

# ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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TERRY BURRELL REPLACES E. FAYE BUTLER AS AUNT ELLER IN  
RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S *OKLAHOMA!*  
AND CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR *TROUBLE IN MIND*  
AT ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER

\*\*\* Burrell joins *Oklahoma!* August 9 as Butler begins rehearsals for  
Arena Stage's 2011/12 season opener *Trouble in Mind* \*\*\*

(Washington, D.C.) **E. Faye Butler**, who portrays Aunt Eller in the summer revival of Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater's acclaimed and record-setting production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*, will transition out of her Helen Hayes-nominated role to begin rehearsals for Arena Stage's 2011/12 season opening play *Trouble in Mind*. Butler will be replaced by **Terry Burrell**, who was last at Arena Stage in the 2007/08 world-premiere musical *The Women of Brewster Place*. Burrell joins the *Oklahoma!* company August 2, and her first performance will be August 9. Burrell was "lovely and heartbreaking...spellbinding" in Signature Theatre's *Show Boat* ([TalkinBroadway.com](http://TalkinBroadway.com)), and will be a strong addition to the cast.

*Trouble in Mind*, by Alice Childress, explores the strained relationships of a newly integrated cast rehearsing a bold anti-lynching drama. Butler begins rehearsals August 9 for the role of Willetta Mayer in *Trouble in Mind*, under the direction of **Irene Lewis**. The two also collaborated on the production during CENTERSTAGE's 2006/07 season, along with actors **Starla Benford** (Millie Davis), Tony Award nominee **Thomas Jefferson Byrd** (Sheldon Forrester), **Daren Kelly** (Bill O'Wray), **Garrett Neergaard** (Eddie Fenton) and **Lawrence O'Dwyer** (Henry). For Arena Stage's production they will be joined by **Brandon J. Dirden** (John Nevan), **Gretchen Hall** (Judy Sears) and **Marty Lodge** (Al Manners).

Complete production information for *Trouble in Mind* will be announced at a later date. For full bios please e-mail [press@arenastage.org](mailto:press@arenastage.org).

The "reboot" of *Oklahoma!*, which runs through October 2, continues to wow audiences and critics:

["Superb...just as radiant the second time around!"](#) – Peter Marks, *Washington Post*

["Even more exuberant and moving than it was before."](#) – Susan Berlin, *Talkin' Broadway*

["Extraordinary ... the entire cast is impressive."](#) – Kate Mattingly, *DC Theatre Scene*

["Perfect...laugh out loud funny."](#) – Clara Ritger, *Northern Virginia Magazine*

**Terry Burrell** (*Aunt Eller* beginning August 9) makes *Oklahoma!* her fourth production at Arena Stage. Previous performances include *The Women of Brewster Place*, *Thunder Knocking on the Door* and *Of Thee I Sing*. Broadway credits: *Threepenny Opera*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Swinging on a Star*, *Into the Woods*, *Dreamgirls*, *Honky Tonk Nights*, *Eubie* and the first London production of *Show Boat* as Julie. Other Regional

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credits: *Up from Paradise, Crowns, Mahalia, Cinderella, Smokey Joe's Café, for colored girls, Sophisticated Ladies, Man of La Mancha, Copacabana, Ain't Misbehavin', A Christmas Carol, Jar the Floor, The Boys from Syracuse and Brownie Points.* Off-Broadway: *Almost Heaven, And the World Goes Round, Taking a Chance on Love, "America" Radio City Music Hall.* Concerts for Jazz in July at the 92nd Street Y, The Duke Ellington Orchestra in Venice and the Oslo Jazz Festival. She was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for her work in *Queenie Pie* and *Show Boat*. Her one-woman theatrical piece *Ethel* will debut at Walnut Street Studio Theatre in February 2012.

Full bios and complete company information for the revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* can be found [here](#). For further information please e-mail [press@arenastage.org](mailto:press@arenastage.org).

The Production Sponsor for the summer revival of *Oklahoma!* is Altria Group.

**Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* Special Events, Ticket Information and Performance Calendar**  
**Free Family Events—every Saturday during the run**

Saturday afternoons during the run of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*, free family-friendly events will be held in and around the Mead Center from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., prior to the 2:00 p.m. matinee. Enjoy a petting zoo on the Sixth Street sidewalk with the return of Pony to Go, watch an exciting roping demonstration and try out a few tricks yourself, or learn a fun dance routine to the music of *Oklahoma!* For an up-to-date schedule visit [here](#).

**Odyssey & *Oklahoma!* Ticket Package**

Step aboard the Odyssey this summer for a gourmet dinner cruise, followed by a performance of the Helen Hayes Award-winning musical *Oklahoma!* at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater. Boarding time for the Odyssey dinner cruise will begin at 5:00 p.m., sailing from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The performance of *Oklahoma!* will begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for the Odyssey dinner cruise and *Oklahoma!* are priced at \$139.67 per person. All packages must be booked through Arena Stage at 202-488-4380 or at [www.arenastage.org](http://www.arenastage.org).

**TICKETS:** Tickets for Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* are \$61-\$106 subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. Discount tickets are available for patrons purchasing tickets for multiple shows, students and groups. Beginning with the revival of *Oklahoma!* this summer, patrons ages five to 30 can purchase tickets through the new **Pay Your Age savings program**. (Patrons may purchase tickets by phone or in person, limit of four Pay Your Age tickets per household. All patrons must present valid ID.) Families can purchase **Family Fun Packs**, which include four tickets for \$153, all fees included. (Limit of two packs per household, at least two children ages five to 17. Proof of age required.) **HOTTIX**, a limited number of half-price, day-of-performance tickets, are available 30 minutes before curtain prior to every performance. All discounts subject to change, based on availability. **Tickets may be purchased online at [www.arenastage.org](http://www.arenastage.org), by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C.**

<b>Sales Office/Subscriptions</b>	<b>202-488-3300</b>
<b>Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets</b>	<b>202-488-4380</b>
<b>TTY for deaf patrons</b>	<b>202-484-0247</b>
<b>Info for patrons with disabilities</b>	<b>202-488-3300</b>

Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday at 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.  
Weekday matinees at noon on 9/21 & 9/27.

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**Sign-interpreted performances:** 9/8 at 8:00 p.m.

**Audio-described performances:** 8/27 at 2:00 p.m.

**Open-captioned performance:** 9/7 at 7:30 p.m.

**Post-show discussions:** 9/21 & 9/27 after the noon matinees.

**METRO:** Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is only one block from the Waterfront-SEU Metro station (Green Line). When exiting the station, walk west on M Street toward Sixth Street, and the main entrance to the Mead Center is on the right.

**PARKING:** Parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage. Subscribers may purchase parking in advance for \$15. Single ticket buyers may purchase parking in advance for \$18 or on the day of the performance for \$20 on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited handicapped parking is available by reservation. The entrance to the Mead Center garage is on Maine Avenue between Sixth and Seventh streets. Patrons can also park at the Public Parking Garage at 1101 Fourth Street, one block from the Mead Center, for \$11. Street parking is also available along Maine Avenue and Water Street.

*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](http://www.arenastage.org).*

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