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NEWS RELEASE

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HOST JUST ADDED! ACTOR GATEN MATARAZZO TO HOST STATE THEATRE'S '80S TRIVIA NIGHT Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7pm

New Brunswick, NJ (October 6, 2020)—State Theatre New Jersey announces **actor Gaten Matarazzo**—from the Netflix hit series, *Stranger Things*—as the **host of '80s Online Trivia Night on Wednesday, October 14 at 7pm**. Proceeds raised support State Theatre's Community Engagement programs. A minimum donation of \$5 allows patrons to participate in the trivia challenge. *To sign up for Trivia Nights, go to STNJ.org/Trivia.*

Known for his memorable portrayal of Dustin on the Netflix hit series, *Stranger Things*, **Gaten Matarazzo** is the most recognized breakthrough actor of his generation. Matarazzo first began his career on Broadway starring in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, and later landing a role as Gavroche in *Les Misérables*. He's been recognized by *The Hollywood Reporter* as one of the top 30 stars under the age of 30.

Matarazzo is the host and Executive Producer of the Netflix series, *Prank Encounters*—the most elaborate hidden camera prank show ever devised. Matarazzo also performs with his siblings Carmen and Sabrina in an ensemble band titled, Work in Progress. The band travels the country delivering enthusiastic performances with their covers and originals.

When he is not filming or touring the country with his band, the 18-year-old devotes his time to raising awareness about cleidocranial dysplasia—a condition that affects the development of bones and teeth. With the help of a Utah-based doctor, Matarazzo launched—CCD SMILES—a Foundation built to help families pay their children's dental bills. He recently visited Capitol Hill to speak in favor of a new piece of legislation called the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA). This bipartisan legislation will provide insurance coverage to individuals born with congenital abnormalities or birth defects.

'80s Online Trivia Night will feature questions on '80s pop culture, including movies like *The Breakfast Club* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*; music groups like Run DMC and The Bangles; fashion trends like leg warmers and spandex; to nostalgic games and toys like Pac Man and Care Bears; and much more.

Trivia Night will be composed of 50 multiple choice questions. The first-place winner gets bragging rights as well as a \$150 State Theatre gift certificate and a State Theatre swag bag and the second-place winner gets a State Theatre swag bag. Online Trivia Night will be hosted on Zoom on each participant's desktop computer and played on the smartphone-based trivia game APP called Kahoot. Closed Captioning for Trivia Night can be made available by request by emailing info@stnj.org, one week prior to the event.

About State Theatre's Online Trivia Nights

State Theatre's ongoing online Trivia series began in August 2020 with a popular, sold-out 2000s-themed trivia hosted by drag queen, comedian, and singer Pissi Myles. Online Trivia Nights benefit State Theatre's Community Engagement Programs and are a great way to get friends and family together virtually for a game and a good time. Trivia Nights will be added throughout the season. For more information on State Theatre's Online Trivia Nights please visit STNJ.org/TriviaNights

About State Theatre New Jersey

State Theatre was built in 1921 as a silent film and vaudeville palace. Recognizing the historic significance of the theater, PBS honored State Theatre New Jersey by featuring it in its documentary series, Treasures of New Jersey, in the fall of 2018. "Treasures of New Jersey: State Theatre New Jersey" can be streamed at STNJ.org/History. Today, State Theatre is the largest performing arts center in Central New Jersey and has welcomed over 5.9 million people through its doors since reopening as a non-profit performing arts center in 1988. State Theatre New Jersey is a cornerstone of the cultural vitality of Middlesex County, and averages a total economic impact on New Brunswick and the surrounding area of more than \$18 million a year. The main-stage programs have featured high-caliber artists such as Diana Ross, Tony Bennett, Kevin Hart, Ringo Starr, Melissa Etheridge, John Leguizamo, Harry Connick, Jr., Diana Krall, and Crosby, Stills & Nash. Program offerings include Broadway, orchestra, family, dance, comedy, rock/pop, jazz, Performances for Schools, and Sensory-Friendly Performances.

State Theatre New Jersey's programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund.

STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

Creating Extraordinary Experiences Through the Power of Live Performance

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PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Please contact Kelly Blithe at
732-247-7200, ext. 542 or by email at kblithe@stnj.org.
Information in this release is current as of October 6, 2020.

Up-to-the-minute information on events and State Theatre news,
online at STNJ.org.

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