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**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA
ANNOUNCES 2010-2011 SEASON**

MainStage Series in Culbreth to Feature *The Glass Menagerie, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Beaux' Stratagem* and *Evita*

RecentWorks Series in Helms To Include *By the Bog of Cats* and *dark play, or stories for boys*

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – August 24, 2010 – Love, family, power, deception and danger will take their places on the stages of the Culbreth and Helms theatres this year when the University of Virginia Drama Department presents its 2010-2011 season.

The season, which will be split into “The MainStage Series” at Culbreth Theatre and “The RecentWorks Series” at the Helms, will begin on October 24th with Tennessee Williams’ *The Glass Menagerie*.

Rounding out The MainStage Series will be:

- Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
- *The Beaux’ Stratagem*, an 18th Century comedy by George Farquhar, later adapted by Thornton Wilder and Ken Ludwig
- Andrew Lloyd Webber’s worldwide musical sensation *Evita*

The RecentWorks Series will include:

- *By the Bog of Cats*, a haunting and imaginative retelling of the Greek tragedy *Medea* by Marina Carr
- *dark play, or stories for boys*, a tale for our times illuminating the dangers of the internet age

“Each year when we look at planning a season we look to create a balance between revisiting and reimagining classics and showcasing the extraordinary work of some of today’s top playwrights,” said Tom Bloom, Associate Professor and Chair of the U.Va. Department of Drama. “This season we have done this by creating these dual series that gives audiences a chance to experience the best of both of these worlds and us the chance to take full advantage of the two distinct spaces we have here at the University.

In these two series we are able to cover material and address themes that span centuries yet remain entirely relevant. These include fascinating explorations of broken family ties in the *Medea*-inspired *By the Bog of Cats* and, of course, in *The Glass Menagerie*; the pitfalls and pratfalls on the road to love in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Beaux' Stratagem*; the perils of power in *Evita* and the all-too-timely threats that lie only a few mouse clicks away for all of us in Carlos Murillo's *dark play, or stories for boys*."

The new RecentWorks Series also aims to offer just that - recent plays by new playwrights. This season's series will bring to Grounds an actress and a playwright associated with the two plays we are producing. Our 2010 - 2011 RecentWorks guests are **Olwen Fouéré**, the actress who originated to leading role in *By the Bog of Cats* at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, Ireland and **Carlos Murillo**, *dark play, or stories for boys* playwright.

Subscription packages for 2010-2011 include tickets to all four Culbreth Theatre MainStage productions, and are \$51 for adults, \$29 for students, \$44 for seniors and U.Va. faculty, staff and alumni association members.

Season subscriptions allow patrons the most flexible and inexpensive option for securing the seats and the nights they are looking for. Subscribers will receive priority access to seat reservations and fee-free ticket exchanges and replacements. In addition, returning subscribers will receive priority access to tickets and seats.

Subscription renewals are now available online at www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu. Existing subscribers received an access code via mail. Should anyone need a new code they can get one by emailing artsboxoffice@virginia.edu.

In-person and phone renewals will be available starting Monday, August 30 by calling 434-924-3376 or from noon until 5:00p.m. Monday through Friday at the U.Va. Arts Box Office, located in the lobby of the Culbreth Theatre building.

New subscribers can order their 2010-2011 MainStage season subscriptions online, in-person or by phone starting Monday, September 6.

A \$3.50 processing fee applies to all Internet, phone and mail orders.

The MainStage Series in the Culbreth

Few plays in the history of American theatre has continued to fascinate and intrigue audiences like Tennessee Williams' masterpiece *The Glass Menagerie*. Director Richard Warner will lead his cast in revisiting and rediscovering this quietly devastating family portrait, seen through the eyes of lead character Tom Wingfield, who is torn between duty to his broken family and the call of a wide open world. It's a delicate and powerful look at life through the prism of lost hope and failed expectations.

The Glass Menagerie, will be presented from October 7-9, and 13-16 at 8:00 p.m. Single tickets will go on sale on Monday, September 13.

The Bard wrote “The course of true love never did run smooth.” And never did he prove it more poetically, or hilariously, than in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. At once a look at the foibles of the heart and the infinite possibilities of the imagination, this beloved comedy is filled with mismatched lovers, whimsical fairies, fabulous fools and all manners of theatrical magic.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, directed by Brendon Fox, will be presented from December 1-4 at 8:00 p.m. and December 4-5 at 2:00 p.m. Single tickets go on sale Monday, September 13.

The Beaux’ Stratagem, by George Farquhar, adaptation by Thornton Wilder and Ken Ludwig, is proof of what can happen when true love gets in the way of a carefully concocted caper. It follows the exploits of a pair of part-time Romeos who try to lie and charm their ways into the hearts of some of the richest heiresses in the English countryside. Along the way, obstacles and laughs pile up in equal measure as the two are transformed into unlikely heroes of all on their way to the most unlikely destination of all...true love!

The Beaux’ Stratagem, directed by Betsy Tucker, will be presented from February 17-19 and 23-26, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. Single tickets go on sale Monday, January 31, 2011.

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice’s *Evita* created a worldwide musical sensation with its story of a woman who captured the imagination of the world with beauty, strength, power, presence and a single name. *Evita* combines politics, power and passion with an iconic and stirring score that continues to delight audiences nearly a quarter-century after it first debuted.

Evita, directed by Robert Chapel, will be presented from April 21-22 and 27-30, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. and on April 30, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Single tickets go on sale Monday, January 31, 2011.

The RecentWorks Series in the Helms

Marina Carr’s *By the Bog of Cats* is a haunting and powerful retelling of the Greek tragedy *Medea*, featuring greed, abandonment, betrayal, love and sacrifice. Trading the Greek countryside for the dark, dense and mysterious bogs of Ireland, the play spotlights Hester Swane, a daughter of Irish gypsies who boldly battles to hold on to what she feels is rightfully hers, inching all the while toward an inevitable and explosive fate.

By the Bog of Cats, directed by Marianne Kubik, will be presented from October 21-23 and 26-30 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale Monday, September 13.

Carlos Murillo's **dark play, or stories for boys**, illuminates the dangers found in the darkest corners of the Internet, and of the human heart. This cautionary tale for our times focuses on the tragic consequences of abusing online anonymity as a high school student's ruse to embarrass an unwitting, lovestruck teen boy turns into a diabolical plot that blurs all lines between virtual and reality and has tragic consequences for both parties.

dark play, or stories for boys, directed by Marianne Kubik, will be presented from March 23-26, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale on Monday, January 31, 2011.

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

For more information on the 2010-2011 U.Va. Department of Drama season, visit us online at www.virginia.edu/drama.

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