



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

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Virginia Rep Presents
Bonnie and Claire
At Hanover Tavern May 13 – June 12

Richmond, VA – Virginia Repertory Theatre presents a new play, ***Bonnie and Claire***, which was meant to have its world premiere in May of 2020, but COVID forced us to cancel.

Local playwright Bo Wilson, who penned some of our most popular shows at Hanover Tavern, including ***The Charitable Sisterhood*** hits, gives us this funny and heartwarming story about two sisters who reluctantly reunite after a forty-year separation. Now in the autumn of their lives, Bonnie and Claire find themselves increasingly reliant on their niece, Zoe, who is trying to start a business and a family of her own while conducting delicate diplomacy between the feuding siblings.

There are three leading ladies in the play:

Jan Guarino (Claire) was last seen at Hanover Tavern in the hugely popular ***The Charitable Sisterhood Christmas Spectacular***. She directed ***Barefoot in the Park*** (the first show back after the pandemic shutdown) and before that, she directed ***Dancing Lessons*** also for the Hanover Season. She has also directed ***Where's***

Charley?, **The Wizard of Oz** and **They're Playing Our Song** for Virginia Rep. A familiar face and voice in Richmond-area advertising, Jan is perhaps best known as the spokesperson for Haynes Furniture.

Melissa Johnston Price (Bonnie) is a 2014 recipient of the Teresa Pollack Award for Excellence in the Performing Arts, and has been in over 60 regional productions in a career spanning 45 years. She was seen in Quill Theatre's **Taming of the Shrew** (Baptista), **Pride and Prejudice** (Mrs. Bennett) and **Romeo and Juliet** (Nurse). Melissa counts among her favorite roles: Barbara in **August: Osage County** with Cadence/Virginia Rep (winner: Best Actress Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Award) and Eleanor in Quill's **The Lion in Winter** (nominated: RTCC Best Actress), Becky in Virginia Rep's **Becky's New Car** at Hanover Tavern and Silda in **Other Desert Cities**.

Sydnee S. Graves (Zoe) is making her Hanover Tavern debut. Previous credits include **Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical** (Ms. Square/Mama Square), **Harriett Tubman and the Underground Railroad** (Sister/Mom), as well as traveling with the Virginia Repertory Theater on Tour.

Bo Wilson - Playwright

Bonnie and Claire playwright, Bo Wilson, worked on this play for several years, with two readings held by Virginia Rep to gather feedback to assist in rewrites. He is well known to Virginia Rep audiences for **The Charitable Sisterhood** plays, which have been produced all over the country as well as in Australia, Canada, and Wales. Earlier world premieres of his work by Virginia Rep include **Mona's Arrangements** and **War Story**, as well as several touring shows. He's also appeared on Virginia Rep stages as an actor, most recently in **It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play**.

He has written thirty other titles, and has been published by Dramatic Publishing, Samuel French, and Algonquin Press. In 2016, his play, **The Bookbinder's Tale**, was a finalist for the prestigious National Playwrights' Conference at the O'Neill Theatre Center. **Bonnie and Claire** will be published by Dramatic Publishing in the coming year.

Direction & Design

Direction	Jan Powell*
Scenic Design	Terrie Powers
Costume Design	Marcia Miller Hailey
Lighting Design	Matt Landwehr
Sound and Projection Design	Jacob Mishler
Stage Management	Joe Pabst

Cast

Bonnie	Melissa Johnston Price
Claire	Jan Guarino
Zoe	Sydnee Graves

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

Ticket Information

Box Office: 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Tickets range from \$48

Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.

Press

The show runs 90 minutes with no intermission

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

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About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a regional professional theater headquartered in downtown Richmond, and 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, Virginia Rep's Children's Season, the Hanover

Tavern Season, and the Theatre Gym Season produced in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company. Virginia Rep also tours, both virtually and live, and provides educational programming to schools throughout Virginia and to major performing arts centers throughout 32 states.

Season Supporters

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