



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

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Virginia Repertory Theatre's
Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn Presents
Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical
Book by Melvin Tunstall III
Music by Greg Borowsky and Douglas Lyons
Lyrics by Douglas Lyons

Richmond, VA -- Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the company of the final production of the 2018/2019 Children's Season, ***Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical***, opening Friday, July 12, 2019, at the Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn. Inspired by the events of The Little Rock Nine, *Polkadots* is a fun, colorful, and meaningful history lesson for children.

Polkadots follows 8-year-old Lily Polkadot, the first Polkadot to attend the school in the "Squares Only" small town of Rockaway. However, Lily, along with her new friend Sky, a shy Square boy who appreciates her for her unique polkadot skin, prove that our individual differences do not make us weird or wrong, they make us awesome. *Polkadots* will be onstage through August 11, 2019 at the Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn, 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

Jan Guarino will be joining the company to direct this "Cool Kids Musical". Guarino most recently directed *Dancing Lessons* at Hanover Tavern and the Children's Theatre production of *Busytown*. Choreographer **Mallory Keene** will make her Children's Theatre choreography debut, after recently appearing on the November Theatre stage in *Sister Act* and *Mary Poppins*. Rounding out the direction team, **Sandy Dacus** will serve as Musical Director. Other Virginia Rep musical direction credits for Dacus include *Shakespeare in Love* and *1776*.

All of the actors will be making their debuts at the Children’s Theatre at Willow Lawn; **Caroline Lynch, Quan Chau, Madeleine Witmer, and Sydnee Graves** comprise the cast. **Madison Hatfield** (*Atlantis*) will serve as Swing. Scenic Design is by **Emily Hake Massie** (*Knuffle Bunny*), Lighting Design is by **Lynne Hartman** (*A Raisin in the Sun*), and Sound Design is by Virginia Rep A/V Supervisor **Derek Dumais** (*Atlantis*). Making his Virginia Rep debut, **Kyle Artone** will serve as Costume Designer.

The full company is listed below.

Direction & Design

Direction	Jan Guarino
Music Direction	Sandy Dacus
Choreography	Mallory Keene
Scenic Design	Emily Hake Massie
Costume Design	Kyle Artone
Lighting Design	Lynne Hartman
Sound Design	Derek Dumais
Stage Management	Natalie Mathis

Cast List

Lily Polkadot	Caroline Lynch
Sky Square	Quan Chau
Penelope Square	Madeleine Witmer
Mrs. Square	Sydnee Graves
Swing	Madison Hatfield

Sensory Friendly Performances

Virginia Rep offers sensory friendly performances specifically for children with autism and other sensory or social disabilities. During these select performances, changes will be made in lighting, sound, seating arrangements, and length of performance to create a more welcoming environment for this audience. Two Sensory Friendly performances will be offered on Tuesday, July 23 at 10:30 am and Saturday, August 3 at 10:30 am. Please see the website for more details: http://va-rep.org/sensory_friendly.html

Audio Described Performances

In collaboration with Virginia Voice, Virginia Rep is pleased to offer Audio Described performances, in which actions, expressions and gestures are described during gaps between dialogue throughout the performance for patrons with low vision or blindness. In addition to live audio description during performances, patrons are also invited to participate in a tactile tour before the performance. An Audio Described performance will be offered on Sunday, August 4 at 2:00 pm. Please see the website for more details: https://va-rep.org/access_for_the_blind.html

Community Tickets Grant

Virginia Rep is thrilled to offer a **free** Community Tickets Grant for nonprofit organizations. We encourage all organizations who have a demonstrated need for complimentary tickets to fill out a short application on our website: bit.ly/CommunityTix

Ticket Information

Box Office: 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Full Price Tickets: \$21

Discounted Group Rates available.

Performance Schedule

Evening performances at 7:00 p.m. on select Fridays

Matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday

Matinee performances at 10:30 a.m. on select Saturdays

Press

Press Kits will be available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Passcode accessible high-res photos will be available to the media on July 12

username = press

password = HiRes121

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is the regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With an operating budget of \$5.5 million, four distinct venues, an educational touring arm, and an annual audience approximately 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.

Sponsors

Federal Realty Investment Trust and the Shops at Willow Lawn, The Shubert Foundation, The Virginia Commission for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, *Richmond Family Magazine*