



**News Release  
Virginia Repertory Theatre**

**Contact:** Susan Davenport  
Director of Communications  
Virginia Repertory Theatre  
[sdavenport@virginiarep.org](mailto:sdavenport@virginiarep.org)  
804-783-1688 ext 1133  
804-513-8211 Mobile

**May 10, 2017**

**Virginia Repertory Theatre Announces the Cast and Creative Team of *In the Heights*  
Featuring Original Broadway Set Design by Anna Louizos,  
Choreography by Broadway *Hamilton* Cast Member, Karla Garcia  
And Broadway's Arielle Jacobs as Vanessa**

**Richmond, VA** -- Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the opening of *In the Heights* on Friday June 23, 2017 at the November Theatre/Arenstein Stage, 114 West Broad Street. The show will run through July 30, 2017. Previews will run for two nights on Wednesday, June 21 and Thursday, June 22, 2017. With a book by **Quiara Alegría Hudes** and music and lyrics by *Hamilton* creator, **Lin-Manuel Miranda**, this groundbreaking musical features spirited characters, pulsing choreography, and an award-winning Latin hip-hop-infused score. Celebrating the vibrant, largely Hispanic neighborhood of New York's Washington Heights, *In the Heights* won 4 Tony Awards in 2008, including Best Musical, and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2009.

Virginia Rep is remounting the original Broadway design, by **Anna Louizos**, created for the Richard Rodgers Theatre in 2008. Louizos has numerous Broadway credits including *School of Rock: The Musical*, *Dames At Sea*, *It Shoulda Been You*, *Honeymoon In Vegas*, *Cinderella*, *The Performers*, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, and *Avenue Q*.

Choreographer, **Karla Garcia**, comes to Richmond from New York, where she is currently in the Broadway cast of *Hamilton*. Other Broadway performing credits include *Hot Feet*, and the revivals of *West Side Story* and *Gigi*. Garcia was a top finalist on *So You Think You Can Dance* Season 5 and a principal dancer in NBC's *Smash* Season 2.

**Arielle Jacobs** returns to *In the Heights* in the role of Vanessa after starring as Nina in the Broadway production with Lin-Manuel Miranda and in the first national tour. She recently starred as Jasmine in the original Australian company of Disney's Broadway hit musical *Aladdin*. Other credits include Nessarose in *Wicked* on Broadway and the first national tour of *High School Musical*.

Virginia Rep Artistic Director, **Nathaniel Shaw**, will direct his second show of Virginia Rep's 2016/17 season, following the success of the World Premiere production of *The End of War* and last season's *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Shaw previously served as Artistic Director for The Active Theatre and Associate Choreographer for both the Broadway and First National Tour of *Once*.

**Ben Miller** will serve as Music Director. Recent music directing credits include *A Christmas Story* and *The Color Purple* for Virginia Rep.

**Joe Doran** will serve as lighting designer. Recent credits include Assistant Lighting Designer for *Doctor Zhivago* and *Magic/Bird* on Broadway and Lighting Designer for the National Tours of *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, *Anything Goes*, *West Side Story*, *Flashdance the Musical*, *In the Heights*. Recent Virginia Rep credits include *A Christmas Story* and *Dreamgirls*. Virginia Rep's Assistant Costume Director, **Sarah Grady**, will design costumes. Her work was last seen in the summer hit musical, *Dreamgirls*, at Virginia Rep.

**JJ Caruncho** makes his Virginia Rep debut as Usnavi, a role he has played at New Hazlett in Pittsburgh. Other credits include the title role in *Hamlet* in London & Stratford Upon Avon, The Dreamer in *The Suicide Notes*, Arnold Wiggins in *The Boys Next Door*, and Bond in the indie film *Shaken*.

**Shea Gomez** makes her Virginia Rep debut in the role of Nina. Recent credits include the National Tour of *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (directed and choreographed by Andy Blankenbuehler), Moisés Kaufman's *Carmen* at Tectonic Theatre Project, *iLLA* at the New York Musical Theatre Festival, *Clubland* at ART and original cast of Sam Willmott's *Standardized Testing: The Musical*. **Josh Marin** returns to the Virginia Rep stage as Benny after most recently appearing in *Buffalo Soldier*, *The Color Purple*, and *Violet*, a co-production with Cadence Theatre Company. Vilma Gill (*Beehive* and *Swingtime Cantina* for Virginia Rep) returns in the role of Camilla Rosario.

The full cast list is below.

### **Ticket Information**

Box Office 804-282-2620

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

Full Price Tickets: \$48 - \$60

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. Valid Student ID required.

### **Performance Schedule**

Evening performances at 7:00 p.m. on select Wednesdays and every Thursday

Evening performances at 8:00 p.m. every Friday and Saturday

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

### **Induction Loop**

The Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre is equipped with a 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.

### **Parking**

Valet parking is available for \$8 at all performances and free self-park is available for patrons within blocks of the theatre. Valet is complimentary for patrons who dine at Max's on Broad, before or after the show.

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

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to media.

username = press password = HiRes121

### **Direction & Design**

Director	<b>Nathaniel Shaw</b>
Choreographer	<b>Karla Garcia</b>
Music Director	<b>Ben Miller</b>
Set Designer	<b>Anna Louizos</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Joe Doran+</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Derek Dumais</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Sarah Grady</b>
Associate Director	<b>Kikau Alvaro</b>
Associate Music Director	<b>Carson Eubank</b>
Production Stage Manager	<b>Christi B. Spann*</b>
Asst. Stage Manager	<b>Luke Robinson*</b>

### **Cast List**

Usnavi	<b>JJ Caruncho*</b>
Vanessa	<b>Arielle Jacobs*</b>
Nina	<b>Shea Gomez</b>
Benny	<b>Josh Marin*</b>
Kevin Rosario	<b>TBA</b>
Camilla Rosario	<b>Vilma Gill</b>

Carla	<b>Kita Grayson</b>
Daniela	<b>Melissa Vasquez Cartwright</b>
Abuela	<b>Yvonne Strumecki*</b>
Sonny	<b>James Schoppe</b>
Piragua Guy	<b>Fernando Rivadeneira</b>
Graffiti Pete	<b>Roberto Whitaker</b>
Ensemble	<b>LaWanda Raines, Dia Davis, Makenzie Mercer, Diontey Michael, Joshua James Crawford, Alana Thomas, Savannah George, Ira White, Edgar Cavazos, Gabi Campo</b>

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

+ Member of USA United Scenic Artists: local 829

### **About Virginia Repertory Theatre**

Virginia Repertory Theatre is the regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With a budget of \$5 million, four distinct venues, an educational touring arm, and an annual audience over 530,000, Virginia Rep is 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, Theatre Gym Season in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company, Virginia Rep's Children's Season at Willow Lawn, and the Hanover Tavern Season.

### **Corporate Sponsors**

Virginia Rep is grateful for the following support:

**Premier Sponsor:** Dominion

**Production Sponsor:** Union Bank and Trust

### **Season Sponsors:**

Altria  
The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation  
The Shubert Foundation  
The Virginia Commission for the Arts  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

### **Community Partners:**

Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce