

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, 2012

ARENA STAGE HOSTS THE GOLDEN GALA: A GLITTERING EVENING OF AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATER MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012

*** Evening includes a special performance by Tony Award nominee Kate Baldwin and legendary composer Sheldon Harnick, and the presentation of American Voice Awards to senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) ***

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage hosts the Golden Gala: A Glittering Evening of American Musical Theater Monday, March 26, 2012 at the Mead Center for American Theater to celebrate the vibrancy of the performing arts in D.C. This black-tie signature event benefits Arena Stage's Community Engagement programs and is chaired by WUSA9 news anchor and Arena Stage Board Member **JC Hayward**, with corporate chair Kay Kapoor of Accenture and congressional committee chairs Vicki Hicks, Terry Peel and Grace Terpstra.

The evening features cocktails, dinner and a special performance by **Tony Award nominee Kate Baldwin** (Broadway's *Finian's Rainbow*, Marian the librarian in Arena Stage's upcoming *The Music Man*) and **legendary composer Sheldon Harnick** (*Fiddler on the Roof*). **Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith will also present American Voice Awards to senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT)**. This award honors elected officials recognized as both advocates for the arts and leaders who articulate all that is passionate and profound in the American spirit.

Past recipients of the American Voice Award include Representative Norman D. Dicks (D-WA), former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts Dana Gioia, Representative Bob Matsui (D-CA), Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), and representatives Tom Davis (R-VA) and Jim Moran (D-VA).

The proceeds from the Golden Gala directly support Arena Stage's Community Engagement programs, which educate students in the classroom, bring cutting-edge workshops to community organizations, and train future artists and educators. Arena Stage is committed to sharing the riches of theater with the surrounding community and inviting younger, more diverse audiences to the theater. For more information, visit arenastage.org/education/education-programs.

[The Golden Gala: A Glittering Evening of American Musical Theater](#)

Monday, March 26, 2012

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

6:00 p.m. Gold carpet and cocktails

7:00 p.m. Presentation of the American Voice Awards to senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), live auction, and special performance by Kate Baldwin and Sheldon Harnick

8:30 p.m. Dinner

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Arena Stage hosts the Golden Gala: A Glittering Evening of American Musical Theater—Page 2

Black-Tie Attire

Complimentary Valet Parking

Tickets start at \$1,400, half tables start at \$7,500 and full tables start at \$15,000.

For table purchases, tickets or further information contact Julie Lombard at 202-600-4032 or jlombard@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. arenastage.org

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