



**News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre**

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

August 6, 2017

**Virginia Repertory Theatre Announces the Cast and Creative Team
of *Shakespeare in Love***

Direction and Choreography by Jen Wineman

**Starring Original *Hamilton* Cast Member, Betsy Struxness as Viola de Lesseps
Brandon Carter as Will Shakespeare
Scott Wichmann as Ned Alleyn
Susan Sanford as Elizabeth I of England**

Richmond, VA -- Virginia Repertory Theatre opens the Signature Season with *Shakespeare in Love*, based on the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard and adapted by Lee Hall. This racy, romantic comedy opens Friday, **September 15, 2017**, at the November Theatre/Arenstein Stage, 114 West Broad Street and runs through October 8 with two preview performances on Wednesday, September 13 and Thursday, September 14. This new stage adaptation reimagines the romance between young Will Shakespeare and his muse, Viola de Lesseps, who will stop at nothing, including the law, to be in his new play.

Virginia Rep is delighted to welcome New York based Director and Choreographer, **Jen Wineman**. Her work has been seen at theaters in New York and across the country. Wineman is a co-founder and the former co-artistic director of Studio 42, a New York City-based company that from 2001-2015, produced "unproducible" plays by emerging playwrights. She is an affiliated artist with New Georges, a member of the 2011/2012 Soho Rep Writer Director Lab, and an associate member of Telluride Theatre. Wineman has taught at Vassar College, Ithaca College, SUNY Purchase, and is on the faculty at Primary Stages Einhorn School of Performing Arts in New York City. Wineman talked about her excitement in directing the show, "I am thrilled to make my Virginia Rep directorial and choreographic debut with *Shakespeare in Love*.

It's always been one of my favorite movies, and the stage adaptation provides a thrilling opportunity to bring this highly theatrical story to new heights. A love letter to theater and to the power of inspiration, our production of *Shakespeare in Love* will be filled with humor, romantic magic, workplace drama, and of course, a dog.”

Wineman’s New York credits include: *My Heart is in the East* (La Mama); *Fable* (NYMF), *The King’s Whore* (Walkerspace); *F#%king Up Everything* (Elektra Theater) *Estrella Cruz [The Junkyard Queen]* (Ars Nova). Touring Productions include: *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Asolo Repertory Theatre). Regional credits include: *Into the West* (Tantrum Theater); *Baskerville* (Dorset Theatre Festival); *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (Asolo Rep) *Sweeney Todd* (Playmakers Rep); *The 39 Steps*, *Shipwrecked* (Triad Stage); *The Hunchback of Seville* (Washington Ensemble Theatre); *Bubble Boy* (American Theater Group); *Aloha Say the Pretty Girls* (Theatre Vertigo).

Virginia Rep also welcomes Broadway’s **Betsy Struxness** in the lead role of Viola. Recent credits include the original casts of *Hamilton* and *Matilda*. Other Broadway credits include *Scandalous*, *Leap of Faith*, *Memphis*, and *Wicked*. Television credits include the Emmy award winning series *Louie*, *Broad City*, and *The Onion News Network*. Struxness has appeared on the TONY awards numerous times as well as the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Grammy Awards.

Brandon Carter also makes his Virginia Rep debut as Will Shakespeare. Recent Off-Broadway and regional credits include *The Three Musketeers* (Aramis) and *Macbeth* (Malcolm) at Classical Theatre of Harlem, *The First Noel* (Skeeter) at The Apollo Theatre, and *The Brothers Size* (Ogun) at Luna Stage.

Scott Wichmann returns to Virginia Rep after recent lead roles in *1776* (John Adams) and the World Premiere of *The End of War*. **Susan Sanford** returns in the role of Elizabeth I of England. Recent Virginia Rep credits include *A Christmas Story* and *Airline Highway*.

Set Designer, **Ron Keller**, joins the creative team. He most recently designed the highly acclaimed set of *The End of War* among many others.

Virginia Rep is delighted to engage Costume Designer **Aaron P. Mastin**. Mastin is known for his work on *12 Years a Slave*, *Lincoln*, and the *John Adams* TV Mini Series. His work has also been seen at Yale Rep, Princeton University, Millbrook Playhouse, and Syracuse Stage.

Music Director, **Sandy Dacus**, (*1776*, *Sound of Music*, *Spring Awakening*) and Lighting Designer, **BJ Wilkinson**, (*1776*, *The End of War*) round out the design team.

The full creative team and cast list is below.

Ticket Information

Box Office 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Full Price Tickets: \$36 - \$62

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 and Choreographer	Jen Wineman
Music Direction	Sandy Dacus
Set Design	Ron Keller+
Lighting Design	BJ Wilkinson
Sound Design	Derek Dumais
Costume Design	Aaron P. Mastin+
Fight Choreography	Aaron Orensky
Dialect Coach	Roger Ainslie
Production Stage Manager	Christi B. Spann*
Asst. Stage Manager	Luke Robinson*

Cast List

Viola de Lesseps	Betsy Struxness*
Will Shakespeare	Brandon Carter*

Christopher 'Kit' Marlowe
Philip Henslowe
Lord Wessex
Ned Alleyn
Elizabeth I of England
Richard Burbage/ de Lesseps
Nurse
Hugh Fennyman
Miss Quickly/Kate
Wabash
Sam
John Webster
Tilney
Lady Capulet
Ralph
Ensemble

Shravan Amin
Keith Richards
Joseph Bromfield
Scott Wichmann*
Susan Sanford*
Matthew Radford Davies
Jacquie O'Connor
J. Ron Fleming
Mareia Terrell
Levi Meerovich
Nate Ritsema
Donathan Arnold
Randy Risher
Keaton Hillman
Chandler Matkins
Michael Miranda

^Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union

* 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.

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