

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Managing Director Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 7, 2011

ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER
HONORS EDWARD ALBEE WITH AMERICAN ARTIST AWARD
AT BENEFIT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMING
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011

*** Evening will include tributes from acclaimed actors Tracy Letts,
Amy Morton and Kathleen Turner ***

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater will honor legendary playwright **Edward Albee** with the American Artist Award at the Arena Stage Benefit for Community Engagement **Monday, March 14, 2011**. *An Evening with Edward Albee* will include cocktails, a presentation and dinner at the Mead Center (1101 Sixth St., SW).

A highlight of the evening will include tributes from acclaimed actors including **Tracy Letts** (Arena Stage's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright of *August: Osage County*), **Amy Morton** (Arena Stage's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Tony Award nominee for *August: Osage County*) and Golden Globe Award winner **Kathleen Turner** (2005 Broadway production *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, 2002 Broadway production *The Graduate*).

The American Artist Award honors an artist who has made a significant contribution to American theater and who represents all that is passionate, exuberant, deep and dangerous in the American spirit. Past awardees include James Earl Jones, Robert "Bob" Alexander, August Wilson and Arena Stage co-founder Zelda Fichandler. In 2011 Arena Stage celebrates **Edward Albee**, whose roughly 30 plays have garnered him two Tony Awards and three Pulitzer Prizes, as well as iconic status in American theater. Mr. Albee has also received Kennedy Center Honors, the National Medal of Arts and a Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Support from the benefit contributes to more than one-third of the funds necessary to run Arena Stage's Community Engagement programs, which educate and enrich the lives of more than 20,000 students across the region. For more information visit <http://www.arenastage.org/education/education-programs>.

Arena Stage Benefit for Community Engagement

An Evening with Edward Albee

Monday, March 14, 2011

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater (1101 Sixth St., SW, Washington, DC)

6:30 p.m. Cocktails in the Molly Smith Study

7:30 p.m. Presentation in the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle, featuring Tracy Letts, Amy Morton and Kathleen Turner

8:30 p.m. Dinner on the Café Level

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Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater Honors Edward Albee
Page 2

Cocktail Attire

Complimentary Valet Parking Available

Limited Space Available

Tickets start at \$500.

For table purchases, tickets or further information contact Julie Lombard at 202-600-4176 or jlombard@arenastage.org.

For corporate sponsorship opportunities contact Bruce Leathwood at 202-600-4022 or bleathwood@arenastage.org.

For more information on the Edward Albee Festival at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater please visit www.arenastage.org.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to the production, presentation, development and study of American theater. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Managing Director Edgar Dobie, Arena Stage is the largest company in the country dedicated to American plays and playwrights. Arena Stage produces huge plays of all that is passionate, exuberant, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Now in its sixth decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. www.arenastage.org.

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