



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

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**March 2024**

Virginia Repertory Theatre Presents  
**ON AIR** at Hanover Tavern

**Richmond, VA** -- Virginia Repertory Theatre presents **ON AIR**, directed by Artistic Director of Education, Todd D. Norris, at Hanover Tavern Mar 15 - Apr 14, 2024. The musical is about two unsung radio pioneers who broke through the static and established the first radio station in America.

Amidst the turbulent 1920's, Frank and Flora Conrad were on the edge of discovering mass broadcasting. They established the first radio station in America within their own unassuming garage in East Pittsburgh. **ON AIR** follows their untold love story, their professional victories and disappointments, as well as their journey in establishing broadcast radio as a constant companion, messenger, and soundtrack for the life of every American.

Music and Lyrics are by Matthew Conner, with Book & Lyrics by Stephen Gregory Smith.

**Playing Frank is Colton Needles**

Colton Needles is thrilled to be making his Virginia Rep debut! Colton is a Southern Utah University graduate and an avid reader of fantasy. Most recent credits include Caesar (and 12 other characters) in Julius Caesar at Sweet Tea Shakespeare; Jonathan in Placebo at Yes, And! Theatrical Company; Peter Shaw in Silent Sky at Chamberlayne Actors Theatre; and Simon/Musician in The Legend of Sleepy Hollow at Ohio Shakespeare Festival.

## **Playing Flora is Emily Dandridge**

Emily Dandridge is the Cultural Arts Specialist for the City of Richmond. From 2011 - 2020, she was the Associate Artistic Director for Richmond Ballet's Outreach program, Minds in Motion. Favorite performed roles include The Suspects, Murder For Two (RTCC Best Lead Performance award and Best Musical award) (Swift Creek Mill Theater); Peggy Sawyer in 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (Dogwood Dell); Velma in West Side Story (Virginia Rep); Bianca/Lois in Kiss Me Kate (Homefront Players), Dr. Virginia Apgar and Sally Ride in She Persisted: The Musical (Virginia Rep), Dusty u/s in POTUS (Virginia Rep), Lola in Damn Yankees (JFT); and Judy Haynes in White Christmas (Footlight Players). As choreographer, she received RTCC Best Choreography nominations for Carrie (5th Wall Theater), Toxic Avenger (5th Wall Theater), and Preludes (Firehouse Theater).

## **Direction & Design**

Direction - Todd D. Norris

Music Director - Elle Meerovich

Choreographer - Paul Dandridge

Scenic Designer - Mercedes Schaum

Costume Designer - Jeanne Nugent

Lighting Designer - Matthew Landwehr

Sound Designer - Jonathan Pratt

## **Cast**

Frank Conrad - Colton Needles

Flora Conrad - Emily Dandridge

Harry P. Davis / Ensemble - Neal Gallini-Burdick

Agnes Davis / Ensemble - Taylor Baltimore

Francis Conrad / Young Frank - Aiden Denton

Francis Conrad / Young Frank - Eli Davis

Radio Voice - David Janosik

Swing - Maggie Ronck

## **Ticket Information**

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

[www.virginiarep.org](http://www.virginiarep.org)

Full Price Tickets: \$52

Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.

Run Time: 1 hour, 30 minutes with no intermission

## **Press**

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

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to the media.

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### **About Virginia Repertory Theatre**

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a regional professional theater headquartered in downtown Richmond, and is one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. Virginia Rep stages three primary seasons – the Signature Season at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, the Barksdale Season at Hanover Tavern and the Children’s Season at Virginia Rep Center for Arts and Education. Virginia Rep also tours children’s shows, both virtual and live, and provides educational programming to schools throughout Virginia and to major performing arts centers throughout 32 states.

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