

For Immediate Release
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U.Va Drama Department Tickles Audiences with
The Ives Have It! An Evening of Courtship Comedies by David Ives

Just in time for winter, audiences can enjoy a cheery night at the theatre when the U.Va Drama Department presents its upcoming production, *The Ives Have It!* Running at the Culbreth Theatre from February 17-19 and 23-26 at 8 p.m., this clever collection of one-act comedies by David Ives will put crowds in warm spirits. All of the plays— which reveal young people riding the highs and lows of Manhattan life—boast its popular playwright’s trademark wit.

The production features a delightful sampling of Ives’ work: *Sure Thing*, *Seven Menus*, *The Philadelphia*, *Long Ago and Far Away*, *Foreplay*, or *The Art of the Fugue*, and *The Universal Language*. A gifted eight-actor ensemble brings the repertoire to life by portraying multiple roles. Although the shows will explore a variety of scenarios, from playful courting rituals to domestic dramas, the plays all offer an insightful slice of urban life. The selection combines intelligence and humor to depict young relationships amidst big city mayhem.

As a critic for *The New York Times* put it: Ives’ plays are “idiosyncratic, perky, quirky...To Ives, language is a playground, a battleground, a testing ground...the evening is never less than very funny, and sometimes a good deal more.” Renowned for his innovative use of language, Ives’s latest play *Don Juan in Chicago* received both the Outer Critic's Circle's John Gassner Playwriting Award and a Drama Desk nomination. The U.Va Department looks forward to presenting an assortment of his hilarious creations.

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Director Richard Warner—who currently serves as an Associate Professor and Head of Acting at U.Va, and has directed such shows as *The Laramie Project*, *Hamlet*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, and *Misalliance* for the University— feels it’s time the Charlottesville public be introduced to Ives’ comedic brilliance.

“I believe that the audiences will appreciate the clever use of language and Mr. Ives’ genuine insight into young Americans hopes and dreams,” Warner said. Specifically, he feels that the one-act format will appeal to theatergoers. “I have observed throughout my career, that audiences seem to be engaged in a unique and wonderful way when they attend an evening of one-act plays. It’s like sitting down to a meal where you can sample six different main courses and a few desserts!”

Tickets for *The Ives Have It!* are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$7 for students; full-time U.Va students can use their ART\$ Dollars to purchase tickets. For more information, call the Drama Department Box Office at 434-924-3376. The box office is open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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