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**UVA DRAMA TO WRAP UP 2014-2015 SEASON WITH
LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S CLASSIC MUSICAL WONDERFUL TOWN**

**Five-Time Tony Award-Winning Show Features Lyrics By Betty Comden and Adolph Green And
Includes Broadway Favorite Songs Like "A Little Bit In Love" and "Ohio"**

Opening April 16 at Culbreth Theatre

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – April 3, 2015, 2015 – The University of Virginia's Department of Drama will end its 2014-2015 season on a classic musical note with *Wonderful Town*, opening on April 16 at the Culbreth Theatre.

With music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, this 1952 five-time Tony Award-winner is classic Broadway, and classic Bernstein. The show features a book by Joseph Fields and Jerome Chodorov, and is based on the pair's play *My Sister Eileen*, and on stories by Ruth McKenney.

Wonderful Town tells the story of the Sherwood sisters, who leave the comforts of their Ohio home in the mid 1930's and land smack dab in the heart of the bohemian scene of Greenwich Village. The siblings' professional, social, and romantic misadventures combined with unforgettable Broadway hits like "A Little Bit in Love" and "Ohio" to earn the show legions of fans that span generations and are spread around the globe.

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.

Tickets are \$16.00 for adults, \$14.00 for seniors, U.Va. faculty and staff, and U.Va. alumni association members and \$10.00 for students. They are currently available online at www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu, by calling 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.

Wonderful Town is the second of Bernstein's "New York Trilogy" of musicals, which began with *On the Town* in 1944 and finished with *West Side Story* in 1957. "This is a huge show," Chapel said, "and it's really been a joy because you get Bernstein at his best, even while knowing he is soon to get even better. You can hear hints of *West Side Story* in the music, and while the score may not be as instantly recognizable as that one is, it features Broadway favorites like 'It's Love' and 'Swing,' among others. This is a great and fun evening of theatre – a big, wonderfully corny classic Broadway musical with great music, lots of singing and dancing, and plenty of pure entertainment!"

His young cast, Chapel said, has fully embraced and enjoyed the process of discovering the show. "It's been a really nice journey for them to come to experience and appreciate *Wonderful Town* and

particularly its place in a very specific time in American theatre. Their own contemporary musicals are much different than this show, and it is great to see them throwing themselves into such a delightful formulaic musical with great songs that has delighted audiences for generations.”

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

To access a photo of the production, visit <https://virginia.box.com/s/7mf1qr39nj5spf9xuy7qllrdjkoaixn5>

For more information on the production, visit www.virginia.edu/drama.

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