



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

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Virginia Repertory Theatre's
Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn Presents
Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad

Book and Lyrics by Douglas Jones
Music by Ron Barnett
Developed by Virginia Rep

Richmond, VA -- Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the company of the second production of the 2019/2020 Children's Season, ***Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad***, opening Friday, January 24, 2020, at the Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn. Developed at Virginia Rep, this important story will be told onstage through March 1, 2020, at the Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn, 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

This stirring drama with music shares in the joys, sorrows, and challenges Harriet Tubman faced while courageously freeing herself and hundreds of others from the bonds of slavery. As Harriet and her friend, Sarah Bradford, narrate her adventurous life, we get a closer look at this brave woman whose determination changed the world. *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad* is presented as part of the **Acts of Faith Festival**.

Katrinah Carol Lewis will be joining the company in her Children's Theatre directorial debut. Lewis is the Artistic Director of Museum Theatre at Colonial Williamsburg, and is the playwright and director for *Resolved, An American Experiment*, as well as many other museum theatre programs. Other Richmond directorial credits include *Topdog/Underdog* at TheatreLAB and associate director of Virginia Rep's *Once*. She was recently seen on onstage in *Cinderella*, *Atlantis* and *River Ditty*.

Virginia Rep Music Supervisor **Anthony Smith** will serve as Musical Director. Recent Virginia Rep musical direction/conducting for Smith credits include *Cinderella*, *The Wiz* and *Atlantis*. **Marjie Southerland** will star as Harriet Tubman. Recent credits for Southerland include Mrs. Dilber in *A Christmas Carol* (Nebraska Theater Caravan), Angela in *Warm* (Firehouse Theatre), and Harriet Tubman in *Harry and the Thief* (Pavement Group).

The full company is listed below.

Direction & Design

Direction	Katrinah Carol Lewis
Music Direction	Anthony Smith
Scenic Design	Emily Hake Massie
Costume Design	Sarah Grady
Lighting Design	Matthew Banes
Sound Design	Nicholas Seaver
Stage Management	Justin Janke

Cast

Harriet Tubman	Marjie Southerland
First Woman	Elisabeth Ashby
First Man	Durron Marquis Tyre
Second Woman	Dorothy Dee-D. Miller
Second Man	Dan Cimo
Ensemble/Male Swing	Gregory Morton
Female Swing	Imani Banks
First Woman u/s	Lisa Kotula

Sensory Friendly Performances

Virginia Rep offers sensory friendly performances specifically for patrons 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. A Sensory Friendly performance will be offered at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 22. 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 at 2:00 p.m. on

Sunday, January 26, 2020. 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 January 24.

username = press

password = HiRes121

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With an operating budget of \$5.6 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*, 103.7 Play, Virginia Public Media, NBC12