



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

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**Virginia Repertory Theatre Announces the Opening of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*
Live on Stage at the Historic November Theatre**

Richmond, VA -- Virginia Repertory announces the opening of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* on Friday April 21, 2017 at the November Theatre, 114 West Broad Street. The show will run through May 14, 2017. With a book by Linda Woolverton, music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, this timeless musical features a cast of 24, lavish costumes, and a stunning set.

Director and Choreographer, **Robin Arthur**, returns to direct the show for the second time. She directed Virginia Rep's original production in 2006. Other directing credits include *Shrek, the Musical, Seussical*, and *Annie* for Virginia Rep. **Jason Marks** will serve as Music Director, having played the role of Maurice in the 2006 production. Other music direction credits include: *Seussical, They're Playing Our Song, Olympus On My Mind* for Virginia Rep, *Joseph...Dreamcoat, Company, Les Miserables, 13*, and *Damn Yankees* for Jewish Family Theatre. He serves as resident music director for Virginia Rep on Tour, and is an accomplished composer, having penned numerous works for the stage including the award-winning *Croaker*.

Lynne M. Hartman will serve as lighting designer. Virginia Rep designs include *Airline Highway, Gypsy, Mame, Treasure Island, Other Desert Cities, Shrek, the Musical, The Music Man, Red, The Producers, Spring Awakening, Seussical, Legacy of Light* (2011 RTCC Award), *The Sound of Music* (2010 RTCC Award). The set for this production was originally designed by **Joel Sherry** for the Marjorie Arenstein Stage at the November Theatre in 2006. The original costume designs were created by the late **Terry Snyder**, known for his artistry as a puppeteer and puppet design and building.

Virginia Rep is delighted to welcome **Chauncey Trask** in her Virginia Repertory Theatre debut in the lead role of Belle. Recent credits include *Island Song* (New York Drama League, Balagan Theatre); *Les Miserables* (Village Theatre); Varna's Opera and Revue Series, *Die Zauberflöte* (International Tour); *Camelot* (Arizona Broadway Theatre); *My Fair Lady* (Coeur d'Alene Theatre); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mount Baker Theatre); *Deadly Beloved* (Village Theatre); *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Centerstage). **Matt Polson** joins the cast as Beast after playing Gaston in the 2006 production. Recent credits include *Violet* for Virginia Rep in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company, *Oklahoma* at Riverside Dinner Theatre and *Design for Living* at Richmond Triangle Players.

Landon Nagel will play the role of Gaston. He was last seen at Virginia Rep as Thomas Jefferson in *1776* and Bait Boy in *Airline Highway*. **Timothy A. Fitz-Gerald** will make his Virginia Rep debut as Lumiere after associate directing Virginia Rep's *1776*. On Broadway, Tim created the role of Chris Bell in *The Boy from Oz*, opposite Hugh Jackman. Other credits include the tours of *Wicked*, *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, and *Titanic*. Also making his Virginia Rep debut is **Happy Mahaney** as Cogsworth. He last played the role of Sky in the Broadway North American Tour of *Mamma Mia!* **Georgia Rogers Farmer** joins the cast as Mrs. Potts. Recent credits include *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *The Dixie Swim Club* at Swift Creek Mill and *Yank! A WWII Love Story* at Richmond Triangle Players. The full cast list is below and bios can be found at www.virginiarep.org.

Ticket Information

Box Office 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Full Price Tickets: Adults \$48 - \$60, Children \$38 - \$50

Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.

U-Tix for college and high school students \$15. Available by phone or in person, day of show only. Valid Student ID required.

Induction Loop

The Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre is equipped with a state-of-the-art induction loop hearing system that is compatible with all telecoil-equipped hearing aids and cochlear implants. A handheld receiver and headphone system is also available free of charge for anyone who is hearing impaired.

Parking

Valet parking is available for \$8 at all performances and free self-park is available for patrons within blocks of the theatre. Valet is complimentary for patrons who dine at Max's on Broad, before or after the show.

Press Kits Available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to media.

username = press password = HiRes121

Evening performances at 7:00 p.m. Fridays

Matinee performances at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. on Sundays

Direction & Design

Director and Choreographer **Robin Arthur**

Music Director **Jason Marks**

Set Design **Joel Sherry**

Lighting Designer **Lynne M. Hartman+**

Costume Designer **Terry Snyder**

Asst. to the Choreographer **Brianna Larson**

Production Stage Manager **Jocelyn Thompson***

Asst. Stage Manager **Luke Robinson***

Asst. Stage Manager **Lydia Crush**

Cast List

Belle **Chauncey Trask**

Beast **Matt Polson**

Gaston **Landon Nagel***

Lumiere **Timothy A. Fitz-Gerald***

Cogsworth **Happy Mahaney***

Mrs. Potts **Georgia Rogers Farmer**

Chip **Ethan Dumeer**

Babette **Hannah Zold**

Le Fou **Caleb Wade**

Madame de la Grande Bouche **Tara Callahan Carroll**

Maurice **Richard Koch**

Ensemble **Will Hart, Brandon Johns, Mallory Keene, Sara Burks, Diontey Michael, Makenzie Mercer, Michaela Nicole Schwarzchild, Abbie Swanson, Austin Taylor Smith, Isabella Stansbury**

Children's Ensemble **Tess Delice, Katie Hall, Hannah Jennison**

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.

+ Member of USA United Scenic Artists: local 829

Full bios can be found at www.virginiarep.org.

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is the regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With a budget of \$5 million, four distinct venues, an educational touring arm, and an annual audience over 530,000, Virginia Rep is one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. Virginia Rep stages four seasons annually: the Signature Season at the Sara Belle and Neil

November Theatre, Theatre Gym Season in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company, Virginia Rep's Children's Season at Willow Lawn, and the Hanover Tavern Season.

Corporate Sponsors

Virginia Rep is grateful for the following support from Townebank, The Shubert Foundation, The Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Nationals Endowment for the Arts, Richmond Family Magazine and the Richmond Times-Dispatch.