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MEDIA RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN 2006/07 SEASON

The musical *She Loves Me* fills the Fichandler this holiday season as world premiere of *A Civil War Christmas* is postponed for further development

(Washington D.C.) Arena Stage announces the postponement of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel's world premiere *A Civil War Christmas*. While great progress continues on this epic musical, Arena Stage does not feel that it will be ready in time for the 2006/07 premiere, originally slated for November. In its place, Arena will present Bock and Harnick's delightful musical comedy *She Loves Me*, which will play the Fichandler Stage the exact same time as *A Civil War Christmas* was to be presented, November 17 – December 31.

"Arena Stage has so much respect for Paula Vogel as an artist, and we have collectively decided that *A Civil War Christmas* should be postponed to a later date," said Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith. "This is an epic work by a major artist that deserves the necessary time and development in order to bring it to its full potential. In the meantime, we are very excited about bringing *She Loves Me* to Arena over the holidays, and have wanted to produce this musical for several years. It is a great match for director Kyle Donnelly, who truly has mastered the Fichandler Stage space. We are confident that our audiences will be thrilled with this musical gem."

She Loves Me

• Delightful musical comedy •
Book by Joe Masteroff / Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick
Music by Jerry Bock / Based on a play by Miklos Laszlo
Directed by Kyle Donnelly
November 17 – December 31, 2006
In the Fichandler

Georg and Amalia can't stand each other. Intensely competitive clerks in a shop in 1930s Budapest, they are constantly at odds with one another. Each secretly finds solace in an anonymous pen pal – totally unaware that they are actually writing romantic letters to each other. This endearing tale of unlikely sweethearts, and the eccentric colleagues who aid and abet them, is an intelligent, romantic comedy with a touch of Old World elegance. From the songwriting team behind *Fiddler on the Roof*, the intoxicating score features the showstopping "Ice Cream," "Twelve Days to Christmas" and the popular title tune. *The New York Times* said it offers "a continuously melodic evening of sheer entertainment and complete escape."

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