

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES RETURN OF MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

*****Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater to honor military families with complimentary dinner and free performance of the musical *Unknown Soldier* on Friday, April 5*****

(Washington D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater today announced the return of a long-standing tradition created to honor military families across the Washington metropolitan area for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our nation. On **Friday, April 5, 2024**, Arena Stage is inviting 200 wounded warriors, service members, and their families to attend a complimentary dinner and evening performance of the sweeping, heartfelt musical *Unknown Soldier*.

Military Appreciation Night is a gratitude initiative, established in 2011 and originally scheduled around the Thanksgiving holiday, that has now served more than 1,700 military members and their families. Working closely with Access Housing, Luke's Wings, USO, and Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center to distribute tickets, Military Night is a special all-hands-on-deck community affair.

"We are delighted to welcome our military friends and neighbors back to Arena Stage for Military Night," said Arena Stage Executive Producer **Edgar Dobie**. "Our friends in the military are all heroes, and it's a pleasure to be able to do a little something to thank them for their service. Hopefully having a show like *Unknown Soldier* to share with them helps demonstrate how deeply their commitment to our country impacts our everyday lives."

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a dinner catered by **Ridgewells Catering** featuring special remarks from former Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force **General Larry O. Spencer**. Guests will have the opportunity to win fun, family-friendly door prizes generously donated by local businesses and sister theaters across the Washington metropolitan area. At 8 p.m. guests will be escorted to Arena Stage's Kreeger Theater to enjoy a performance of Daniel Goldstein and Michael Friedman's original musical *Unknown Soldier*.

Military Night is generously sponsored by **Tiffeny Sanchez and Reg Brown**. Additional support is provided by **Exelon**.

Thank you to **Access Housing, Luke's Wings, USO, and Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center** for their support of Military Night as community partners.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, please contact **Shayla Hines-Graham**, Director of Institutional Partnerships, at shines@arenastage.org or 202-600-4030.

For details and updates about Military Appreciation Night, visit:
<https://www.arenastage.org/support/special-events/military-appreciation-night/>

About *Unknown Soldier*

Cleaning out her grandmother's home, Ellen Rabinowitz discovers the photograph of an anonymous soldier tucked away in a box of keepsakes. And so begins a sweeping, romantic musical about a woman's journey to unearth the secrets buried in her family's past. Spanning three generations, *Unknown Soldier* unravels a delicate tangle of family lore, as Ellen chases the extraordinary story that unlocks her history—and charts her future.

The first racially integrated theater in our nation's capital and a pioneer of the regional theater movement, Arena Stage was founded on August 16, 1950, in Washington, D.C., by Zelda Fichandler, Tom Fichandler, and Edward Mangum. Today—nearly 75 years later—Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. We produce plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep, and dangerous in the American spirit, and present diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Consistently contributing to the American theatrical lexicon by commissioning and developing new plays, Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement and serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org

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