



**News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre**

For Immediate Release

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**Trouble in River City
Virginia Rep announces *The Music Man* with All Star Cast,
“Celebrity Saturdays” and “Sundae Matinees”**

**Sponsored by Wells Fargo and
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Richmond, VA – Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the opening of *The Music Man* at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre on Friday, June 28 with a Preview on June 27. The show runs through August 4, 2013. Part of the “Broadway at the November” Series, *The Music Man* is the all-American quintessential summer musical with book, music, and lyrics by Meredith Wilson. The score features favorite tunes such as “Seventy-Six Trombones”, “Ya Got Trouble”, and “Goodnight My Someone”. The story of Harold Hill, who attempts to con the naive townsfolk of River City, Iowa, and the unlikely courtship with librarian, Marian Paroo, is a sentimental classic. The original Broadway hit in 1957 won five Tony Awards including “Best Musical”.

Under the direction of John Moon, the Virginia Rep production will feature an All Star cast of thirty-seven, lavish costumes and an elaborate set. Moon who has directed many shows for Virginia Rep (*Is He Dead, This Wonderful Life, Nunsense, The Mousetrap, Deathtrap*) served as Dramaturg for Theatre Virginia and Associate Artistic Director for Theatre IV. He considers *The Music Man* to be one of the most romantic and optimistic shows of any American musical. “Not only does it demonstrate the value in following your heart, but we learn that no matter how cynical we might be sooner or

later we, like Harold Hill, are likely to get ‘our foot caught in the door’ and see how the goodness in human nature always shines through.”

Choreographer, Leslie Owens-Harrington, has worked on many Virginia Rep musicals including *My Fair Lady*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Crowns*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Music Man* in 1996. Musical Director, Anthony Smith, is also no stranger to the Virginia Rep stage. Recent credits include *The Producers*, *Always...Patsy Cline* and *Nunsense*. He most recently served as musical director for *Spring Awakening* at the University of Richmond.

Virginia Rep is delighted to have Larry Cook reprising his role as Harold Hill. He was in Virginia Rep’s 1996 production of *The Music Man* under the direction of Bruce Miller. Other Virginia Rep credits include *Legacy of Light*, *The Constant Wife*, *Anything Goes*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and, most recently, *In the Next Room* in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company.

Virginia Rep welcomes Amanda Johnson as Marian Paroo in her first appearance on a Richmond stage. Currently living in New York, Ms. Johnson’s credits include the national tour of *The Sound of Music*, *Music in the Air at City Center Encores!*, *Sweeney Todd* at Barter Theatre, *White Christmas* at Virginia Musical Theatre, *Oklahoma!* at Atlanta Theater of the Stars, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at Signature Theatre (Helen Hayes Nominee).

Veteran Richmond favorites include Richard Koch as Marcellus, Joe Pabst as Mayor Shinn and Debra Wagoner as Eulalie Shinn. Josh Marin and Brittany D. Simmons play the teen roles of Tommy Dijilas and Zaneeta Shinn.

Virginia Rep is delighted to introduce Brandon McKinney as Winthrop and Tori Eriavez as Amaryllis. Brandon is 10 years old and a rising 5th grader at Echo Lake Elementary School. His credits include several CYT productions including *Oliver*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Sound of Music*. Tori is 12 years old and appeared as Juliette in Virginia Rep’s *Madeline’s Christmas* this past December and has also been in several CYT productions.

Set Designer Brian Barker teaches at VCU and operates Barker Designs in Richmond, VA. Set designs for Virginia Rep include *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (RTCC Award), *Spring Awakening* (RTCC nominated), *Night Blooms* and, most recently, *The Pillowman* in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company. Lynn M. Hartman, light designer, is also known for her work at Virginia Rep. Credits include *RED*, *Hay Fever*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Sound of Music* (RTCC Award) and *Spring Awakening* (RTCC nominated). Virginia Rep credits for Sarah Grady, costume designer, include *RED*, *Spring*

Awakening, and The Sound of Music.

Celebrity Saturdays and Special Summer Treats

“Celebrity Saturdays” will feature walk-on cameo appearances by some of Richmond’s favorite celebrities during the Saturday evening performances and patrons can enjoy specially made local Dixie Donuts during most performances and ice cream during our “Sundae Matinees”.

Ticket Information

Box Office 804-282-2620

www.va-rep.org

Full Price Tickets: \$54 - \$60 Premium, \$43 - \$48 Standard, \$25 - \$30 Value

Youth 18 and under \$36

Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.

U-Tix for college and high school students \$15. Available by phone or in person day of show only. Student ID required.

The Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre is equipped with a new state-of-the-art induction loop hearing system that is compatible with all telecoil-equipped hearing aids and cochlear implants. A handheld receiver and headphone system is also available free of charge for anyone who is hearing impaired.

Valet parking is available for \$8 at all performances.

Press Kits Available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to media.

username = press password = HiRes121

Evening performances at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7:00 p.m. pm on select Wednesdays

Matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday and select Wednesdays and Saturdays

Direction & Design

Director

John Moon[^]

Choreographer

Leslie Owens-Harrington[^]

Musical Director

Anthony Smith

Scenic Designer

Brian C. Barker

Lighting Designer

Lynne M. Hartman⁺

Costume Designer

Sarah Grady

Stage Manager

Wendy Vandergriff^{*}

Cast List

Harold Hill
Marian Paroo
Marcellus Washburn
Mayor Shinn
Eulalie Shinn
Mrs. Paroo
Tommy Dijilas
Zaneeta Shinn
Winthrop Paroo
Amaryllis
Charlie Cowell
Maude Dunlop
Ewart Dunlop
Avis Grubb
Mrs. Squires
Alma Hix
Constable
Olin Britt
Jacey Squires
Ethel Toffelmerier
Oliver Hix

Larry Cook
Amanda Johnson*
Richard Koch
Joe Pabst
Debra Wagoner
Lauren Leinhaas-Cook
Josh Marin
Brittany D. Simmons
Brandon McKinney
Tori Eriavez
Andrew Boothby
Carolyn Meade
David Janeski
Desiree Roots Centeio*
Georgia Rogers Farmer
Ingrid Young
James Opher
Keith McCoy
Kenneth Putnam
Stephanie Hill
Jody Ashworth*

The Ensemble

Alana Thomas, Ameris Opher, Anthony Cosby-Knowles, Benjamin Brackley, Donathon Arnold, Emily Turner Marsland, Frank Creasy, Jequan Jackson, Karen Moody, Katie Ford, Mallory Keene, Paul S. Major, Richard Halenda, Sarah Pruden, Sean Dunavant, Skye Hagood

^The Director-Choreographer is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

+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.

Full bios can be found at www.va-rep.org.

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre, located in Richmond, VA, combines the talents and strengths of two nonprofit companies that shared facilities, resources, and management teams for over a decade. Now the heritages of Barksdale Theatre (founded in 1953) and Theatre IV (founded in 1975) live on in their new form, as Central Virginia's leading professional theater company. Virginia Rep presents national caliber productions of the great dramas, comedies, and musicals as well as classics, contemporary works, and world premieres, always seeking to demonstrate the unique power of theater to engage, enthrall, educate, and inspire. Productions are staged at four distinct venues: the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre and Theatre Gym at the downtown Virginia Rep

Center, Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre of Virginia located at Willow Lawn, and at Hanover Tavern, home to Virginia Rep's Barksdale Season.

