

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

*****PLEASE NOTE:** this release has been updated to include additional events in conjunction with *Red* as of 1/24/2012. Please see page 3.

High-resolution photos and B-roll available upon request.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 9, 2011

**EDWARD GERO AND PATRICK ANDREWS STAR IN JOHN LOGAN'S TONY AWARD-WINNING *RED*
AT ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER,
A CO-PRODUCTION WITH GOODMAN THEATRE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ROBERT FALLS**

(Washington, D.C.) Edward Gero and Patrick Andrews star in *Red* at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, produced in association with Goodman Theatre. John Logan's Tony Award-winning play ran at Goodman Theatre September 17-October 30, 2011, including a weeklong extension due to popular demand. Now bringing his production to Arena Stage for its D.C. premiere is Tony Award winner and Goodman Theatre Artistic Director Robert Falls (Broadway's *Death of a Salesman*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Talk Radio*). *Red* runs January 20-March 4, 2012 in the Kreeger Theater.

Red features four-time Helen Hayes Award winner and Washington, D.C.-based actor Edward Gero as abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko. Gero was last seen at Arena Stage in Theater J's production of *The Chosen* and is currently portraying Ebenezer Scrooge in Ford's Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol* (through December 31). Noted Chicago actor Patrick Andrews, whose credits include Goodman Theatre's production of *The Actor* and Steppenwolf Theatre Company's production of *American Buffalo*, joins Gero as Ken, Rothko's fictional assistant.

"We are delighted that Arena Stage is partnering with Goodman Theatre, which is a major leader in Chicago's theater scene," says Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith. "This is an opportunity for us to showcase Robert Falls' work in exploring the legacy of this deeply complex artist with esteemed D.C. actor Edward Gero."

"I am thrilled to continue the journey of John Logan's extraordinarily passionate and moving play *Red* at Arena Stage, where I am honored to direct for the first time," says Falls.

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.

To more deeply explore and celebrate the life and work of Mark Rothko, Arena Stage is partnering with the National Gallery of Art and The Phillips Collection. The National Gallery of Art, the largest public

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repository of Rothko's work, is presenting a special installation from their collection of three of Rothko's *Seagram Murals*, the commission he is depicted working on in the play, and The Phillips Collection is hosting several *Red*-inspired events. Gero also spent time in the Rothko Room at the Phillips with Curator at Large and author of *The Essential Mark Rothko* Klaus Ottmann in preparation for his role. Arena Stage will hold **panel discussions** with guest panelists including specialists from both organizations following the Sunday matinees during the run of the show to further explore specific facets of Rothko's life. **For specific details, read below under Related Events.**

Critical acclaim for *Red* in Chicago:

"Compelling...If you've got any blood in your veins, you'll lean forward into *Red*." – *Chicago Tribune*

"Bristlingly smart, emotionally fiery...It is a credit to director Robert Falls and his actors that they make the tense bond that develops between these men's hearts every bit as important as the sound and fury." – *Chicago Sun-Times*

"Nuanced...smartly scaled production...Gero and Andrews make their arguments sound like the stuff of life and death." – *Time Out Chicago*

John Logan (Playwright) received the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critic Circle and Drama League awards for his play *Red*. This play premiered at the Donmar Warehouse in London and at the Golden Theatre on Broadway. He is the author of more than a dozen other plays including *Never the Sinner* and *Hauptmann*. His adaptation of Ibsen's *The Master Builder* premiered on the West End in 2003. As a screenwriter, Logan had three movies released in 2011: *Hugo*, *Coriolanus* and *Rango*. Previous film work includes *Sweeney Todd* (Golden Globe Award); *The Aviator* (Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and WGA nominations); *Gladiator* (Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and WGA nominations); *The Last Samurai*; *Any Given Sunday*, and *RKO 281* (WGA Award, Emmy nomination).

Robert Falls (Director) has been the artistic director of Goodman Theatre since 1986. Earlier this season, Mr. Falls directed *Red* for the Goodman and, prior to that, Jon Robin Baitz's *Three Hotels* for the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Recent Goodman credits include his critically acclaimed production of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* and the world premiere of Rebecca Gilman's *A True History of the Johnstown Flood*. Other recent productions include his remount of *King Lear* for the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. (Helen Hayes Award); *Desire Under the Elms* on Broadway; the Tony-nominated Broadway revival of Eric Bogosian's *Talk Radio*; Richard Nelson's *Frank's Home* for the Goodman and Playwrights Horizons; and the American premiere of *Shining City* on Broadway. Mr. Falls' production of Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* for Walt Disney Theatricals ran on Broadway for four years and has toured nationally and abroad. Two of his most highly acclaimed Broadway productions, Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* garnered seven Tony Awards and three Drama Desk Awards. Mr. Falls' world premiere production of Beth Henley's *The Jacksonian* opens in February at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, after which he directs Nathan Lane and Brian Dennehy in a new production of Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh* for the Goodman.

The Cast of *Red*

Edward Gero (Mark Rothko) is a four-time Helen Hayes Award recipient and a 14-time Helen Hayes nominee. His regional credits include a recently completed run as Antonio Salieri in *Amadeus* at Round House Theatre, where he also played Richard Nixon in *Nixon's Nixon* in 1999 and 2008 and received a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor both times. Additional regional credits include the title character in Signature Theatre's 2010 production of *Sweeney Todd*; David Malter in *The Chosen* for Theater J at Arena Stage; Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre; Donny in *American Buffalo* at The Studio Theatre and Horace Vandergelder in *The Matchmaker* at Centerstage in Baltimore. Other favorites include John in *Shining City*, Ivan in *The Seafarer* and Tom Sargeant in *Skylight* (Helen

Edward Gero and Patrick Andrews star in *Red* at Arena Stage—Page 3

Hayes Award), *Uncle Vanya*, and Phillip Gellburg in *Broken Glass*. In 28 seasons with the Shakespeare Theatre Company, he has played 70 Shakespearean roles including Hotspur in *Henry IV* (Helen Hayes Award), Bolingbroke in *Richard II* (Helen Hayes Award) and Macduff in *Macbeth* (Helen Hayes Award). In New York he has appeared at South Street Theatre and Classic Stage Company. Film and television credits include *Die Hard 2*, *Striking Distance*, and narrations for the Discovery Channel and PBS. He is an associate professor of theater at George Mason University and instructor at the Academy for Classical Acting at George Washington University and the University of Maryland. More information about Mr. Gero's process for Rothko can be found on his blog "The Making of Red" at www.geroasrothko.wordpress.com.

Patrick Andrews (Ken) recently appeared in Chicago productions of *American Buffalo* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company; *Do the Hustle* at Writers' Theatre; *Cabaret* at Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook; *The Homosexuals* and *Stupid Kids* at About Face Theatre; *The People's Temple* and *Speech & Debate* at American Theater Company; *The Snow Queen* at Victory Gardens Theater; *Into the Woods* at Marriott Theatre Lincolnshire; *Willy Wonka* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *The Sparrow* at The House Theatre and *Dorian* at Bailiwick Chicago. Andrews will next appear in *The Iceman Cometh* at Goodman Theatre. Other regional credits include *American Buffalo* at McCarter Theatre Center, *Saved* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre and *West Side Story* at Walnut Street Theatre. Additionally, Andrews performed in the national tour of Broadway's *Fosse*. Choreography credits include *Cherrywood*, directed by David Cromer at Mary-Archie Theatre; *Queertopia* at About Face Theatre; *Go, Dog. Go!* at Chicago Children's Theatre and *Bible B-Sides* with Sinnerman Ensemble. On television, he has appeared in *The Chicago Code*. Andrews is an ensemble member of American Theatre Company, an artistic associate with About Face Theatre, a member of the queer-electronic-fuck band DAAN and a member of Goldmine.

The Creative Team of *Red* also includes Set Designer **Todd Rosenthal**, Costume Designer **Birgit Rattenborg Wise**, Lighting Designer **Keith Parham**, Composer and Sound Designer **Richard Woodbury**, Goodman Production Stage Manager **Joe Drummond**, Arena Stage Manager **Kurt Hall** and Arena Assistant Stage Manager **Keri Schultz**.

For further information please e-mail press@arenastage.org.

Red is sponsored by Gina and John Despres, Doug Drysdale and Laura Tosi.

Red Ongoing Partnerships and Related Events as of 1/24/2012*

For up-to-date information, visit <http://www.arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/red/events/>.

Mark Rothko: *Seagram Murals* at the National Gallery of Art – December 6-August 15

In 1985 and 1986, the National Gallery of Art received the largest gift of works from the Mark Rothko Foundation, including several paintings deriving from the *Seagram Mural* project, a series of paintings Rothko created through the commission he received for New York's Four Seasons restaurant. This special installation of three of these works is timed to coincide with Arena Stage's *Red*, which dramatizes Rothko's struggle with the commission. National Gallery of Art, East Building Concourse galleries. 4th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, D.C. For more information visit <http://www.nga.gov/collection/rothko.shtm>.

Staged Reading at the Phillips – Thursday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Edward Gero performed excerpts from John Logan's play *Red*, followed by a conversation with David Dower, Arena Stage Associate Artistic Director, and Klaus Ottmann, Phillips Curator at Large and author of *The Essential Mark Rothko*.

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Engage at Arena Stage Panel Series – Select Sundays following the 2:00 p.m. matinee

Take part in a conversation following performances of *Red* with guest panelists, ranging from Rothko experts to artists. The series will take place following the Sunday matinees of *Red* (at approximately 3:30 p.m.) January 29; February 5, 12, 19, and 26; and March 4. The panels are free and open to the public.

***Imagining Rothko* – January 29 at 3:30 p.m.**

Over the past 50 years, Mark Rothko has become a monolithic figure in American culture, but where is our 21st century understanding of the noted abstract expressionist rooted? The National Gallery of Art's Director of Education **Lynn Russell** moderates a conversation between Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art **Harry Cooper** and Curator of Special Projects in Modern Art and lead author of the Rothko works on paper catalogue raisonné **Ruth Fine** exploring how Rothko has figured into the public imagination.

***Artistic and Psychoanalytic Approaches to Understanding Character and Conflict* – February 5 at 3:30 p.m.**

How do actors grapple with the inner life and conflicts of the people they portray? How does psychoanalysis contemplate the effect of unconscious forces on individuals and relationships? How do the characters affect the audience? Join actor Edward Gero and psychoanalyst **Jill Scharff** in discussion of character and conflict.

***The Act of Creation* – February 12 at 3:30 p.m.**

What fuels the act of creation? Actor Edward Gero and Phillips Collection Curator at Large Klaus Ottmann delve into how Mark Rothko's life influenced his work and how Rothko's life and work influenced Gero's performance in *Red*.

***Playing with Paintings* – February 19 at 3:30 p.m.**

"Order. Design. Composition. Tone. Form. Symmetry. Balance." These lyrics speak to the principles of art and elements of design that painter George Seurat grapples with in Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George*. But are these principles and elements unique to the visual arts? Actor Edward Gero, **Matthew Gardiner** (Associate Artistic Director of Signature Theatre) and **Michael Dove** (Artistic Director of Forum Theater) come together to discuss the unique experience of working on plays about visual art from the prospective of an actor in Arena Stage's *Red*, the director of Signature's *Art* and the producer of Forum's *bobrauchenbergamerica*.

Information on future panelists to come. For up-to-date information visit <http://www.arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/red/events/>.

***Mark Rothko and Color Lecture at the Phillips* – Thursday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m.**

Phillips Curator at Large and author of *The Essential Mark Rothko* Klaus Ottmann discusses how Rothko used color as a gateway to the soul. Rothko's idea that color can express the full gravity of religious yearnings is evident in the Phillips's chapel-like Rothko Room. The Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St., NW, D.C. By donation.

***Arena Stage Piano Bar* – Wednesday, February 1 at 9:00 p.m.**

Join cast members from *Red* and *Elephant Room* for a rousing (dare we say magical?) post-show piano bar. Stick around after the show or drop by just for the party. Wow the crowd with a song, sing along, or grab a drink at the bar and enjoy a fabulous night! Arena Stage Lobby.

***Phillips after 5: A Valentine to the Arts* – Thursday, February 2, 5:00-8:30 p.m.**

Arena Stage joins the Phillips for a special edition of its popular monthly program. A lively mix of art and entertainment, *Phillips after 5* includes gallery talks, live music, food and a cash bar. Arena Stage staff lead

Edward Gero and Patrick Andrews star in *Red* at Arena Stage—Page 5

brief acting classes, featuring improvisation games, diction exercises and basic movement. In another workshop, paintings in The Phillips Collection come to life as participants act out scenes from select works. The Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St., NW, D.C. Free for Phillips members; \$12 for non-members (\$10 students/seniors). A special ticket package to attend this event in combination with a performance of *Red* is available. To purchase, call 202-488-4380.

Seeing Red: Rothko-Inspired Street Art from Vestibule Guerrilla Gallery – February 3-5

Inspired by Mark Rothko's stand against making art that only an elite class would ever see, the Vestibule Guerilla Gallery presents street art that everyone can see. For *Seeing Red*, creative director Joseph Orzal has assembled a team of talented, emerging D.C. street artists who have shown their work on the streets and in galleries. The Guerilla Gallery provides an opportunity for larger audiences to see artwork outside the confines of traditional spaces, and it embodies the ideal that great art must be felt in your gut before it is understood in your head. In *Seeing Red* the guerilla artists will create new work using Rothko's formula for making art. Arena Stage.

Get Caught Red-Handed Day – Saturday, February 4, noon-7:00 p.m.

Check out the Vestibule Guerilla Gallery's artwork, take in a show, enter to win fabulous prizes and add your handprint to a piece of art to be displayed in our lobby through the run of *Red*. Prizes include tickets to Arena Stage's entire season; gift certificates from Utrecht Art Supply and Capital Bikeshare; an overnight stay at Rouge, A Kimpton Hotel; a Rothko-inspired gift package from the National Gallery of Art; and a free membership to The Phillips Collection. Arena Stage.

Screening of the Film *Rothko's Rooms* – February 22 and 23 at 12:30 p.m.

This documentary film tells the story behind the creation of the room designed for Rothko's *Seagram Murals* in London's Tate Modern. *Rothko's Rooms* (2000, 45 minutes) is filled with anecdotes about the artist culled from friends, family members and curators. Admission to the Gallery and its programs is free of charge, with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, D.C., East Building Auditorium. For information about the Gallery's film program visit <http://www.nga.gov/programs/film/>.

**Details subject to change.*

Red Ticket Information and Performance Calendar

TICKETS: Tickets for *Red* are \$40-\$85, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs such as student discounts, Southwest Nights, Pay-Your-Age tickets, Family Fun Packs, HOTTIX and Hero's Discounts, visit <http://www.arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs/>. Tickets may be purchased online at www.arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C.

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

Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Weekdays at noon on Wednesday, 2/8; Tuesday, 2/28 and Wednesday, 2/29

Full calendar: <http://tickets.arenastage.org/single/psDetail.aspx?psn=13137>

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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. Advanced parking must be reserved by calling 202-488-3300. 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.

VALET PARKING: Arena Stage offers valet service at no additional cost to patrons with accessibility needs, who have booked their parking in advance by calling 202-488-3300. Valet parking is available to general patrons one hour prior to show time for \$25, based upon availability. To use valet parking, pull up to the main entrance on Sixth 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 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

Goodman Theatre, "the leading regional theater in the nation's most important theater city" (Time), is a major cultural, educational and economic pillar located in the heart of Chicago's Theatre District. Founded in 1925 and currently led by Artistic Director Robert Falls, "Chicago's most essential director" (Chicago Tribune), and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, Chicago's oldest and largest not-for-profit theater has welcomed nearly two million patrons to productions and events—including 10 festivals celebrating playwrights such as David Mamet, August Wilson and Horton Foote and the Latino Theatre Festival—and served legions of students through Education and Community Engagement. The Goodman has earned over 90 awards for hundreds of productions, including the Pulitzer Prize for Ruined by Lynn Nottage—one of 25 new-work commissions in the last decade. www.goodmantheatre.org

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