



the mead center
for american theater

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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October 4, 2010

**TICKETS FOR THE HOMECOMING GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION
AT ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER
ARE RELEASED ONLINE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2010**

***** Tickets are free and required for events in select performance spaces *****

(Washington, D.C.) **Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater** in Southwest D.C. officially opens to the public **Saturday, October 23** with the **Homecoming Grand Opening Celebration**. This day of free events starts with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:30 and goes until 6:00 p.m., with festivities throughout the building featuring Broadway and Tony Award-winning stars, conversations with prominent Arena Stage artists, presentations by local arts groups and more.

General admission tickets are free but required for events in the Fichandler Stage, Kreeger Theater, Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle, and for backstage tours. Tickets will be available exclusively online beginning October 8, 2010 at www.arenastage.org. Limited tickets will be available for day-of release outside the Mead Center at the Arena Stage visitor's center beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Homecoming Grand Opening Celebration

October 23, 2010

11:30 AM – 6:00 PM

Schedule of Events:

Backstage tours will leave every 15 minutes from the Stage Door. Tickets for these tours will be required.

Outdoor Stage (no tickets necessary)

11:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

12:30 p.m. Universes, spoken word/slam poetry ensemble

1:30 p.m. Show Choir Spectacular featuring Chantilly High School and Churchill High School

2:30 p.m. The Manzari Brothers

3:30 p.m. Feels So Good

4:30 p.m. Elk Soldiers

5:45 p.m. Grand Finale with the cast of *Oklahoma!* and special guests

Fichandler Stage - A First Look at Arena Stage's Inaugural Production at the Mead Center for American Theater

1:00 p.m. Sneak Preview of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*

2:00 p.m. Sneak Preview of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*

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Tickets for Homecoming Grand Opening Celebration are Released Online Friday, October 8, 2010

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3:00 p.m. Sneak Preview of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*

4:00 p.m. Sneak Preview of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*

5:00 p.m. Sneak Preview of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*

Kreeger Theater - Concert Performances

12:15 p.m. E. Faye Butler (*Arena's Crowns, The Women of Brewster Place*)

1:15 p.m. Brad Oscar (Tony Award nominee for *The Producers*, *Arena's Cabaret*)

2:15 p.m. Kate Baldwin (Tony Award nominee for *Finian's Rainbow*, *Arena's South Pacific*)

3:15 p.m. Matt Bogart (*Broadway's Jersey Boys*, *Arena's Damn Yankees*)

4:15 p.m. Alice Ripley (Tony Award winner for *Next to Normal*)

Kogod Cradle - Exploring America's Newest Theatrical Works

12:30 p.m. Resident Playwrights Karen Zacarias and Katori Hall read from their new projects

1:30 p.m. Anna Deavere Smith discusses her new piece, *Let Me Down Easy*

2:30 p.m. Resident Playwright Amy Freed in conversation with *The Washington Post's* Peter Marks

3:30 p.m. Playwright Marcus Gardley and members of the company of *every tongue confess* discuss the new play

4:30 p.m. Resident Playwright and *Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies* director Charles Randolph-Wright reads from his new work

Rehearsal Hall B - Arena Stage's Community Engagement Department and Local Performing Arts Groups

(no tickets necessary)

12:15 p.m. Washington Improv Theater

1:15 p.m. Arena Stage's Voices of Now

2:15 p.m. Synetic Theater

3:15 p.m. Liz Lerman Dance Exchange

4:15 p.m. Arena Stage's Student Playwrights Project

The Study - Cabaret with Arena Stage Favorites (no tickets necessary)

12:15 p.m. Diego Prieto and Eleasha Gamble

1:15 p.m. Nina Negri and Bayla Whitten

2:15 p.m. Tina Fabrique and Marva Hicks

3:15 p.m. Nina Negri and Bayla Whitten

4:15 p.m. Stephen Wade

The Terrace (no tickets necessary)

1:00 p.m. Blue Sky Puppets

2:00 p.m. Community Engagement Workshop

3:00 p.m. Community Engagement Workshop

4:00 p.m. Community Engagement Workshop

Classroom (no tickets necessary)

12:30–5:30 p.m. Children's Crafts and Activities

For more information and the most current Homecoming Grand Opening Celebration schedule, 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. 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 200,000. www.arenastage.org.

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