



**News Release**  
**Virginia Repertory Theatre**

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**Virginia Repertory Theatre at Hanover Tavern Presents**  
***The 39 Steps***  
**By Patrick Barlow**

**Richmond, VA --** Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the opening of the first production of 2020 at the Hanover Tavern: ***The 39 Steps***, opening Friday, February 14. The Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning play mixes a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, and adds a dash of Monty Python, to create a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre. This play is packed with nonstop laughs, over 150 zany characters (played by a ridiculously talented cast of four), an onstage plane crash, and even some good old-fashioned romance!

Virginia Rep Artistic Director **Nathaniel Shaw** makes his Hanover Tavern directorial debut, following the successes of *Once* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at the November Theatre last season. Shaw also directed and won the RTCC Award for Best Musical for *West Side Story* in the summer of 2018. Later this season, he will direct this summer's Signature musical, *Chicago*.

For this wacky Hitchcockian spoof, Shaw has assembled a cast of four comedic powerhouses. **Alec Beard** makes his Virginia Rep debut as Richard Hannay, having previously been seen in *We Live Here* (MTC); *A Feminine Ending* (Playwrights Horizons); and *As You Like It* (The Public/NYSF). **Irene Kuykendall** returns to the Tavern stage as The Woman. Kuykendall appeared in *Crimes of the Heart* at the Hanover Tavern in the summer of 2018. **Audra Honaker** and **Paul S. Major** round out the cast as the Clowns. Honaker was most recently seen on a Virginia Rep stage in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*; Major was last seen in *Sister Act*.

Set Design is by **Terrie Powers** (*Always... Patsy Cline, Forever Plaid*), Costume Design is by

**Ruth Hedberg** (*Tuck Everlasting, Once*), Lighting Design is by **BJ Wilkinson** (*Cinderella, Gentleman's Guide...*), and Sound Design is by **Derek Dumais** (*Cinderella, Gentleman's Guide...*).

The full creative team and cast list is below.

### **Ticket Information**

**Box Office:** 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

**Full Price Tickets:** \$44

Discounted Group Rates available.

The **Performance Schedule** includes evening performances at 8:00 p.m. on select Wednesdays and every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. on select Wednesdays and Saturdays and every Sunday.

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

Passcode accessible **high-res photos** will be available to media.

username = press

password = HiRes121

### **Direction & Design**

Direction	<b>Nathaniel Shaw</b>
Assistant Direction	<b>Kaitlyn Tate</b>
Dialect Coaching	<b>Karen Kopryanski</b>
Scenic Design	<b>Terrie Powers</b>
Costume Design	<b>Ruth Hedberg</b>
Lighting Design	<b>BJ Wilkinson</b>
Sound Design	<b>Derek Dumais</b>
Stage Management	<b>Lydia Crush</b>
Hanover Technical Direction	<b>Tommy Hawfield</b>

### **Cast List**

Richard Hannay	<b>Alec Beard</b>
The Woman	<b>Irene Kuykendall</b>
Clown 1	<b>Paul S. Major</b>
Clown 2	<b>Audra Honaker</b>
Richard Hannay u/s	<b>Axle Burtness</b>
The Woman u/s	<b>Katherine S. Wright</b>
Clown u/s	<b>Levi Meerovich</b>

## **About Virginia Repertory Theatre**

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

## **Sponsors**

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