

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: John Kelly
John Kelly PR
434-987-6513
john@johnkellypr.com

MARCUS GARDLEY DRAMA *EVERY TONGUE CONFESS* TO KICK OFF UVA DRAMA 2014-2015 SEASON

Season To Also Feature Lanford Wilson's *The Rimers of Eldritch*; *Vodka Variations – An Evening of Chekhov Shorts*; Heather Raffo's *9 Parts of Desire* and Charming Musical *Wonderful Town*

Season To Open October 9 in the Ruth Caplin Theatre

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – September 16, 2014 – The 2014-2015 U.Va. Drama Season will offer a literal world's worth of windows into the human experience, including dramas focused on race relations in America, a town forced to answer tough questions in the wake of a shocking crime, a fascinating look into the lives of nine Iraqi and Iraqi-American women, the lighter side of Chekhov, and one of Broadway's most beloved musicals.

The season begins on October 9 in the Ruth Caplin Theatre with Marcus Gardley's powerful and all-too pertinent drama *Every Tongue Confess*. Centered around a series of church burnings in a tiny Alabama town that force residents to confront harsh personal, historical, and cultural realities, this metaphorical and metaphysical tale mixes the secular sounds of the blues with soaring gospel, covering generations' worth of love, loss, and redemption. Meanwhile, Gardley deftly intertwines the town's history with timeless Biblical lessons while shining a spotlight on the kinds of headlines that seem to repeat themselves far too often today. *Every Tongue Confess* is presented with the support of the Office of the Provost and the Vice Provost for the Arts, and in cooperation with The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies.

Every Tongue Confess, directed by Theresa M. Davis, will be presented in the Ruth Caplin Theatre from October 9-11 and from October 15-17 at 8pm, and on October 19 at 2pm.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lanford Wilson's 1966 play *The Rimers of Eldritch* will open at the Ruth Caplin Theatre on November 13. A rapidly decaying mid-Century Missouri town provides the setting for this fascinating story of what happens when a murder and an assault force citizens to come to terms not only with what happened, but why it did. The result is a powerful look at the difference between the people we think we are, and the reality of what lies in our often murky moral centers.

The Rimers of Eldritch, directed by Doug Grissom, will be presented in the Ruth Caplin Theatre from November 13-15, and November 19-22 at 8pm.

Next up is a look at the often-overlooked lighter side of one of the world's most masterful playwrights in *Vodka Variations: an evening of Chekhov shorts*, directed and adapted by Marianne Kubik. This spirited toast to Russian culture and to Antonin Chekhov's inimitable humor and sharp eye for the timeless ups

and downs of human nature features plays and adapted short stories. The masterful playwright likely summed up the evening's fare best when he said "Any idiot can face a crisis; it's the day-to-day living that wears you out." Though set in Russia in the 1880's this collection is proof that when it comes to the intoxicating nature of life and love, the ride is wonderfully bumpy no matter the era!

Vodka Variations: an evening of Chekhov shorts will be presented in the Ruth Caplin Theatre from February 19-21, 2015 and February 25-28, 2015 at 8pm.

Heather Raffo's *9 Parts of Desire* is an internationally-acclaimed show that examines the lives, hopes, dreams, and fears of nine Iraqi and Iraqi-American women during the period between the first and second Gulf Wars. The nine characters, who include a painter, a radical communist and an ex-pat in London, offer moving and often heartbreaking looks into what it means to be a woman against a backdrop of war and violence. The play, said John Lahr of the *New Yorker*, is "an example of how art can remake the world." *9 Parts of Desire* is presented with support from the Office of the Provost and the Vice Provost for the Arts.

9 Parts of Desire, directed by Kate Burke, will be presented in the Helms Theatre from March 25-28, 2015 at 8pm and March 28 and 29 at 2pm.

The 2014-2015 season will wrap up with the charming and high spirited Broadway musical *Wonderful Town*. With music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, *Wonderful Town* follows the Sherwood sisters from the comforts of their Ohio home to the heart of bohemia, mid 1930's Greenwich Village. The siblings' professional, social, and romantic misadventures with a score featuring unforgettable Broadway hits like "A Little Bit in Love" and "Ohio" combined to earn the show five Tony Awards and a generation of delighted fans around the world.

Wonderful Town, directed by Robert Chapel, will be presented at the Culbreth Theatre from April 16-18, 2015 and April 22-24, 2015 at 8pm and on April 25 at 2pm.

Season subscriptions allow patrons the most flexible and inexpensive option for securing the seats and the performance dates they are looking for. Subscribers will receive priority access to seat reservations and fee-free ticket exchanges and replacements.

Subscription packages for 2014-2015 are now available and include tickets to all five productions. Subscriptions are \$60 for adults, \$55 for seniors, U.Va. faculty and staff, and alumni association members, and \$40 for students.

Subscriptions are available online at www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu, by phone at 434-924-3376 or in-person from noon until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the U.Va. Arts Box Office, located in the lobby of the Drama building.

Single tickets for all performances will go on sale on September 22, and can also be ordered online, in person or by phone. A \$3.75 processing fee applies to all Internet, phone and mail orders.

Free parking for all U.Va. Drama performances is available at the Culbreth Road Parking Garage, conveniently located alongside the theatres.

For more information on the 2014-2015 U.Va. Department of Drama season, visit us online at www.virginia.edu/drama.

#