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**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA  
ANNOUNCES 2008-2009 SEASON**

*Six-Show Slate To Include Oklahoma!, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Day of Absence, Some Girl(s), The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer and Fuddy Meers*

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – August 28, 2008** – The University of Virginia Department of Drama today announced its 2008-2009 season, which features six shows that provide fascinating windows into relationships ranging from romantic to family to sociological and beyond.

The season will include:

- Beloved classics including *Oklahoma!* and Shakespeare's early comedy *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*
- The racially-charged satire of Douglas Turner Ward's 1965 play, *Day of Absence*
- *Some Girl(s)*, Neil LaBute's biting look at male side of the battle of the sexes
- The surreal dreamscape *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, by Carson Kreitzer
- *Fuddy Meers*, David Lindsay-Abaire's tale of a wild farcical day in the life of a family like no other you have ever met before.

"While we never go into a season looking for a thematic thread that runs between all our shows," said Tom Bloom, Associate Professor and Chair of the U.Va. Department of Drama, "this year happened to yield a collection of shows that are tied together by a focus on the ways in which various forces cause us to treat each other from a variety of perspectives and in a variety of situations."

The season, he said, ended up reflecting the classic theatre masks concept, where you can never see one face without the other. "We see the faces worn in relationships of men and women, of black and white, of friends and romantic rivals, of good and evil in all their endless shadings and of fantasy and reality."

On Tuesday, September 2, season subscriptions will go on sale to the public. Full Season subscriptions are available for \$73 the general public, \$63 for seniors and U.Va. Faculty and staff and \$50 for students. Subscriptions 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.

**INSERT INFO ON ARTS\$ HERE ONLY FOR THE PRESS RELEASE GOING TO UVA AND/OR STUDENT MEDIA:** And you are one quick, easy and affordable step from having tickets in hand. All full-time U.VA. students can use their **Arts\$ Dollars** as a form of payment to purchase season tickets. All you need to do is call or visit the Drama Box Office and give your student ID number to charge your Arts\$ Dollars Account.

The Arts\$ Dollars Program gives every full-time U.Va. undergraduate and graduate students \$60 of Arts\$ Dollars to use towards select Music and Drama productions, \$15 of Arts\$ Dollars for the Virginia Film Festival and a free U.Va. Art Museum Membership. Arts\$ Dollars also support the Department of Art's exhibitions and programs by students & visiting arts. For more information on the Arts\$ Dollars Program, visit [www.virginia.edu/artsdollars](http://www.virginia.edu/artsdollars).

The season begins on September 25 with Neil LaBute's razor's-edge look at the war between the sexes, *Some Girl(s)*, directed by U.Va. Drama alumna Melissa Crespo (CLAS '05). The play follows a retiring Lothario who was always more interested in looking for love than actually finding it. On the brink of finally settling down into married life, the man embarks on a cross-country journey to revisit some of the star players in his colorful romantic past, including a former college professor, the fun no-frills fling, the high school sweetheart and the "one that got away." As drawn by LaBute, who has earned a reputation as one of the harshest chroniclers of the male heart through works like *In the Company of Men*, this is an unsparing, darkly fascinating look at love from a rarely seen perspective.

*Some Girl(s)* will be presented at the Helms Theatre and will run from September 25-27, September 30 and October 1-4. Single tickets go on sale September 8 and are \$14 for the general public, \$12 for seniors and U.Va. Faculty and staff and \$8 for students.

*Day of Absence*, by Douglas Turner Ward, is a broad, satirical look at the racial divide that remains as relevant today as when it was written in 1965. A small town awakes to find that all the black people have disappeared overnight. Suddenly, mothers are helpless to take care of their children, businesses and households alike are falling apart, the local government crumbles in on itself and faces a full-scale revolt. The play is the ultimate study in contrast, using broad satirical strokes to paint a world hopelessly stuck in black and white and further highlighting the theme by using a reversal minstrel device, with black performers in whiteface.

*Day of Absence*, directed by Theresa M. Davis, will be presented at the Helms Theatre and will run from October 23-25, 28-31 and on November 1. Single tickets will go on sale on October 6 and are \$14 for the general public, \$12 for seniors and U.Va. Faculty and staff and \$8 for students.

*Oklahoma!* No single word means as much in the history of musical theatre...and no show has had the worldwide impact of this beloved Rodgers and Hammerstein tale of love on the Plains. With a score packed with some of the most popular songs in

Broadway history (*Oh What a Beautiful Morning...People Will Say We're in Love* and the rousing title tune) and a timeless love story that never fails to connect with audiences even after all these years, this is a great way to rediscover what the magic of musical theater is all about.

***Oklahoma!***, directed by Robert Chapel, will be presented at Culbreth Theatre from November 20-22 and December 3-5 (with a special matinee performance on November 22 at 2 p.m.). Single tickets will go on sale on October 6 and are \$16 for the general public, \$14 for seniors and U.Va. Faculty and staff and \$10 for students.

***The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer*** is a rabbit's hole-type journey into the complex mind of the man who invented the Atomic Bomb. Audiences travel across a surreal dreamscape that takes them to the literal desert of Los Alamos and the personal deserts of his fractured romantic life and his dealings with a government that both built him up and broke him down. Fitting for a life filled with triumphs and tragedies of biblical proportions, the play's journey is led by ghost of the mythical figure of Lilith, who was cast out of the Garden of Eden for challenging authority in a way Oppenheimer never did.

***The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer***, directed by Betsy Tucker, will be presented at Culbreth Theatre from February 12-14 and 18-21, 2009. Individual tickets for the show go on sale beginning January 26 and are \$14, with senior and U.Va. Faculty and staff tickets at \$12 and student tickets at \$8.

***Fuddy Meers***, by David Lindsay-Abaire, is a carnival funhouse mirror-look at a day in the life of a family that will make all others seem entirely functional. Start with a woman whose memory is erased each night when she goes to sleep...add a limping and lisping "brother" who kidnaps her with the help of an accomplice who speaks only through a sock puppet, a husband whose intentions and past are equally murky and a mother who speaks in a form of gibberish only she can understand. And there's more where that came from. The one thing for certain is that nothing is for certain. And nothing, and no one, is above suspicion!

***Fuddy Meers***, directed by Richard Warner, will be presented in the Helms Theatre from March 19-21 and March 24-28, 2009. Individual tickets for the show go on sale beginning January 26 and are \$14 for the general public, \$12 for U.Va. Faculty and staff and \$8 for students.

***The Two Gentlemen of Verona***, one of the Bard's earliest comedies, explores the complexities and absurdities of human nature and relationships as only he can. With their hearts set on the same woman, Valentine and Proteus prove themselves to be gentlemen in name only. They embark on a series of romantic misadventures that test their own ties that bind against those of love, money and power – complete with the madcap comic mastery that would end up launching thousands of imitators, and flatterers, for hundreds of years to come.

*The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, directed by Colleen Kelly, will be presented in Culbreth Theatre from April 16-18 and April 22-25, 2009. Single tickets go on sale on February 23 and are \$14 for the general public, \$12 for seniors and U.Va. Faculty and staff and \$8 for students.

All performances will begin at 8 p.m., and parking is free at the new Culbreth Road Parking Garage, conveniently located alongside the theaters. *Oklahoma!* will feature a special matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 22.

For more information on the 2008-2009 U.Va. Department of Drama season, visit us online at [www.virginia.edu/drama](http://www.virginia.edu/drama).

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