



**News Release  
Virginia Repertory Theatre**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Virginia Rep Opens the Italian Classic *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*  
By Eduardo de Filippo**

**Directed by Carl Forsman**

**Richmond, VA** – Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the opening of the Italian classic, *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*, by Eduardo de Filippo at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, 114 West Broad Street on Friday, February 12 with a preview on Thursday, February 11. The production runs through March 6, 2016. Set in Naples in 1959, *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* reflects three days in the lives of a postwar Italian family. Marital misunderstandings, a lover's quarrel, and generational conflict escalate as passions flare during the traditional Sunday dinner with family and friends. This humorous and fresh translation by Linda Alper and Beatrice Basso will appeal to all the senses as the traditional ragù simmers on stage.

Eduardo de Filippo is considered one of the great Italian playwrights and is best known for his Neapolitan works. He was also an actor, screenwriter, author and poet. Filippo was born in Naples to a playwright and theatre seamstress and began a life in theatre at an early age. His 1973 London production of *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* starring Laurence Olivier won the London Drama Critics Award. In 1981 he was made a life senator of the Italian Republic.

Virginia Rep is delighted to welcome Carl Forsman in his directorial debut. Forsman is the Dean of Drama at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Formerly, he was the founder and Artistic Director of the Drama Desk and Obie Award-winning Keen Company in New York City, where he directed 21 plays including New York premieres of *The Good Thief*, *The Conscientious Objector*, *Beasley's Christmas Party*, and *Alphabetical Order*, and acclaimed revivals of *Voice in the Turtle*, *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, and *Benefactors*. He has also directed at The New Group, the Atlantic Theater Company, Primary Stages, the Asolo State Theater, Long Wharf, Merrimack Repertory Theater, and helmed the commercial off-Broadway hit *Love Child*.

The design team includes set designer Brian Barker (*Velveteen Rabbit*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *Spring Awakening* for Virginia Rep), lighting designer BJ Wilkinson (*Equivocation*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* for Virginia Rep), and costumer Sue Griffin (*Mame*, *South Pacific*, *Gypsy* for Virginia Rep).

Virginia Rep will engage several experts in the community as consultants on the show. Giuseppe Scafidi, chef and owner of Deco Ristorante, will consult with several cast members on the food preparations that will take place during the play. Scafidi is from Sicily and very familiar with the traditional Italian Sunday dinner. Franco Ambrogio, owner of Franco's Fine Clothier, will consult with other cast members on the clothing business.

Virginia Rep welcomes Kate Burke-Benedict as Rosa. Burke is the head of theatre voice at the University of Virginia MFA acting program and has many regional theatre credits including American Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory, Portland Stage, New Harmony Summer Rep, Nebraska Rep, Iowa City Summer Rep, Porthouse, and the 1998 production of Virginia Rep's *The Young Man from Atlanta*.

Wilbur Edwyn Henry will make his Virginia Rep debut in the role of Peppino. Broadway credits include *Is He Dead?* Off-Broadway credits include *Our Town*, *Bill W. and Dr. Bob*, and *Orson's Shadow*. Regional credits include lead roles at Alley Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Cincinnati Playhouse, Center Stage, Engeman Theater, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and Florida Studio Theatre.

Catherine Shaffer returns to Virginia Rep in the role of Meme. Recent Virginia Rep credits include *Charitable Sisterhood* and *Steel Magnolias* at Hanover Tavern and *The Boy in the Bathroom* at Firehouse Theatre Project. Also joining the cast are Richmond favorites: Audra Honaker, Matthew Costello, Joe Pabst and Bianca Bryan.

Also making Virginia Rep debuts are Noelle Franco, Michael Labbadia, Lauren Elens, and Max Stampa-Brown. A full cast list is below.

### **Four Thoughts**

**1:30 p.m. on Sundays**

The new Four Thoughts discussion series will continue on Sundays 30 minutes prior to the performance. Local experts on theatre will present four thoughts or ideas that provide context to the play. Open to public. No reservation needed.

### **Ticket Information**

Box Office 804-282-2620

[www.virginiarep.org](http://www.virginiarep.org)

**Full Price Tickets:** \$38 - \$46.

**Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.**

**U-Tix for college and high school students \$10. 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 and free self-park is available for patrons within blocks of the theatre.**

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

**Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to media.**

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

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

### **Direction & Design**

Director	Carl Forsman^
Scenic Designer	Brian Barker
Lighting Designer	BJ Wilkinson
Costume Designer	Sue Griffin
Stage Manager	Rick Brandt*
Assistant Stage Manager	Luke Robinson*

Associate Director

James Stover

### **Cast List**

Rosa	Kate Burke-Benedict*
Peppino	Wilbur Edwyn Henry*
Meme	Catherine Shaffner*
Antonio Piscopo	Matthew Costello*
Roberto	Evan Bergmann
Rocco	Michael Labbadia
Giulanella	Noelle Franco
Attilio	David Rogozenski
Maria Carolina	Lauren Elens
Virginia	Audra Honaker
Raffaele	Eric Williams
Federico	Max Stampa-Brown
Luigi Ianniello	Joe Pabst
Elena	Bianca Bryan
Catiello	Jeff Clevenger

^Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

\* 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.virginiarep.org](http://www.virginiarep.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 located at Willow Lawn, and at Hanover Tavern, home to Virginia Rep's Barksdale Season.

### **Corporate Sponsors**

Virginia Rep is grateful for the support from Altria, The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Shubert Foundation, Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Richmond Times- Dispatch, Richmond.com and Community Idea Stations.

