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**UVA DRAMA TO OPEN LANFORD WILSON'S POTENT
THEATRICAL MOSAIC *THE RIMERS OF ELDRITCH***

OPENING NOVEMBER 13 AT THE RUTH CAPLIN THEATRE

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA - October 31, 2014 - The University of Virginia's Department of Drama opens its production of *The Rimers of Eldritch*, directed by Doug Grissom, on November 13 in the Ruth Caplin Theatre. From Pulitzer Prize winner Lanford Wilson (*Talley's Folly*) comes this theatrical mosaic of a run-down Missouri town in 1965.

Performances run November 13-15 and November 19-22 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors, U.Va. faculty/staff, and U.Va. Alumni Association members, and \$8 for students. Tickets are available online at www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu, by calling 434-924-3376 or in person Monday through Friday from noon until 5 p.m. at the U.Va. Arts Box Office (109 Culbreth Road).

Awarded the Drama Desk Vernon Rice Award, *The Rimers of Eldritch* tells the potent story of a small community in Eldritch, Missouri. Playwright Wilson's non-linear play structure tracks the story of the town's small-mindedness and hypocrisy in everyday life. Once a prospering mining town, the isolated, decrepit town is suddenly home to the scandal of a murder trial. The trial further accentuates the flaws of the community as a whole and of each individual citizen.

Director Doug Grissom describes the show as "The perfect theatrical machine. It is a simple story but looks at it like a mosaic by fragmenting time." It is this non-linear approach to time that made *The Rimers of Eldritch* an Off-Broadway success in 1966. Rather than focusing on the murder trial, Wilson uses the trial as a prism to see the town. "There is no protagonist, and there is no antagonist. The town serves as both," Grissom said.

The play subtly hits on topics important to the University of Virginia and Charlottesville communities. In commenting on the play, U.Va. Department of Drama Chair, Tom Bloom, noted, "...first staged almost 50 years ago, in 1965, the themes and incidents of this work still resonate today." By addressing topics such as sexual assault, disability rights, and religious authority, *The Rimers of Eldritch* helps create characters that Grissom describes as human. "They are humorous, tragic, and flawed which makes each character relatable and real within the non-traditional structure of the play," Grissom added.

Free parking for all University of Virginia Department of Drama performances is available at the Culbreth Road Parking Garage, conveniently located directly across from the theaters.

To access a photo of the production, please visit:

<https://virginia.box.com/s/a5bpnedtve0ehdbp0agw>

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

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