

molly smith  
artistic director

stephen richard  
executive director

zelda fichandler  
founding director



## MEDIA RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES AN ALL-STAR CAST PERFORMING IN  
THE 15th ANNUAL BENEFIT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
**CAMP WANNABEAPOLITIKI**

**\*\*\* Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton to be honored with the  
*Arena Stage American Voice Award* and the theater's co-founder  
Zelda Fichandler with the *Arena Stage American Artist Award* \*\*\***

(Washington, D.C.) An all-star cast, including several prominent Senators, Representatives, District VIPs and a diverse mix of print and television media personalities take the stage in the 15th Annual Arena Stage Benefit to support Community Engagement. This year's production, entitled *Camp Wannabeapolitiki*, is an original comedy by local playwright and director Harry M. Bagdasian. The evening, held entirely at the Mandarin Oriental, Washington D.C., includes a dinner and awards reception and generates proceeds that support Arena Stage's educational programs for young people in the community.

**Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton** of the District of Columbia will be honored with the *American Voice Award* in recognition of her support of American arts and culture. Co-founder of Arena Stage **Zelda Fichandler** will be named the recipient of the *American Artist Award* for her vision and perseverance in founding one of America's first regional theaters.

***Camp Wannabeapolitiki* will be performed Monday, April 23 at 8:30 p.m. following the dinner at the Mandarin Oriental.** Tickets for the Benefit start at \$450 and corporate sponsorships are also available. For ticket information contact Sarah Benvenuti at (202) 554-9066 ext. 1266 or e-mail events@arenastage.org.

### **The *Camp Wannabeapolitiki* Cast (as of 3/29/07):**

David Broder  
Tucker Carlson  
Representative Howard Coble  
Charlie Cook  
Councilman Jack Evans  
Representative Kay Granger  
Representative Paul Hodes  
Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
Representative Mark Steven Kirk  
Senator Joseph Lieberman  
Representative Doris Matsui  
Sheila Johnson Newman

William T. Newman, Jr.  
Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Representative Thomas Petri  
Mark Plotkin  
Senator Jack Reed  
Andrea Roane  
Representative Steven R. Rothman  
Bob Schieffer  
Susan Stamberg  
Nina Totenberg  
Councilman Tommy Wells

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**Arena Stage announces the cast of its 15th Annual Benefit  
Star-studded cast to perform in *Camp Wannabeapolitiki*  
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At *Camp Wannabeapolitiki*, a rustic but beloved super-secret summer camp for pols and pundits, the rookies learn the ropes from insiders and perfect their skills for navigating the waters inside the Beltway. This year, no sooner do the campers settle into the routine of inter-cabin rivalries and high jinks, crafts, athletics and seminars, than it is announced that the camp is going to close. The campers quickly realize that neither a special earmark nor underwriting from lobbyists is going to work. The rival cabins must cease their pranks and competitive ways, put aside their differences and work together to save their beloved camp the old-fashioned way – they'll put on a show! But can they do it? Will the camp be saved? These questions and more will be answered April 23 when Arena Stage presents *Camp Wannabeapolitiki*.

Proceeds from the Benefit support Arena's education programs – educating, enriching, and exciting youth through theater. Every year, Arena enriches the minds and horizons of more than 20,000 students through performances, workshops, in-school artistic presentations, teacher development workshops and Camp Arena Stage.

Members of the media: to conduct interviews with the cast prior to the performance or for a photo opportunity, please contact Kirstin Lunke at (202) 554-9066, ext. 715 or [press@arenastage.org](mailto:press@arenastage.org) to make arrangements.

Honorary Co-Chairs for the 15th Annual Arena Stage Benefit for Community Engagement are Linda and John M. Derrick, Jr. and Merrill and Mark Shugoll.

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