponsor).

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

MARCHING ON (world premiere)

WHO:

GRoW @ The Wallis presents the world premiere of CRE Outreach's production of **MARCHING ON**, directed by Greg Shane, Artistic Director of CRE Outreach, written by and starring members of Veterans Empowerment Theatre (VET): Josie Benford (AL Army National Guard), Irene Cruz (U.S. Marine Corps), Paul E. Johnson (U.S. Navy), Monty Montgomery (U.S. Air Force), Jefferson Reid (U.S. Army), Mason Vokes (Reno Air National Guard), Judith Welch (U.S. Army), and Carla Brame Wilkerson (U.S. Marine Corps).

DESCRIPTION OF PLAY:

MARCHING ON, produced by CRE Outreach, is an original play written by and starring eight military veterans from Veterans Empowerment Theatre (VET), a group dedicated to presenting a first-hand view of the soldiers' experiences in their rawest form, unfiltered by press, political, or military censorship. This artistic journey brings veterans' personal stories to life from boot camp to returning home, highlighting the difficulty of transitioning back into society, exposing the inner turmoil of the lasting scars, both external and internal, endured from combat. For one veteran, her transition unlocks memories that have been hidden away for years, another feels rejected because of the color of his skin, while others realize that above all, family matters most. Though alone in their stories, these heroes come together as a unit as they search for the strength to keep marching on.

WHEN/ WHERE:

Thursday, June 28, 8 pm
Friday, June 29, 2018, 8 pm
Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Lovelace Studio Theater
9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

Theatrical run continues
July 13-22, 2018, Fridays and Saturdays, 8 pm; Sundays, 3 pm
The Blue Door
9617 Venice Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

\$15
TheWallis.org/Marching
310.746.4000

RUNNING TIME:

90 minutes, with a 10-minute intermission

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