



the mead center
for american theater

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE'S OPENING GALA CELEBRATION COMMEMORATES ITS INAUGURAL SEASON AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2010

(Washington, D.C.) Following on the heels of Arena Stage's wildly successful public opening with the Homecoming Grand Opening Celebration Saturday, October 23, 2010, the company celebrates the completion of a decade-long journey to reopen its new home in Southwest D.C. with an **Opening Gala Celebration Monday, October 25, 2010**. This black-tie gala kicks off the inaugural season at the breathtaking new Mead Center theater complex and supports all of Arena Stage's programs, including the exciting work on our stages, our investment in new play development and our wide range of community engagement activities.

The evening will feature cocktails, dinner and an exclusive one-night-only performance featuring Alice Ripley and The Manzari Brothers and headlined by Tony Award-winning Broadway actor **Brian Stokes Mitchell**. Award-winning journalist and ABC7/WJLA-TV lead anchor **Leon Harris** will emcee the evening.

Schedule for the evening:

6:30 p.m. Red carpet arrivals, cocktail reception and tours of the building

7:30 p.m. Special performance starring Tony Award-winner Brian Stokes Mitchell

9:15 p.m. Dinner begins

The Opening Gala Celebration is further distinguished by the support of **Honorary Chairs Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama**, as well as **Honorary Co-Chairs D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty and Michelle Fenty**.

The presenting table sponsors for the evening are Clark Construction and The Clark Charitable Foundation, INC. Lead table sponsors are the Waterfront Station, Vornado Charles E. Smith, Pepco and Altria.

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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