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**NEIL LABUTE'S *SOME GIRL(S)* LAUNCHES 2008-2009  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA SEASON**

*Sharp, Unsparring Look at Engaged Lothario's Trip Down Relationship Lane To  
Open Season At Helms Theatre on September 25*

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – September 16, 2008** – The University Of Virginia Department Of Drama's 2008-2009 season will kick off with fascinating window into the battle of the sexes with Neil LaBute's acclaimed play *Some Girl(s)*, opening at the Helms Theatre on September 25.

*Some Girl(s)*, directed by U.Va. Drama alum Melissa Crespo, tells the story of a soon-to-be-married former Lothario who goes on a cross-country jaunt to visit with the loves he left behind. The play will run from September 25-27, on September 30 and again from October 1-4. All performances begin at 8 p.m. Single tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and U.Va. faculty and staff, and \$8 for students. Full-time U.Va. students can use their **Arts\$ Dollars** as a form of payment to purchase both individual show and season tickets. Tickets can be ordered by calling the Drama Box Office at 434-924-3376 or by visiting the Culbreth Theatre Monday through Friday between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m..

The battle of the sexes has rarely been painted in such stark and entertaining terms as by the pen of writer Neil LaBute, whose pen has launched thousands of thoughts and conversations with controversial films such as *In the Company of Men*. He is at it again with *Some Girl(s)*, the story of a Lothario who is on the verge of ending a long career of loving and leaving by finally tying the knot. Before he walks down the aisle, however, he embarks on a cross-country "heartstorming" tour through the greatest hits of his little black book, meeting up with a string of former girlfriends, from the high school sweetheart to the college professor to the fun-filled fling and the classic "one that got away." It's a fascinating, illuminating and always surprising look at a man who was always much more interested in looking for love than he was in ever finding it.

"The fact that this play is an emotional mine field is intriguing to me as a director," Crespo said. "There is so much at stake, especially for the women. And the premise of the play is priceless... imagine having the opportunity to go back and talk to an ex, a proverbial 'do over.' When it comes to matters of the heart, it is so rare to ever get the opportunity for real closure and cleansing."

Crespo said the play takes on brand new meanings given the gender issues suddenly dominating the news. “Add in the election and the fuel it has added to the battle of the sexes fire, which clearly has the whole country talking, and you realize that this play strikes a chord in so many ways.”

While it would be easy to see this as a clear cut case of good (women) and evil (men), Crespo cautions that the play’s gray area is where its true lessons may be found. “This play challenges the audience to look at things from the man’s perspective. It’s easy to point the finger at this guy. But there is a reason why these women fell for him and returned once again. My hope is the play inspires audiences to think and talk about it in a broader sense, focusing on relationships, how people treat each other within them, and what it means to be happy with other persons, and most importantly, with yourself.”

The 2008-2009 season will continue with Douglas Turner Ward’s *Day of Absence*, coming to the Helms Theatre from October 23-25; 28-31 and on November 1.

The season will also include the classic musical *Oklahoma!* (Culbreth Theatre, November 22-22; December 3-5); the surreal dreamscape *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (Culbreth, February 12-14 & 18-21, 2009); *Fuddy Meers*, a tale of a wild farcical day in the life of a family like no other you have ever met before (Helms, March 19-21 & 24-28, 2009) and Shakespeare’s early comedy *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (April 16-18 & 22-25, 2009).

Season subscriptions are currently on sale. Full Season subscriptions are available for \$73 Adult, \$63 Senior and U.Va. faculty/ staff, \$50 Student and may be ordered by calling the Drama Box Office at 434-924-3376 or by visiting Culbreth Theatre Monday through Friday between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.. Tickets for each individual production will go on sale approximately two weeks prior to the opening date.

Parking is available at the Culbreth Road Parking Garage. Opened last spring, the garage is free of charge and located mere steps from the theatres.

For complete information on the 2008-2009 season, visit [www.virginia.edu/drama](http://www.virginia.edu/drama).

For press images, visit <http://www.virginia.edu/drama/press.htm>

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