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**UVA DRAMA TO CLOSE SEASON AND OPEN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER WITH THE CLASSIC SCREWBALL COMEDY *YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU* AT THE BRAND NEW RUTH CAPLIN THEATRE ON APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>**

*300-Seat Thrust-Style Theatre Set To Open Doors For The First Time on Thursday, April 18*

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – April 8, 2013 – The University of Virginia Drama Department is set to close its 2012-2013 season, and celebrate the start of an exciting new era, when the classic screwball comedy *You Can't Take it With You* opens the brand new Ruth Caplin Theatre on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The 300-seat thrust-style theatre, the latest addition to the Betsy and John Casteen Arts Grounds, is designed to accommodate growth across the University's acclaimed performing arts programs. The state-of-the-art facility is named for Ruth Caplin, and was built thanks in part to a \$4 million donation from Mrs. Caplin and her husband, Mortimer Caplin, an alumnus of the College of Arts & Sciences and the University of Virginia School of Law.

"We are absolutely delighted to be able to share this remarkable new facility with our audiences for the first time," said U.Va. Drama Department Chair Tom Bloom. "We are so grateful to the Caplin family for its generosity, vision, and commitment to the University, which will provide students and audiences alike a state-of-the-art facility in which to learn and enjoy theater for generations to come."

*You Can't Take it With You*, Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's classic 1936 screwball comedy proves that when it comes to crazy families, everything is relative! When the time comes for a young woman to introduce her wildly eccentric brood to her buttoned-up future in-laws, the resulting catastrophe brings cascades of laughter along with important questions about individualism, conformity, and the real meaning of "normal."

*You Can't Take it With You*, directed by John Paul Scheidler, will be presented at the Ruth Caplin Theatre from April 18-20 and 24-27 at 8:00 p.m.

Ticket prices for *You Can't Take it With You* are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and U.Va. staff and alumni association members and \$8 for students. Tickets are available online at [www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu](http://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.

The historic nature of the opening is certainly not lost on director John Paul Scheidler, who graduated from the University in 1999, and is a longtime favorite of Heritage Theatre Festival audiences. "It is such an honor to have ours be the first show ever in this incredible new theater," he said. "It is fantastic for the school and a fantastic thing to have this new space for students to work in. I remember that there were always talks and hopes about adding on to the building someday. And now, to actually be a part of the opening show is just great."

The play features one of life's most popular pairings, Scheidler said – laughter and family. “There is a great deal of funny and silly stuff. In some ways it reminds me of watching *The Muppet Show* or *The Munsters* on television, or a three-ring circus! This is a family who really knows how to enjoy life, and that is a big theme of the show. It gets tested in a variety of ways by different characters that appear and disappear, which sort of raises the stakes for everybody. The family definitely loves each other, but it is not always easy for them.”

Scheidler expects that audiences might find some common ground between the family onstage and their own. “Working on it, for all of us, has caused us at various times to say, ‘Hey, that reminds me of my grandmother, or my mother, or someone I went to grad school with!’ Some of these characters are just so huge and grand and silly, and others are more subtle, but still have this sense of fun, I am hoping the audience gets to see this family that they recognize as being really out there, but maybe takes away some more permission to enjoy life in the same way these characters do.”

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 <http://www.virginia.edu/drama/images/MBailey-130405-2-026.jpg>

For more information on the production, visit [www.virginia.edu/drama](http://www.virginia.edu/drama).

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