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MEDIA RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES A SUMMERTIME RUN OF *3 MO' DIVAS!* WITH 400 YEARS OF MUSIC SHOWCASED IN ONE UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCE

*****Marion J. Caffey brings the musical sensation to
Arena Stage following the success of *Three Mo' Tenors******



(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage presents Broadway writer/director Marion J. Caffey's *3 Mo' Divas!*, a companion piece to the 2000 smash hit *Three Mo' Tenors*. Caffey, who directed last summer's *Crowns*, will direct and choreograph the production, collaborating with his musical partner Joseph Joubert (*Three Mo' Tenors* and *The Color Purple*). **Performances begin Wednesday, July 12, with two Press Openings for a chance to see both casts: Saturday July 15 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday July 16 at 7:00 p.m.; running through Sunday August 13 in the Kreeger Theater.** Tickets are available now by calling the Arena Stage Box Office at (202) 488-3300 or visiting www.arenastage.org.

With *3 Mo' Divas!*, the evening of high classical art combined with remarkable versatility allows the audience to experience a musical night that has to be seen to be believed. As Mr. Caffey likes to say, "This ain't your daddy's opera, baby!" And *The San Diego Tribune* agrees: "This is truth in labeling!"

This new version – created specifically for Arena Stage – features three musical stars singing some of the most inspiring and challenging music ever written for the female voice, supported by six musicians. *3 Mo' Divas!*, a 2004 *Los Angeles Times* Critics' Choice, covers eight musical styles, including Opera, Broadway, Jazz, Blues, Soul, New School, Spirituals and Gospel, spanning 400 years of music – everything a music lover could want, from Bach to Beyoncé, Gounod to Gershwin, Schubert to Sondheim.

3 Mo' Divas! had its world premiere in March 2004 at San Diego REPertory Theatre, where Mr. Caffey has a strong track record. The critics were unanimous: *The L.A. Times* called it "A delight ... elegant ... [with voices that] sublimely displayed range and power" and the *San Diego Tribune* agreed: "A breathtaking array of styles, attitudes, and moods ... powerful and agile ... about the power of art to create beauty that transcends suffering."

Due to the extraordinary vocal demands of the production, Mr. Caffey has assembled a double cast. "It's not just three divas, it's actually six incredible divas for an eight-show week," said Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith.

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Audiences of all ages will be thrilled to witness the divas in action singing an extraordinary musical range that will include legendary songs like "Home" from *The Wiz*, Diana Ross & The Supremes' "Stop in the Name Love" and "America" from *West Side Story*.

Marion J. Caffey (Creator/Director/Choreographer) has written, directed, choreographed and performed on and for Broadway, where his *Street Corner Symphony* ran in 1997. He directed *Crowns* at Arena Stage in the summer of 2005. His direction of *Cookin' at the Cookery: The music and times of Alberta Hunter* at Studio Arena in Buffalo, NY garnered many awards and nominations including New York's Drama Desk and Drama League and most recently, four NAACP theater awards in Los Angeles. Caffey's *Three Mo' Tenors* has performed at the White House, NBC's "Today Show" and has been broadcast as a PBS television special. His credits also include *Bowfire*, *Blackbirds of Broadway*, *Chicago*, *Forever Plaid*, *Jelly Roll: The Music and the Man*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Tintypes*, *The All Night Strut*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Ruthless*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, *Spunk and the Colored Museum* and *1940s Radio Hour*.

Joseph Joubert (Musical Supervisor/Orchestrator/Arranger) is known for his versatility and ability as a pianist/orchestrator to arrange and perform in many musical styles including classical, pop, jazz Broadway, gospel, spiritual or R&B. Most recently he is one of the orchestrators for Tony Kushner's *Caroline, or Change* at the Public Theatre and on Broadway. He was the orchestrator/Musical Director for the PBS special *Three Mo' Tenors*. He collaborated with artists including Patti LaBelle, Kathleen Battle, Judy Collins, Ashford and Simpson, Diana Ross, George Benson, Nnenna Freelon and Jennifer Holliday. He was co-orchestrator for *Violet* which received a Drama Desk nomination.

Casting for *3 Mo' Divas!* will be announced soon; for more information please contact press@arenastage.org or call (202) 554-9066.