



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

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Virginia Repertory Theatre Announces the Company of
Once

Based on the Film by John Carney
Direction and Choreography by Nathaniel Shaw

Richmond, VA -- Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the opening of *Once* on Friday, February 8, 2019 at the November Theatre/Arenstein Stage, 114 West Broad Street. The show will run through Sunday, March 3, 2019. Previews will be on Wednesday, February 6 and Thursday, February 7, 2019. With music and lyrics by **Glen Hansard** and **Marketa Irglova**, and book by **Enda Walsh**, this enchanting and emotionally captivating musical love story is based on the 2007 movie by **John Carney**.

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. Winner of the Academy Award for Best Original Song ("Falling Slowly"), *Once* features a cast that acts as its own orchestra to tell a story about love, humanity, and the redemptive power of music.

Virginia Repertory Theatre is presenting this production of *Once* in association with the **Fulton Theatre** in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. After the production closes in Richmond on March 3, the actors, instruments and scenery will relocate to Lancaster, where the run will continue March 19 through April 14, 2019.

Virginia Rep's production of *Once* is proud to participate in this year's annual **Acts of Faith Festival**. The Acts of Faith Festival is the nation's largest faith-inspired theatre festival, a vibrant and inclusive community-wide collaboration involving RVA's theatres and faith communities.

Virginia Rep is thrilled to welcome **Ken Allen Neely** and **Katherine Fried** to Richmond for their November Theatre debuts as Guy and Girl. Both Neely and Fried recently completed a run of *Once* at Arden Theatre Company in Philadelphia. Other NYC/Off-Broadway credits for Neely include Adam Pascal in *Madame Pascal* (Dixon Place), Christian in *Cobaltians* (Davenport Theatre), and Nick in *Puppet Dead* (Mills Entertainment). Other credits for Fried include Viola in *Shakespeare in Love*, Katherine in *Henry V* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); and Doris in *The American Clock* (Guthrie Theater).

J. Michael Zygo joins the company as Emcee, as well as Musical Director, Associate Choreographer, Dance Captain and Music Captain. Zygo was an original cast member/musician of the Tony Award-winning *Once* on Broadway (Emcee, u/s Guy, u/s Billy, Dance Captain, Associate Conductor) and featured on the Grammy Award-winning cast album. Broadway credits include *School Of Rock* (Ensemble, u/s Ned, u/s Theo). Off-Broadway credits include *Once* (NYTW) and *Man of Rock* (NYMF).

Virginia Rep Artistic Director **Nathaniel Shaw** will direct and choreograph the production, following the success of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* earlier this season and last summer's smash hit, *West Side Story* (RTCC Award for Best Musical). Shaw also was an Associate Choreographer for *Once*, supervising both the Broadway production and first national tour.

William James Mohney will serve as scenic designer. Mohney is the Head of Production at the Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. **Ruth Hedberg** (*Pinkalicious; You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*) will design costumes. **Joe Doran** will serve as lighting designer. Recent Virginia Rep credits include *Fun Home* and *In The Heights*. Virginia Rep Audio Visual Supervisor **Derek Dumais** (*Sister Act, West Side Story*) will Sound Design. **Amanda Durst** (*Da, The End of War*) will serve as Dialect Coach.

The full creative team and cast list is below.

Direction & Design

Director/Choreographer

Musical Director/Assoc. Choreographer

Associate Director

Production Stage Manager

AEA Asst. Stage Manager

Asst. Stage Manager

Scenic Designer

Lighting Designer

Nathaniel Shaw[^]

J. Michael Zygo

Katrinah Carol Lewis

Jocelyn A. Thompson*

Kerri J. Lynch*

Lydia Crush

William James Mohney

Joe Doran

Costume Designer
Sound Designer
Assistant Lighting Designer
Dialect Coach

Ruth Hedberg
Derek Dumais
Weston Corey
Amanda Durst

Cast List

Guy
Girl
Da
Baruska
Ex-Girlfriend
Svec
Andrej
Billy
Bank Manager
Eamon
Emcee
Reza
Ivanka

Ken Allen Neely*
Katherine Fried
Christopher Seiler*
Kelly Kennedy*
Hilary Alexa Caldwell
Trevor Lindley Craft
Lennon Hu
Jon Patrick Penick
Andrew Nielson
Will Hart
J. Michael Zygo*
Lauren Wright
Isabel Lewis, Keeley Maddux

^ The Director is a 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.

Ticket Information

Box Office: 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Full Price Tickets: \$36 - \$63

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

Accessibility Programs

Audio Described Performances

In collaboration with Virginia Voice, Virginia Rep is pleased to offer Audio Described performances, in which actions, expressions and gestures are described during gaps between dialogue throughout the performance for patrons with low vision or blindness. In addition to live audio description during performances, patrons are also invited to participate in a tactile tour before the performance. The Audio Described performance for *Once* will be on Sunday, February 17 at 2 p.m.

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.

Community Tickets Grant

Virginia Rep is thrilled to offer a **free** Community Tickets Grant for nonprofit organizations. We encourage all organizations who have a demonstrated need for complimentary tickets to fill out a short application on our website: bit.ly/CommunityTix

Parking

Valet parking is available for \$8 at all performances and free self-parking is available for patrons within blocks of the theatre. Valet is complimentary for patrons who dine at Max's on Broad or Tarrant's Cafe before the show. Valet is no longer located in front of the theatre, and has been moved less than one block away to Jefferson Street.

Press Kits will be available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to media.

username = press password = HiRes121

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With a budget of \$5.5 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