

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 21, 2012

CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED DRAMA *RED* BREAKS ARENA STAGE RECORD TO BECOME BEST-SELLING NON-MUSICAL IN COMPANY'S HISTORY

(Washington, D.C.) As of Saturday, February 18, 2012 John Logan's Tony Award-winning drama *Red*, under the direction of Goodman Theatre Artistic Director Robert Falls, becomes the highest-grossing non-musical in Arena Stage's 61-year history. The production, which is produced in association with Goodman Theatre, features four-time Helen Hayes Award winner and D.C.-based actor Edward Gero as abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko and noted Chicago actor Patrick Andrews as Rothko's fictional assistant Ken.

***Red* continues through March 11, 2012 in the Kreeger Theater. Tickets are still available at arenastage.org or by calling 202-488-3300.**

"It's wonderful when a production hits the zeitgeist of the moment, and *Red* is it for our audiences," says Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith. "Perhaps it's because we are a museum town, but even more so I believe it's the uncompromising quality of Robert Falls' production with two outstanding actors in Edward Gero and Patrick Andrews."

What critics are saying:

- "Immensely enjoyable ... Eloquently reminds us of a joy we rarely get to see: the artist consumed by the everyday physical demands of his work." – *Washington Post*
- "*Red* does exactly what Rothko made each painting do—it pulsates. And the play's impact reverberates long after the curtain calls." – *Baltimore Sun*
- "Mesmerizing." – *Washingtonian*
- "Gero's portrayal of Rothko is soulful and deeply felt ... a stunning display of emotions ... paints an utterly credible picture of the complicated, volatile Rothko." – *Washington Examiner*
- "Thrilling ... a sublimely detailed and acted production ... Mr. Gero and Mr. Andrews work magic with the dark poetry of Mr. Logan's play." – *DC Theatre Scene*
- "The 'Must-See' of the season!" – *Maryland Theatre Guide*

A visceral, "superbly taut" (*Chicago Tribune*) battle of wills, *Red* drops you squarely inside the world of painter Mark Rothko and sets your heart pounding. At the height of his career, Rothko struggles with a series of grand-scale paintings for New York's elite Four Seasons restaurant. When his new assistant challenges his artistic integrity, Rothko must confront his own demons or be crushed by the ever-changing art world he helped create.

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Critically Acclaimed Drama *Red* Breaks Arena Stage Record as Best-Selling Non-Musical—Page 2

Red becoming the first-ever Arena Stage production to add performances before previews began. As the newest highest-grossing non-musical in Arena's history, *Red* surpasses another production from a Chicago theater stalwart—Mary Zimmerman's production of *The Arabian Nights*, which claimed the spot last season during its run in the larger Fichandler Stage space.

Company bios and images available upon request. Please e-mail press@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 Executive Producer 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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