Richmond Professional Theatre Opportunities

Fall 2005, Spring 2006
www.richmond.com/performingarts/

Barksdale Theatre

1601 Willow Lawn Drive Suite 301-E
Willow Lawn Shopping Center-Broad Street 1 block west of Staples Mill
804.282.2620
www.BarksdaleRichmond.org

The Drawer Boy

By Michael Healey
September 23 - November 6, 2005

Heartwarming and hilarious, this vibrant new play is taking theatres around the world by storm! David Bridgewater and Joe Inscoe star as Angus and Morgan, two lifelong friends whose lives are turned inside out in 1972, when an enthusiastic young actor, portrayed by Brett Ambler, shows up at their remote dairy farm to conduct some hands-on research for an upcoming theatre project. Morgan is unimpressed by the gullible city dweller, and Angus, who sustained a head injury during World War II, can't remember who this new comer is from one minute to the next. The comic portrayal of culture-clash evolves into deep understanding when the visiting actor stumbles upon forgotten secrets of lost loves and tragedy in the farmers' pasts. Selected by Time Magazine as one of the Ten Best Plays of the Year, The Drawer Boy is a warm-hearted exploration of honesty, the power of memory and the bond of friendship

Scapino!

Adapted by Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale from Les Fouberies de Scapin
November 25 - January 22, 2006
Starring Scott Wichmann

No one does merry romantic hi-jinks like the French… unless of course it's the Italians. Celebrate the holidays with us this year in Naples, as the Barksdale presents Moliere's madcap masterpiece merrily updated into a stylish 21st century romp. When young Ottavio becomes enamored with a poor peasant girl, and Leandro needs money to free his love from the Gypsies, who's going to save the day? Scapino, a rascal and trickster, sets about the task of uniting the lovers despite the opposition of their fathers. Wild adventures, silly disguises and foolish mistaken identities are all part of the rising action that careens towards a satisfying, side-splitting conclusion. A rousing world classic, Scapino! has never been more fun, and it will leave you singing "That's Amore!" into the New Year and beyond.

The Lark

By Jean Anouilh; Adapted by Lillian Hellman
February 10 - March 12, 2006
Produced in Association with the Acts of Faith Festival

A simple peasant girl hears heavenly voices, believes she is anointed by God, and convinces a cadre of powerful officials that they should follow her as she leads a nation and an army into war. Erin Thomas (Cyrano de Bergerac, Proof) portrays Joan of Arc,
whose dedication and passion inspired soldiers to follow her into battle and drive the invaders from their land. *The Lark* tells the tale both of the noblemen who supported Joan and later abandoned her, and of Joan herself, a young woman convinced of the divine rightness of her cause. Jean Anouilh, one of the greatest French playwrights of the 20th century, and Lillian Hellman, and firebrand American author of *The Little Foxes*, evoke the heart, passion, ferocity, and shining faith that made the fearless young Joan one of the most memorable women in history.

*The Syringa Tree*

By Pamela Gein; Originally produced by TheatreGym
April 21 - May 28, 2006

The Deeply evocative story of an abiding love between two families, one black, one white, *The Syringa Tree* introduces two children who are born into their shared household in early 1960's South Africa. This powerful one-woman show evolves through the eyes of a child as she tries to make sense of the chaos, magic and darkness that marked South Africa under Apartheid, and then spans four decades to bring us to the "freedom" of the present day. Jill Bari Steinberg plays twenty-four very different characters, and through her turn-on-a-dime transformations, she reveals not just the complexities of their world, but their shared humanity as well. Ms. Steinberg won the 2004 Phoebe Award for Best Actress of the Year for this performance.

**Theatre IV**

*Family friendly entertainment since 1975.*

114 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220
The Historic Empire Theatre
804.344.8040
www.theatreiv.org

*Bunnicula*

Adapted by Jon Klein Based on the book by Deborah and James Howe Lyrics by James Howe Music by Chris Jeffries
Sep. 30 – Nov. 6

Harold, the trusty family dog, and a know-it-all cat named Chester are starting to wonder about the newest member of the Monroe household -- a cute baby bunny with the fearsome name of "Bunnicula." Soon they discover a white tomato in the kitchen; then other veggies are drained of color. Could Bunnicula be up to something?! No one of the family seems to grasp the trouble, and Chester's hilarious hints are totally misunderstood. Hop in for Halloween, and enjoy this sweet and funny musical, adapted from the immensely popular books by Deborah and James Howe. Ages 4 to adult.
You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown
Music, Lyrics and Book by Clark Gesner_Additional Materials by Andrew Lippa_Broadway Revival Directed by Michael Mayer_Based on the Comic Strip by Charles Schultz
Dec. 2 – Dec. 18, 2006

After a six-year hiatus, Theatre IV’s Phoebe Award-winning “Best Musical of the Year” returns with its special blend of holiday cheer. Charlie Brown will once again win hearts with his losing ways, his sister Sally will continue to perplex blanket-clutching Linus, who still won’t be able to get away from his own bossy sister, the fabulously crabby Lucy. Schroeder will rejoice in his Beethoven sonatas, and Snoopy, of course, will stealing the show! Charles Schultz’s loveable tykes have been entertaining us for 55 years. This holiday season, share the fun with the next generation at this warm-hearted, warm-nosed musical treat. Ages 4 to adult.

The Magic Flute
Music and Lyrics by Paul Deiss_Inspired by Mozart’s Comic Opera
Feb. 17 – Mar. 26, 2006

In celebration of Mozart’s 250th Birthday, Theatre IV is proud to present the world premiere children’s theatre adaptation of one of the greatest fantasies ever written. Fairy tale magic hangs in the air when the mysterious Queen of the Night sends young Prince Tamino - armed only with a golden flute and a feathered friend - to rescue her lovely daughter. The Prince soon learns that nothing is as it seems, and he must pass many tests before he and his beloved Princess can live happily ever after. Mozart’s masterpiece imparts a poignant message of tolerance as it weaves a web of make believe and music that will both dazzle and delight. Ages 4 to adult.

Disney’s Beauty and the Beast
Music by Alan Menken_Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice_Book by Linda Woolverton_Based on the Fairy Tale by Charles Perrault
Apr. 21 – May 14

Discover the magic behind the castle walls in Disney’s lushly romantic musical about inner beauty and true love. When Belle hears that her father has been taken prisoner by a hideous beast, she sets off to rescue him. But the creature will only release the man if the maiden will take his place. The selfless Belle agrees, and thus begins her adventurous tale. This delightful spring confection harbors a lesson of loyalty within its breathtaking songs, lavish costumes and elegant sets. Don’t miss our season’s fairy tale ending! Ages 4 to adult
Firehouse Theatre Project

Bringing Richmond audiences a theater experience similar to the blackbox spaces of New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago

1609 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220
804.355.2001
www.firehousetheatre.org

Where’s My Money?
by John Patrick Shanley,
September 8 — October 1

The season opens on September 8 with John Patrick Shanley’s sardonic and caustic Where’s My Money?, which vivisects the institution of marriage with the writer’s inimitable razor-sharp wit. Variety wrote that Where’s My Money? is “(a) semi-surrealist comedy about revenge, retribution and the emotional and physical scars of modern relationships … Shanley’s gift for acid-laced one-liners and emotionally tumescent exchanges is certainly potent … Where’s My Money? suggests some intriguing ideas about the dangerous way men and women work out humiliations and frustrations from their past on their current partners.” Shanley was awarded the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play DOUBT, and an Academy Award for his screenplay for MOONSTRUCK.

Edward Albee’s The Goat, Or Who is Sylvia?
Winner of the 2002 Tony Award for Best Play and the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama
October 27 — November 19

Edward Albee’s The Goat or, Who is Sylvia? follows on October 27. An award winning drama, the play addresses the irrational, confounding and thwarting nature of love. Called “powerful (and) extraordinary” by The New York Times, and “as challenging — and … as outrageously funny – as theater gets,” by The New York Post, Albee was awarded the 2002 Tony Award for Best Play and the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for this work. Called “the edgiest, most fervently debated Broadway play of 2002,” by the The Seattle Times.

Compromise
by Israel Horovitz
A co-production of the Firehouse Theatre Project and the Carpenter Science Theater Company. March 2 — March 25

Compromise, Israel Horovitz’s newest full-length play, about a scientist and his cleaning lady who are both in the throes of a moral dilemma, opens on March 2. A co-production of the Firehouse Theatre Project and the Carpenter Science Theater Company, the first draft of this worldly-wise comic drama was given a staged reading at Gloucester Stage four years ago.
Richmond Professional Theatre Opportunities

**Dinner with Friends**  
by Donald Margulies  
April 27 — May 20

The season winds up with the 2000 Pulitzer Prize winning drama **Dinner with Friends** by Donald Margulies, opening April 27. This dramatic comedy explores love and friendships through the relationships of two married couples that have been best friends for years. The San Francisco Examiner called the play “a breezy comedy of modern manners that turns poignant and deeply affecting by its end … [the play] touches chords that resonate with a deep affecting humanity.” Margulies, who is establishing himself as one of our leading contemporary playwrights, “writes about relationships with such intelligence and spiky humor that his comedy-drama...becomes something quite wonderful.” – Time Magazine.

**Landmark Theater**  
6 North Laurel Street  
Richmond, VA. 23220  
804.646-0546

**Little Shop of Horrors**  
October 4th-9th 2005

It's the first ever Broadway production of everyone's favorite boy-meets-girl, plant-eats-world phenomenon! - and Time Out New York calls it a **"mean, green, laugh machine."** From the producers of Hairspray and The Producers, and the songwriters of Beauty and the Beast, comes New York's biggest MONSTER hit! **Little Shop of Horrors** is the musical comedy masterpiece about a loser, the girl he loves, and the man-eating plant that changes their lives forever. Laughter, romance and horticulture combine in a spectacular new production Entertainment Weekly calls, "enormously entertaining."

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**  
Lyrics by Tim Rice and Music By Andrew Lloyd Webber  
November 15-20

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** with Broadway star Patrick Cassidy as Joseph and American Idol's Amy Adams as the Narrator is a rainbow ride through biblical Egypt on the wings of Andrew Lloyd Webber's (Cats, Phantom of the Opera, Evita) uplifting music and the humor and poetry of lyricist Tim Rice (Oscar-winning lyricist of Disney's Aladdin). This irresistible musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favorite son, paints a picture of betrayal and hardship, prophecy and forgiveness. Patrick Cassidy fresh from his Broadway appearance in 42nd Street has had a career that spans the world of stage, film and television. With audiences over 30 million people the hit show American Idol has created a new breed of superstar in Amy Adams. This Joseph cannot be missed.

**Hairspray**  
January 24-29 2006

Broadway's Tony Award winning musical-comedy phenomenon takes you back to 1962
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Baltimore, as 16 year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto TV's most popular show. Can a big girl with big dreams - and even bigger hair! - change the world... and still have time to win the boy she loves? __"If life were everything it should be, it would be more like HAIRSPRAY. It's irresistible!" - NEW YORK TIMES

Verdi's La Traviata
Friday, October 21, 2005 through Sunday, October 23, 2005
Virginia Opera

Violetta, a beautiful but fragile courtesan, gives up high society for the simpler country life with her beloved Alfredo. The lovers' bliss is shattered when Alfredo's father beseeches Violetta to leave his son for the sake of his family's reputation. In her ultimate act of devotion she finds a final, touching moment of redemption.

Gounod's Romeo & Juliet
Friday, November 25, 2005 through Sunday, November 27, 2005
Virginia Opera

Based upon Shakespeare’s story of teenage love, Gounod's enchanting score dazzles us with dramatic choruses and an exquisite flood of sublime love duets. Romeo, son of the Montague family, falls in love with Juliet, daughter of the Capulets. But these rich powerful families are deadly enemies, and before long, tragedy strikes.

Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro
Friday, February 24, 2006 through Sunday, February 26, 2006
Virginia Opera

Servants Figaro and Susanna are preparing to wed, but their philandering employer, Count Almaviva, wants Susanna for himself. In the meantime, the pageboy Cherubino is courting the Count’s wife while the Countess’s former governess, Marcellina, is wooing Figaro, and all are secretly scheming to win their heart’s desire. In the end, Figaro gets his bride, but Mozart leaves us to ponder whether love conquers all.

Bellini's Norma
Wednesday, March 1, 2006 through Sunday, April 2, 2006
Virginia Opera

Set in ancient Gaul, Norma tells of the clash between the Druids and the occupying Romans. While the Druids plan a revolt against their oppressors, the priestess Norma wrestles with her own inner demons, as she attempts to win back the love of the Roman pro-consul Pollione, whose children she has secretly borne. She must face the tragic destiny that this conflict between love and public duty sets in motion.