



Virginia Repertory Theatre

www.va-rep.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VA Rep presents Broadway sensation, *Waitress*

with original score by Grammy award winner Sara Bareilles

May 8, 2025— Heartwarming, hilarious, and utterly relatable - Virginia Repertory Theatre announces *Waitress*, the Tony-nominated Broadway sensation, with music and lyrics by Grammy award winner Sara Bareilles, is coming to the Arenstein Stage at the historic November Theatre June 21 through August 3.

Unsatisfied as a waitress working in a small-town diner, Jenna dreams of a life beyond bad tips and her complicated marriage. When a nearby baking contest offers the chance of escape, Jenna finds the courage to take her long-abandoned dreams off the shelf with the support of her fellow waitresses, loyal customers, and an unexpected romance.

“*Waitress* is a recipe for life with just the right ingredients: an appetizing score, a bittersweet book, and a happy ending,” said Virginia Repertory Theatre Artistic Director, Rick Hammerly. “It’s a story that reminds us to follow our dreams, embrace change, and to look for joy in the unexpected. We are so excited to welcome Richmond

audiences to savor this delicious production.”

LOCAL AUDITIONS FOR LULU

Virginia Rep is looking to cast 2-3 young performers for the role of Lulu for *Waitress*.

Designed to be a child-friendly, low-stakes audition process led by the theatre’s education team - auditions will be held May 15 (4-5PM) and May 17 (10-11AM) at the November Theatre Complex (114 W Broad Street).

Please visit va-rep.org/auditions for more information and to schedule an audition.

2024/2025 SEASON & BEYOND

Waitress concludes programming for Virginia Rep's 2024-25 Season - an existential season that twice saw the theatre on the brink of closure. "We are immensely grateful to the Richmond community for twice coming to our rescue.", said Managing Director Klaus Schuller. "We won't take that support for granted, and as we plan our 2025-26 season, we are committed not only to great theatre and education, but to responsibility and sustainability.”

The theatre will release its 2025/2026 Season programming on May 20th, 2025.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAMS

Directed by Artistic Director Rick Hammerly, *Waitress* features a cast and creative team of exciting new artists and Richmond favorites. Featuring Emelie Faith Thompson (*Mamma Mia!*, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* at Virginia Rep) as Jenna. She is joined by New York based actress Miya Bass (*The Voice*, *X-Factor*, and *Steve Harvey’s radio star competition*) as Becky and Kylee Márquez-Downie (*H*tlar’s Tasters*, 5th Wall Theatre) as Dawn. The cast also features Bear Manescalchi (National Tour *TINA - The Tina Turner Musical*), Terence Sullivan (*Into the Woods*, Richmond Shakespeare), and Cooper Grodin (National Tour *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*).

TICKETS AND PERFORMANCES

Don't miss this story of heart and humor - about friendship, motherhood, and the courage it takes to bake your way to a brighter future. Tickets are on sale and 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 evenings and matinees.

ABOUT VIRGINIA REPERTORY THEATRE

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a not-for-profit 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.

FULL CAST AND CREATIVE

Waitress

Book by Jessie Nelson

Music and Lyrics by Sara Bareilles

Directed by Rick Hammerly

Music Direction: Leilani Fenick

Choreography: Paul Dandridge

Scenic Design: Mercedes Schaum

Costume Design: Sarah Grady

Lighting Design: Joe Doran

Projection Design: Dasia Gregg

Stage Management: Abby Bobb*

Assistant Stage Manager - Donna Warfield*

CAST LIST (in order of appearance)

Jenna – Emelie Faith Thompson*
Becky – Miya Bass*
Dawn – Kylee Márquez-Downie
Cal – William Vaughn
Joe – Joe Pabst
Earl – Cooper Grodin*
Nurse Norma/Ensemble – Imani Blair Crosby
Dr. Pomatter – Terence Sullivan
Ogie – Bear Manescalchi
Ensemble – Lindy Pokorny
Ensemble – Calvin Malone*
Ensemble – Brie Ramirez
Ensemble – Mason Jett
Ensemble – Patrick Rooney
Ensemble – David Ramirez
Ensemble– Sarah White Pruden
Ensemble – Audrey Baker
Ensemble – Jennifer Lent
Ensemble – Garrett D. Reese
Swing – Joey Gravins
Swing – Maria Carpinelli

*Member AEA - Actors Equity Association