



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

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RICHMOND, VA: Virginia Repertory Theatre announced its 2018-19 season on March 4 at a festive evening event with live performances of songs from several of the shows. This is the theater company's second season under Artistic Director Nathaniel Shaw. The lineup includes the Signature season at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre and Marjorie Arensstein Stage; the Cadence season, co-produced by Cadence Theatre Company at Theatre Gym; the Hanover season at Hanover Tavern; and the Children's Season at Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn. Subscriptions may be purchased starting Monday, March 5 at 10:00 am.

"We are in the midst of challenging, yet invigorating times. As we explored play titles for our 2018-19 season, we were inevitably drawn to themes of perseverance, redemption, recovery, and forgiveness. However, the common thread seemed to be LOVE. LOVE of family, LOVE of our fellow man, and most importantly, choosing LOVE above violence and distrust. It is a LOVE deeply rooted in our history. It is a LOVE filled with laughter and celebration. It is a LOVE filled with both pain and rapturous joy. It is a LOVE that propels us forward and inspires us to do better, to be better. Join us for a dynamic, entertaining, passion-filled, and thought-provoking season at Richmond's flagship professional theater," said Artistic Director Nathaniel Shaw.

Signature Season

The Signature Season opens with *The Curious Incident of the Dog in Night-Time* (September 21 - October 14, 2018). This dynamic and surprising drama introduces 15-year-old Christopher John Francis Boone, an exceptionally brilliant and neurologically atypical young man, who investigates the mysterious murder of his neighbor's dog. But

Christopher's detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a harrowing, but ultimately triumphant journey.

Written by Simon Stephens
Based on the novel by Mark Haddon

The holiday show will be *Sister Act* (November 16 - December 30, 2018). Based on the 1992 hit movie with Whoopi Goldberg, this musical follows the fallen showgirl, Deloris Van Cartier, who unexpectedly finds sisterhood and redemption when forced to take refuge in a convent.

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Glenn Slater
Book by Bill and Cheri Steinkellner
Additional Book Material by Douglas Carter Beane

First up in 2019 will be the Tony Award-winning musical *Once* (February 8 - March 3, 2019). Described as one of the most original musicals of our time, *Once* follows a classic tale of boy-meets-girl but through the eyes of two musicians and the community they bring together on the streets of Dublin. Based on the 2007 Academy Award-winning movie for Best Original Song ("Falling Slowly"), *Once* features a cast that acts as its own orchestra to tell an enchanting and emotionally captivating story about love, humanity, and the saving power of music.

Based on the film by John Carney
Music and Lyrics by Gen Hensard and Márkéta Irgová
Book by Enda Walsh

Next Spring, Virginia Rep will stage the very first developmental production of *Atlantis* (April 12 - May 5, 2019). This new musical whisks us away to the mysterious, island of Atlantis. On the Eve of The Sacred Solstice, a young refugee, fleeing her vidert homeland, washes up on the shore, sending the island into political chaos. With an epic and moving score, this glorious new musical sets sail first from the Port of Richmond!

Music and Lyrics by Matthew Lee Robinson
Book by Ken Cerri and Matthew Lee Robinson

Additional Story by Scott Morris

Closing the Signature season will be *The Wiz* (June 21 - July 28, 2019) based on L. Frank Baum's classic 1900 children's novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Set to the sounds of R&B, soul and pop, this Tony Award-winning musical follows Dorothy and her friends as they "Ease on Down" the yellow brick road.

Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls

Book by William F. Brown

Cadence Season

Between Riverside and Crazy (October 13 - November 4, 2018), the 2015 Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Stephen Adly Guirgis starts the season. When ex-cop "Pops" Washington welcomes his ex-conviction son back into his rent-controlled apartment on Riverside Drive, he also welcomes some new, unlikely but frequent guests. Fighting to keep one of the last rent-stabilized apartments in New York City, as well as fighting a discrimination suit against the New York Police Department, does not make his situation any easier. The play uses dark humor to examine the contradictions of justice and the human condition to persevere.

Written by Stephen Adly Guirgis

In My Chair, an original work written and performed by Richmond artist Eva DeVirglis with Virginia Repertory development assistance, premieres March 2-24, 2019. What started as an internationally renowned TEDx Talk flourished into a global research trip to gather eye-opening perspectives on self-esteem, body image, and often unrealistic 21st Century beauty standards. Join award-winning actress and makeup artist DeVirglis on her journey to find out why beauty is so closely tied to self-acceptance.

Written and Performed by Eva DeVirglis

Last in the Cadence season will be 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist *Gloria* (May 11 - June 2, 2019). *Gloria* is a sharp satire that exposes workplace toxicity at its most volatile. What starts as a normal day for a group of young, ambitious editorial assistants abruptly turns into anything but, and when their life-changing experience offers the opportunity they have all been waiting for, their fight to have their story told becomes more ruthless than

ever.

Written by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Hanover Season

The Hanover Season will open with Ken Ludwig's holiday comedy *The Game's Afoot: Holmes for the Holidays* (November 30 - December 30, 2018). Murder mysteries and mirthful merri ment cd or thistwisty whodunit. Centered on Broadway star William Gillette, admired worldwider for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes, this wacky comedy follows the actor as he must reprise his rde in order to solve the mystery of his own attempted murder in his castle during holiday festivities with his castmates.

Written by Ken Ludwig

Pulitzer Prize-finding *Broadway Bound* (March 15 - April 20, 2019) follows the blockbuster success of Virginia Rep's 2015 production of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, the third installment of Neil Simon's autobiographical trilogy. The play finds Eugene, and his dder brother Stanley, trying to break into the world of show business as professional comedy writers. When their material is broadcast on the radio for the first time, the Jerome family is pushed to the brink as a thinly-veiled comedic portrait of themselves is broadcast across their community.

Written by Neil Simon

The final show in the Hanover season will be *Forever Paid* (July 19 - August 25, 2019). For anyone looking for a nostalgic trip back to the days of dose-harmony barbershop quartets, look no further than Stuart Ross's rifty musical revue *Forever Paid*. Doo-wop to the good tunes of back in the day with *The Pads*, a quartet of high school friends that return from the afterlife for their last chance at musical glory.

Book by Stuart Ross

Music and Lyrics by Various Artists

Children's Season

First up in the Children's Season will be the regional premiere of *M. Popper's Penguins* (October 19 - December 30, 2018). Based on the popular children's book, *M. Popper's Penguins* tells the tale of the gentle British house painter, with a fondness for Antarctic exploration, who finds himself and his family the proud domesticators of a family of penguins. This heartwarming tale will be a holiday treat for the entire family as they follow Mr. Popper, his family, and his talented little penguins.

Based on the novel by Richard and Florence Atwater

The next show up will be *Huck and Tom and the Mighty Mississippi* (January 25 - March 3, 2019). This Virginia Rep Original adaptation brings Mark Twain's two classic American novels into one fast-paced, footstomping musical adventure down the Mississippi. The greatest young adventurers in American literature, Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer, spring to life along with familiar characters Jim, Becky Thatcher, Aunt Polly, and all the residents and rascals of Hannibal, MO as they explore the majestic river that defined their lives, tested their souls, and carried their spirit into the heart of America.

Music by Ron Barnett
Book by Peter Howard

The following show will be *Pinochio* (Mar 29 - May 5, 2019). Written by Bruce Craig Miller, this play tells the classic tale of Geppetto's little wooden puppet whose only wish is to be a real boy. Fall back in love with the tale that has transcended generations of wishmakers. Imagine Geppetto's surprise when the puppet he carves from a most unusual piece of wood suddenly springs to life. The wooden boy, named Pinochio, becomes like a son to the kindly wood carver who provides him with a loving home. But the mischievous, and somewhat ungrateful, Pinochio has other ideas and sets off on a series of fantastical adventures that teach him valuable lessons that lead him back home.

Written by Bruce Craig Miller

Closing the Children's season will be *Pinkalots: The Cod Kids Musical* (July 12 - August 11, 2019). *Pinkalots* follows 8-year-old Lily Pinkalot, the first Pinkalot to attend the school in the "Squares Only" small town of Rockaway. However, Lily, along with her

new friend Sky, a shy Square boy who appreciates her for her unique *pd kadot* skin, prove that our individual differences do not make us weird or wrong, they make us awesome. Inspired by the events of The Little Rock Nine, *Pd kadot* is a fun and colorful but also meaningful history lesson for children.

Book by Melvin Tunstall III

Music by Greg Borowsky and Douglas Lyons

Lyrics by Douglas Lyons

About Virginia Rep

With a \$5 million budget, Virginia Repertory Theatre (Virginia Rep) is one of the largest performing arts organizations in central Virginia. Counting theater performances, tours, camps, classes and service initiatives, the company had a total annual attendance of 530,000. For more information, visit www.virginiarep.org, or call our box office at 804-282-2620.