



Virginia Repertory Theatre

www.va-rep.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* at Virginia Rep this Holiday Season**

**Experience the magic of Roald Dahl's classic tale complete with
Golden Tickets and Oompa Loompas**

November 25, 2024— Virginia Rep celebrates the holiday season with an ambitious and scrumdiddlyumptious production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, presented December 5 - January 12 on the Majorie Arenstein stage at the historic November Theatre.

When Charlie Bucket finds one of the five golden tickets to the Wonka Chocolate Factory, he and the other winners cannot wait to explore this world of sweets, treats, and pure imagination. But once inside, they embark on an extraordinary journey through Willy Wonka's marvelously madcap mind and soon discover that nobody leaves this factory the same way that they arrived.

Based on the famous novel by Roald Dahl, this tuneful musical features the popular songs "Candy Man," "I've Got a Golden Ticket," "Oompa Loompa Song," and "Pure Imagination." This stupendous, candy-coated journey—with chocolate waterfalls, nutty squirrels, and the great glass elevator—is ideal for children and adults alike.

From Artistic Director, Rick Hammerly, “We are tremendously excited to bring such a magical show to the Marjorie Arenstein Stage, especially one that brings our adult and family audiences together for the holidays. Join us for a guaranteed seasonal sugar rush!”

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAMS

Directed by Paul Takács and Todd D. Norris, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* boasts a phenomenal cast featuring award-winning actor, director, and producer Matt Shofner as Willy Wonka. The titular role of Charlie Bucket will be split by young performers Kylan Dowdy and Penelope Hanson. They will be joined by John Cauthen, making his Virginia Rep debut as Grandpa Joe, and Elliott Scott, Caroline Lynch, Jana Nicole Prentiss, and Ross Coughlin as fellow Golden Ticket winners.

Epic in scale, the scenic design for this production is created by Daniel Conway, who designed for Penn and Teller on Broadway at the Marquis Theatre and for their long-running show in Las Vegas. He has been nominated for 16 Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Set Design, receiving the award four times.

The extraordinary artistry does not end there, with lighting design by Joe Doran, winner of 10 Richmond Artsies - including two in 2024, and projections by award-winning designer Tennessee Dixon. The production also features costume design by Jeanne Nugent, sound design by Jonathan Pratt, music direction by Leilani Fenick, and choreography by Paul Dandridge.

2024-2025 SEASON AT VA REP

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is the first Signature Series title to open at Virginia Repertory Theatre since the announcement in mid-September that the theatre was on the verge of closing its doors for good without significant support. That appeal resulted in support well in excess of its \$600K goal and was supported by over 1,500 donors, over 65% of whom had not donated to the theatre before, with support from local businesses and foundations as well.

From Managing Director, Klaus Schuller, “We are delighted and humbled by this tremendous outpouring of support, and now hope you will all join us to see the delicious results of that support in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. And did we mention there’ll be chocolate?”

VA Rep's 2024-2025 season continues in 2025 with captivating dramas, family magic, and Broadway hit musicals. Following *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, our Barksdale

Series begins at Hanover Tavern with *Ken Ludwig's Moriarty: A New Sherlock Holmes Adventure*. In February, VA Rep will offer the sharply funny *Fat Ham*, a co-production with Virginia Stage Company, and the Broadway smash hit *Waitress*.

TICKETS AND PERFORMANCES

Tickets are on sale and available now at www.va-rep.org or by calling the box office at (804) 282-2620.

Performances are available Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays at 7:00 PM, Saturdays at 2PM, Sundays at 3PM, and select Wednesday matinees.

This performance is sponsored by [Atlantic Union Bank](#) and our festive lobby is sponsored by [Whisk](#).

ABOUT VIRGINIA REPERTORY THEATRE

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a regional professional theater headquartered in downtown Richmond, and 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 on the Marjorie Arenstein stage, the Jessie Bogese Family Season, the Hanover Tavern Season, and the Theatre Gym Season which partners with three to four Richmond theatres each year.

Production photos will be available after December 7th.

FULL CAST AND CREATIVE

Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Book by David Greig

Music by Marc Shaiman

Lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman

Based on the novel by Roald Dahl

Songs from the Motion Picture by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

Scenic Design: Daniel Conway

Costume Design: Jeanne Nugent

Lighting Design: Joe Doran*

Sound Design: Jonathan Pratt

Projection Design: Tennessee Dixon

Music Direction: Leilani Fenick

Choreography: Paul Dandridge

Stage Management: Abby Bobb*
Direction: Paul Takács and Todd D. Norris

CAST LIST

**Denotes a member of Actor's Equity*

Willy Wonka - Matt Shofner
Charlie Bucket - Penelope Hanson
Charlie Bucket - Kylan Dowdy
Mrs. Green, Grandma Josephine, Ensemble - Rachel Marrs
Grandpa Joe - John Cauthen
Mrs. Bucket - Alia Bisharat Glidden
Grandpa George, Jerry, Ensemble - Mark Persinger
Grandma Georgina, Cherry, Ensemble - Bianca Bryan
Mrs. Gloop, Ensemble - Susan Sanford*
Augustus Gloop, Ensemble - Elliott Scott*
Mr. Salt, Ensemble - David Janosik
Veruca Salt, Ensemble - Caroline Lynch
Mr. Beauregarde, Willy Wonka at select matinees - Durrion Marquis Tyre
Violet Beauregarde, Ensemble - Jana Nicole Prentiss*
Mrs. Teavee, Ensemble - Debra Wagoner
Mike Teavee, Ensemble - Ross Coughlin
Ensemble - Erin Chaves, Paul Dandridge, * Dia Davis, Calvin Malone, Chandler James
Pettus, Audrey Snyder
Swings - Casey Henley, Shinji Elspeth Oh, David Ramirez, Garrett D. Reese

BAND

Keyboard 1 - Ian Krauss
Keyboard 2 - Robert Stoop
Keyboard 3/Conductor - Leilani Fenick
Keyboard Sub - Elle Meerovich
Drums - Bentley Cobb
Drums Sub - Steve Raybould
Bass - Beatrice Kelly
Bass Sub - Alex Kehayas
Guitar - Forrest Link
Trumpet - Steve Fenick
Trumpet Sub - Matthew Bruins

Trumpet Sub - Sebastian Ford

Trombone - Brian Morgan

Reeds - Ron Fix

Reeds Sub - Susan Davis

Violin - Marissa Resmini

Violin Sub - Kristin Presley