FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2016

CONTACTS:
Gus Schulenburg
gschulenburg@tcg.org | 212-609-5941

New from TCG Books:
Don’t Start Me To Talking…
Plays of Struggle and Liberation
The Selected Plays of John O’Neal

NEW YORK, NY – Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is pleased to announce the publication of Don’t Start Me To Talking…, an anthology of plays by artist and activist John O’Neal. A singular collection of nine plays by the acclaimed performer and civil rights activist John O’Neal showcases the momentous impact his fifty-year career has had on the world of theatre and African-American history in the United States.

“A dramatic tale-spinner with a canny sense of humor and a winning, engaging stage presence... O’Neal’s shows mix folksiness, a sophisticated sense of theatricality and astute observation that are a pleasure to watch.”
—Douglas J. Keating, Philadelphia Inquirer

John O’Neal is best known for his Junebug Jabbo Jones cycle of plays, a remarkable collection of tales and anecdotes drawn from African-American oral literature, which he has performed all over the globe. Five of these plays are included in this career-spanning volume, along with four of O’Neal’s large-scale ensemble productions performed by his company Junebug Productions, as well as in cross-cultural collaborations with A Traveling Jewish Theatre (San Francisco), Roadside Theater (Kentucky) and Pregones Theater (Bronx, New York).

“The subtlety and strength of Mr. O’Neal’s performance are something to behold. He is a very funny man and a great actor.”
—New Yorker

John O’Neal co-founded the Free Southern Theater (FST) in 1963 as a cultural arm of the Southern Civil Rights Movement and later founded Junebug Productions, a professional African-American arts organization in New Orleans. For FST, O’Neal worked as a field director for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and as a national field program director with the Committee for Racial Justice. He has written eighteen plays, a musical comedy, poetry, and essays, and has performed throughout the United States,
Canada, France, and Scandinavia. He is the recipient of the Award of Merit from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, a United States Artists Award, and a Ford Foundation Award.

For over 50 years, Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for U.S. theatre, has existed to strengthen, nurture, and promote the professional not-for-profit theatre. TCG’s constituency has grown from a handful of groundbreaking theatres to nearly 700 Member Theatres and Affiliate organizations and more than 12,000 individuals nationwide. TCG offers its members networking and knowledge-building opportunities through conferences, events, research and communications; awards grants, approximately $2 million per year, to theatre companies and individual artists; advocates on the federal level; and serves as the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute, connecting its constituents to the global theatre community. TCG is North America’s largest independent trade publisher of dramatic literature, with 14 Pulitzer Prizes for Best Play on the TCG booklist. It also publishes the award-winning American Theatre magazine and ARTSEARCH®, the essential source for a career in the arts. In all of its endeavors, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field and promote a larger public understanding of, and appreciation for, the theatre. www.tcg.org.

Don’t Start Me To Talking…
By John O’Neal
Paperback 400 pages
$24.95 978-1-55936-419-5
eBook 978-1-55936-717-2
March 2016

First TCG title from John O’Neal

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