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## University of Houston Celebrates the Life of Edward Albee FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSTON, TEXAS — University of Houston College of the Arts' School of Theatre and Dance will host a Celebration of the Life of Edward Albee taking place at the Wortham Theatre, University of Houston – Main Campus at 7 p.m. on November 7, 2016. The celebration is free and open to the public.

Edward Albee, a former UH Distinguished Professor of Playwriting and Alley Theatre Associate Director, was a legendary presence in the theater world as well as the Houston arts scene. Heralded by the *New York Times* as "one of America's most important and influential playwrights," he is known for his deft examination of the human psyche. His groundbreaking works include *The Zoo Story* (1959), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962), and *A Delicate Balance* (1966). During his career, Albee won three Pulitzer Prizes for Drama, two Tony Awards for Best Play, and a special Lifetime Achievement Tony Award.

The evening celebration will include monologues from selected Albee plays, live music, and an exhibition of artworks from Albee's personal collection. Distinguished guests will also share personal stories and tributes to Albee's life. Speakers will include Jakob Holder, Executive Director of the Edward F. Albee Foundation; Gregory Boyd, Alley Theatre Artistic Director; James Black and Elizabeth Bunch Hutchison, Alley Theatre company members; Kevin Rigdon, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Theatre at UH and Alley Theatre Associate Director of Design; Theresa Rebeck, UH Distinguished Professor of Playwriting; Howard Pollacka, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Music at UH; and, Jacob Juntunen, Head of MFA Playwriting at Southern Illinois University.

The College of the Arts (CoTA) at the University of Houston is a dynamic powerhouse of creativity and collaboration in one of America's most culturally diverse cities. Bringing together the performing and visual arts entities at the University of Houston, CoTA strives to enrich and empower our students, community, and the world.