

**Artistic Director** Nathaniel Shaw  
**Managing Director** Phil Whiteway

VIRGINIA **rep**

# AIRLINE *HIGHWAY*

BY  
**LISA D'AMOUR**

*Airline Highway* received its world premiere on December 14, 2014, at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago (Martha Lavey, Artistic Director; David Hawkanson, Executive Director). It was directed by Joe Mantello. The production moved to the Manhattan Theatre Club's Samuel J. Friedman Theatre for a Broadway run April 2015. *Airline Highway* was commissioned and developed by Steppenwolf with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

STAGE MANAGEMENT  
**Jocelyn A. Thompson\***

SET DESIGN  
**Kate Field**

LIGHT DESIGN  
**Lynne M. Hartman+**

COSTUME DESIGN  
**Emily Tappan**

DIRECTION  
**Laine Satterfield**

*Airline Highway* is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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## CAST (in order of appearance)

Bait Boy ..... **Landon Nagel\***  
Tanya ..... **Susan Sanford\***  
Krista ..... **Emma Orelove**  
Wayne ..... **Barry Pruitt**  
Francis ..... **Andrew Firda\***  
Miss Ruby ..... **Starlet Knight**  
Sissy Na Na ..... **Anthony Wright**  
Zoe ..... **Kat Collin**

Terry ..... **Iman Shabazz**  
Ensemble ..... **Jacqueline O'Connor**  
Nurse/Ensemble ..... **Tyra D. Robinson**  
Judge Harmon/Ensemble ..... **Bill Blair**  
Ensemble/Krista US ..... **Sian Lee Syring**  
Ensemble ..... **Charlotte I. Kulaki**  
Ensemble ..... **Dylan Douglasson**  
Ensemble ..... **Lennon Hu**

## FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Assistant Stage Manager... **Luke Robinson\***  
Assistant Costume Designer ... **Nia Banks**  
Dramaturg..... **Jason Sandahl**  
Vocal coach and  
music arrangements..... **Anthony Wright**  
Dialect Coach..... **Tyra D. Robinson**  
Light Board Operator.... **Linwood Guyton**

Carpenters ... **Jim Knipple, Matt Lehtola,  
Chelsea Kuehnle**  
Electric Crew ..... **Lydia Crush**  
Cover photograph..... **Ray Laskowitz**

The video and/or audio recording of this  
performance by any means whatsoever are  
strictly prohibited.



\*Member of USA, United Scenic Artists', local 829



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

## SPECIAL THANKS

Jason Sandahl, Jerry Williams, Fred Orelove, Irene Carney, Lola Luckett, Carrie Ghergich, Al Livaudais, and the New Orleans Robinsons

## PLACE AND TIME

Late April/Early May 2014, The Hummingbird Motel on Airline Highway, New Orleans, LA

## DEDICATION

### Dr. Irby B. Brown

With the greatest affection and respect, we dedicate this production of *Airline Highway* to the memory of author and educator, Dr. Irby B. Brown. In the earliest days of Theatre IV, he was a life-embracing, super-charged supporter and champion, encouraging co-founders Bruce Miller and Phil Whiteway (his former students at the University of Richmond) to damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!



## COMPANY BIOS



**Bill Blair** (Judge Harmon/Ensemble) is pleased to be working on *Airline Highway* with such a fine cast and crew. After 15 years in NYC and LA, Bill returned home to Richmond. Some of his favorite shows include roles in Swift Creek Mill's *A Few Good Men*; Virginia Rep's *Hardy Boys*, 1940's *Radio Hour*, and *A Trip to Bountiful*; 5th Wall's *Unexpected Tenderness*; CAT's *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*; and Quill Theatre's *Infamy: Pearl Harbor Remembered*.



**Kat Collin** (Zoe) is thrilled to be making her Virginia Rep debut in such a special, unique play as *Airline Highway*. Her favorite past credits include her performance as Prime Minister Evans in *King Charles III* (Stagedoor Manor), as well as The Jewish Wife in *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* (St. Catherine's School). She would like to thank her mother and father for constantly supporting and helping her succeed both in theater and in life; as well as Maury Hancock, Laine Satterfield, and Rusty Wilson for being the best teachers and mentors possible.



**Dillon Douglasson** (Ensemble) is overjoyed to be making his debut on Virginia Rep's stage. A first year theatre performance major at Virginia Commonwealth University, he recently performed in Phoenix Theatre and Lifeview Marketing's annual adrenalin fest at the Newdick Theatre. Dillon is also a VHSL Forensics state champion for his comedic duo performance of *The Big Bang*. Huge thanks to Mom, Dad and McCoy!



**Andrew Firda** (Francis) is delighted to make his debut at the November Theatre for Virginia Rep. Richmond credits: *Clybourne Park*, *Sight Unseen* with Cadence Theatre Company/Virginia Rep. *Angels in America*, *Lazarus Syndrome* for Richmond Triangle Players. *Race* at University of Richmond. Off-Broadway: The Pearl Theatre Company. Regional appearances include the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Northern Stage, Smoky Mountain Shakespeare Festival, and The Monomoy Theatre. Television: *Law & Order: SVU*, *One Life to Live*, *As the World Turns*, *truTV*, *The History Channel*, and on the web with *The Onion News Network*. He holds an MFA from Ohio University.



**Starlet Knight** (Miss Ruby) is a local professional musician and actor, and is thrilled to be making her Virginia Repertory Theatre debut. Favorite credits include the recent production of Green Day's *American Idiot* at Firehouse Theatre, and "Skshp" in TheatreLab's production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. She serves Antioch Baptist Church as a musician, and will be the musical director for several projects coming up this Spring. Her degrees are in English, and she has two grown daughters she'll brag on if you let her.



**Lennon Hu** (Ensemble) is delighted to be part of the ensemble for *Airline Highway*. Lennon is a first year performance major at VCU. His credits include "Agamemnon" in *Iphigenia 2.0* and "Mycetes/Bajazeth" in *Tamburlaine the Great* at Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre. Lennon is enthusiastic about joining the amazing RVA theatre community while studying at VCU.

## COMPANY BIOS



**Charlotte Kulak** (Ensemble) is a second year performance major at VCU. She has most recently been seen performing in *To Dance in My Dreams* with Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre (S.A.L.T.), and *Not My Dad* with Phoenix Theatre and Liveview Marketing & Pictures. This is her first time on Virginia Repertory Theatre's stage, and she is incredibly excited to work on *Airline Highway* with everyone at Virginia Rep.



**Landon Nagel** (Bait Boy) was last seen at Virginia Rep as Thomas Jefferson in *1776*. Other favorites include Ophelia/Juliet in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (Quill Theatre), Dean in *Maple and Vine* (Firehouse Theatre), Sam in *The Flick* (Cadence Theatre), Vernon in *They're Playing Our Song*, RTCC Best Actor in Musical nomination (Virginia Rep), James in *Children of a Lesser God*, RTCC Best Actor nomination (Virginia Rep), and Benny in *Guys and Dolls* (Virginia Rep). Landon holds a BFA in Acting from VCU School of the Arts, and is currently working towards an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy at TheatreVCU.



**Jacqueline O'Connor** (Ensemble) was last seen on stage as Kitty in *Perfect Arrangement* (Richmond Triangle Players) and Joanne in *Company* (Jewish Community Center). Awards/Nominations: *Style Weekly's* Women in the Arts Award; Richmond Theatre Critics Circle (RTCC) award for Best Supporting Actress (*Good People* with Cadence Theatre/Virginia Rep); Phoebe Award for Best Supporting Actress (*Jekyll and Hyde* with Dogwood Dell); RTCC nomination for Best Supporting Actress (*Musical of Musicals the Musical* with Richmond Triangle Players.) Jacquie is a founding member of Henley Street Theatre (now Quill Theatre) and served as Managing Director for 10 years. She holds a BA in Theatre from Shenandoah Conservatory.



**Emma Orelove** (Krista) was last seen in Richmond as "Rose" in Cadence Theatre Company's *The Flick*. Off-Broadway: *The Church of Why Not* (Theatre 167), *Our Town* (Transport Group). First National Tour: "Kat" in *The Hungry Hungry Games*. Credits with Teatro Delle Due in Italy include: "Juliet" in *Romeo and Juliet*, "Lady Duff/Witch" in *Macbeth*. Film: upcoming independent feature: principle in *Lemons*. Training: The University of the Arts (BFA), UCB. She currently resides in NYC as an actor, model and yogi. Beyond thrilled to be back with Virginia Rep! Thanks to Laine, Phil, Nathaniel, Mom & Dad, Margaret at SW Artists. For BAJ(erk). Stay grateful. [www.emmaorelove.com](http://www.emmaorelove.com)



**Barry Pruitt** (Wayne) Since returning to the theater after a 25+ year absence, Barry has appeared in *Wait Until Dark* at Swift Creek Mill Theatre, *The Tempest* and *Comedy of Errors* with Richmond Shakespeare, and *Next Fall* and *The Boy from Oz* at Richmond Triangle Players. He is very pleased to return to Virginia Rep where he has previously appeared in *White Christmas* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Barry is thrilled to work with this talented cast and especially with Laine Satterfield. Barry is most grateful for the encouragement of his beautiful wife Roslyn, without whom he would just be a crotchety old man.

## COMPANY BIOS



**Tyra D. Robinson** (Nurse/Ensemble) Working towards an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy at VCU, Tyra hails from the Greater New Orleans area and is thrilled to be a part of this production with so many talented people. Previous credits include: *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf* (Heritage Rep); TheatreVCU's HIV/AIDS-Related Staged Readings in collaboration with the Humanities Research Center; *Clybourne Park* (Cadence Theatre/Virginia Rep). Thank you, Laine, J-Ro and Virginia Rep for this opportunity!



**Susan Sanford** (Tanya) just recently appeared as Miss Shields in the smash holiday hit *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. Previous roles at Virginia Rep include Mayzie in *Seussical*, the Adult Women in *Spring Awakening*, both of which garnered her RTCC award nominations, and Electra in last season's *Gypsy*. Susan also directs, and is especially fond of her recent efforts including *Goodnight Moon* at Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* at Virginia Rep's Hanover Tavern. Susan teaches at The Steward School, and lives in Richmond with her husband, actor and director Foster Solomon, and their two sons, Trey and Jordan.



**Iman Shabazz** (Terry) is an actor, director and student of the late Ernie McClintock. Last seen as the title character of Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*, he is thrilled to be a part of the *Airline Highway* cast! Some of Iman's most enjoyed stage credits include: *A Raisin in the Sun* as "Walter Lee Younger," *The Tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice* as "Othello," and "Hedley" in August Wilson's *Seven Guitars*. Additionally, Iman serves as Artistic Director of African American Repertory Theatre of Virginia; which seeks to include Black life as an integral part of Richmond's contemporary theatrical moment.



**Sian Lee Syring** (Ensemble/Krista US) is a first year theatre performance major at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her most recent appearance was in the ensemble of *To Dance in My Dreams*, which showed at VCU's Shafer Street Playhouse. She would like to thank her family and friends for the constant support, and her teachers and classmates for challenging her as an actor. She is honored to be part of such a colorful and honest production, and is excited to be working with such a seasoned cast.



**Anthony Wright** (Sissy Na Na) is super excited to be a part of this production of such a wonderful play. He graduated from Syracuse University with a dual-degree in Television/Radio/Film and Spanish, but has always considered himself a performer at heart. When not on stage, Anthony teaches dance and gymnastics to children in NYC. Favorite credits: "Bobby" in *Cabaret*, "Richie" in *A Chorus Line*, "Angel" in *Rent* and "Seaweed" in *Hairspray*. Anthony would like to thank Nathaniel and the Virginia Rep team for giving him such a wonderful opportunity. @antsinyapantzz

## COMPANY BIOS

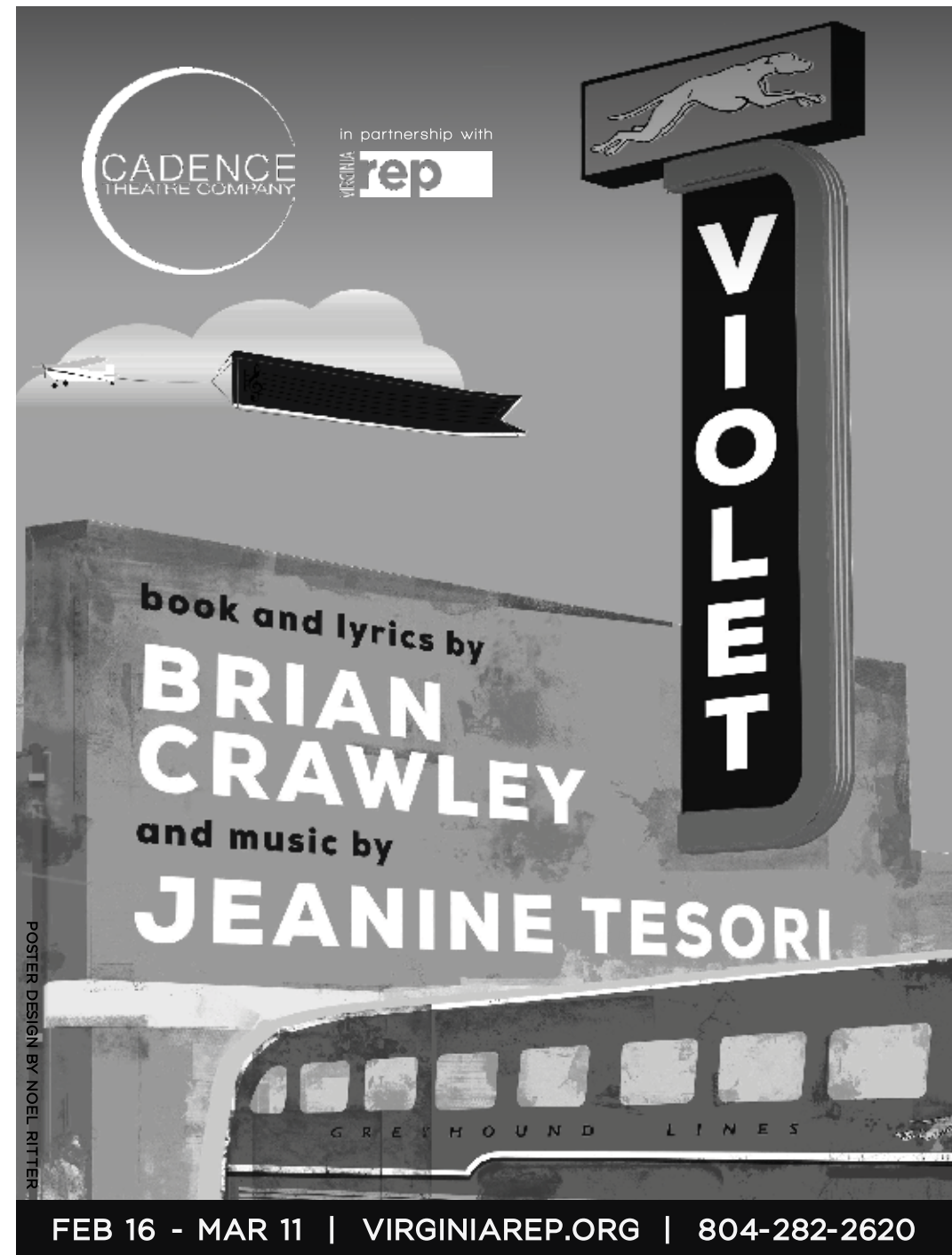
**Laine Satterfield** (Director) is an-award winning theatre artist who also serves as the Director of Education for Cadence Theatre Company, Program Director for TRAIN Pre-Professional Acting Program, Adjunct Professor for Winning Presentations (a public-speaking course at VCU), and Program Director for SPARC's New Voices for the Theater (a statewide high school playwriting competition). As an actor/theatre artist, she has performed in, taught, choreographed, directed, written and devised theatre both nationally and internationally. Recent directing credits include Quill's *Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* and Cadence Theatre/Virginia Rep's critically acclaimed *The Mountaintop*, (2016 Winner Best Director Award, RTCC). Recent roles include Cadence Theatre Company/Virginia Rep's *Sight Unseen* and *Detroit*, Virginia Repertory Theatre's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Gideon's Knot* (2013 Best Ensemble Acting Award, RTCC), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (2012 Best Actress nomination, RTCC), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (2011 Best Actress Award, RTCC), and *Eurydice* (2009 Best Actress nomination, RTCC). She is a member of Actors' Equity Association. Many thanks to Virginia Repertory for the opportunity and to this amazing cast.

**Kate Field** (Scenic Design) is a second year MFA candidate in Scenic Design and Technology at Virginia Commonwealth University. This is her first production with Virginia Rep! Her work has been previously seen on VCU's mainstage in *The Addams Family*, *In The Next Room or the vibrator play*, and *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Her professional credits include: Porthouse Theatre's Scenic Charge Artist and Scenic Artist, interning with the Virginia Shakespeare Festival, as well as the Southeastern Summer Theatre Institute, serving as the Assistant Director of the SSTI Technical Program, Scenic Designer for *Pippin* and *Almost Heaven: Songs of John Denver*, and Scenic Charge Artist for *Pippin* and *Catch Me If You Can*. You can view her work at [katefielddesign.com](http://katefielddesign.com).

**Lynne M. Hartman** (Lighting Design) Virginia Rep designs include *Gypsy*, *Mame*, *Treasure Island*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Shrek!*, *The Music Man*, *Red*, *The Producers*, *Spring Awakening*, *Seussical*, *Legacy of Light* (2011 RTCC Award), and *The Sound of Music* (2010 RTCC Award). 12 total RTCC nominations for Lighting. Based in Norfolk, Lynne has designed *The Hampton Years*, *All My Sons*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Honky Tonk Angels*, *The Tempest*, and *Swingtime Salute* for Virginia Stage Company. Richmond: Carol Piersol, TheatreVirginia, CenterStage, Richmond Ballet, The Carpenter Science Theatre Co. and Dogwood Dell among others. Regional credits include *Company of Fools*, Virginia Shakespeare Festival, *The Lost Colony*, McCarter Theatre, Kings Dominion, Carowinds and Porthouse Theatre. Member: USA, Local 829.

**Emily Laurelle Tappan** (Costume Design) is a current MFA student in Costume Design at Virginia Commonwealth University. She prepared for this role by earning a degree in fine art and spending the last seven years improving her skills by working in many of the museum and theater institutions around Williamsburg, Virginia. She is thrilled that *Airline Highway* has given her the opportunity to put plenty of sequins and feathers on stage.

**Jocelyn A. Thompson** (Stage Management) graduated from Howard University with a degree in Theatre Education specializing in Theater Technology. She is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association and an Associate Artist at Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco, CA. While in California, she made a career as a teaching artist in sound design and stage management and stage managed productions with Cutting Ball Theater, Shotgun Players, Golden Thread Productions, and The Magic. Some of her treasured previous productions include *Harry Thaw Hates Everybody*, *Pelleas and Melisande*, *The Oldest Profession*, and Marcus Gardley's *...and Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi*.



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MUSICALLY DIRECTED BY KIM FOX



PROUD PARTICIPANT





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Scenic Charge ..... Emily Hake

Scenic Artist ..... Katie Peterson

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

At the close of a tumultuous 2016, I found myself reflecting on three key subjects: ways of life that may very well evaporate, the family we choose, and who will remember us after we're gone.

This play takes place in New Orleans, at the fictional Hummingbird Hotel, some miles outside of the French Quarter. It houses a tapestry of characters in danger of losing their home and their community. In many ways, it represents the myriad of personalities that populate our cities. The Hummingbird is a land of misfits, who have suffered estrangement within their own families, and so they have built a chosen family amongst themselves.

Will our chosen family remember us? We are here but a flash, and then we exit the stage. How can we best celebrate those around us, when we know our time is short? Lisa D'Amour's play is a celebration of the living, of flawed relations, and a nod to shared memories that may soon be forgotten.



We are all in the midst of a changing culture across the country. We go into 2017 as a divided America, and I wonder what will get lost in the mix, as we try to find ourselves in a new paradigm. Will our way of life be changed? Will we still recognize ourselves? Each other?

My favorite line of the play is: "Poetry is everywhere. I'm just the editor." Poetry is in the specifics of it all. Let's get this party started.

Laine Satterfield  
*Director*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### Lisa D'Amour

Lisa D'Amour is an American playwright and a fifth generation New Orleans native. She received a B.A. in English and Theater from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi and her M.F.A. in playwriting from the University of Texas at Austin. She soon joined the ranks of the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, and later, the prestigious New Dramatists in New York.

D'Amour and longtime artistic collaborator Katie Pearl are co-artistic directors of PearlDamour, a company dedicated to creating interdisciplinary performance-based work, "both inside and outside traditional theater spaces." In 2002, D'Amour's play *Nita & Zita* was produced off-Broadway at HERE Arts Center following a run in New Orleans. It went on to win an Obie Award.

In 2010, D'Amour's play *Detroit* was commissioned by Steppenwolf in Chicago. It moved to Broadway in 2012, where it became a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.



Photo by Zack Smith

*Airline Highway* was also commissioned at Steppenwolf, moving to Broadway in 2015 where it received 4 Tony Nominations and 3 Drama Desk nominations.

Most recently, PearlDamour was commissioned by American Repertory Theatre to work on a new performance piece about climate change. D'Amour lives with her husband, composer Brendan Connelly, between Brooklyn and New Orleans.

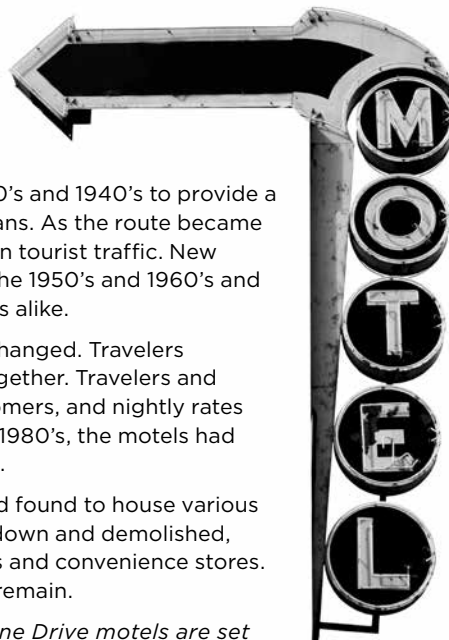
## THE AIRLINE HIGHWAY

New Orleans' Airline Highway was built in the 1930's and 1940's to provide a direct route between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. As the route became the major path for vehicles, the area saw a boom in tourist traffic. New motels sprung up along the corridor throughout the 1950's and 1960's and were frequented by families and business travelers alike.

When Interstate 10 opened in the 1960s, all that changed. Travelers would bypass the area and the Airline motels altogether. Travelers and families were slowly replaced by less savory customers, and nightly rates were discarded in favor of hourly charges. By the 1980's, the motels had developed a reputation for prostitution and drugs.

In the 1990's, several motels were investigated and found to house various illegal activities. Consequentially, they were shut down and demolished, with a few properties being rebuilt as subdivisions and convenience stores. Only a few of the original Airline Highway motels remain.

Source: Jedd Adelson, *NOLA.com*, "Tawdry Airline Drive motels are set for redevelopment"



## A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

To borrow from Tennessee Williams' final lines in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Virginia Rep "always depends on the kindness of strangers." To an even greater extent, like Lennon and McCartney, "we get by with a little help from our friends."

Like all nonprofit professional theatres, symphonies, ballet and opera companies, we need 35% to 40% of our annual operating revenue to come from contributions if we are to remain healthy and strong. Unlimited and creative giving opportunities exist within our annual fund drive and/or our on-going capital and endowment campaigns.

Whatever your means and giving preferences, we hope you will consider becoming a part of Virginia Rep's family of friends. Please contact Bruce Miller or Phil Whiteway for more information: [bmiller@virginiarep.org](mailto:bmiller@virginiarep.org), [pwhiteway@virginiarep.org](mailto:pwhiteway@virginiarep.org), 804-783-1688 ext 1117 or 1116.

And please know that your support is genuinely needed, will be wisely spent and greatly appreciated.

## NOTABLE AWARDS & RECOGNITION

### 2012 Dominion ArtStars Shining Star Award

Presented by Virginians for the Arts for community enhancement through the arts

### 2001 Leadership in Arts Instruction Award

Presented by the Virginia Board of Education and the Virginia Commission for the Arts

### 2008 Governor's Award for the Arts

Presented by Governor Tim Kaine

### 1999 100 Most Influential Richmonders of the Century

Presented by STYLE Weekly to Pete and Nancy Kilgore, Muriel McAuley, Bruce Miller and Phil Whiteway

### 2006 Theresa Pollak Lifetime Achievement Award

Excellence in the Arts  
Presented by Richmond Magazine

1997 First producing theatre in the nation to be invited to become an affiliate of the Kennedy Center's prestigious, national arts-in-education initiative, Partners in Education

2002 The Pentagon selects The-atre IV's *Buffalo Soldier* to be the first professional play in history to be performed inside the Pentagon, as a morale booster after 9/11

# DONORS

We thank the many individuals and institutional funders who have given to Virginia Rep so generously in the past year. The following lists reflect contributions received between Novembmer 1, 2015 and October 31, 2016. We have made every effort to list individual names correctly. If we have made an error, please accept our apologies and contact our development office at 783-1688, ext. 1123.

Virginia Rep is grateful for the generous challenge grants of \$260,000 each from **The Cabell Foundation** and **Mary Morton Parsons Foundation** to support the continuing restoration of our historic facilities on Broad Street. We are currently raising funds to meet the matching requirement from individuals. Gifts noted with the symbol ^ include contributions to this effort.

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