

# ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2011

Contact: Kirstin Franko/Julia Suszynski  
[press@arenastage.org](mailto:press@arenastage.org), 202-600-4056

CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR AMY FREED'S *YOU, NERO*  
AT ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER  
DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS MARTIN

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage announces casting for *You, Nero* by American Voices New Play Institute resident playwright and Pulitzer Prize finalist **Amy Freed**. Making his Arena Stage debut is director **Nicholas Martin** (Broadway's *Present Laughter*, *Butley*). *You, Nero* runs **November 25, 2011-January 1, 2012** in the **Fichandler Stage**.

**Danny Scheie** returns to the role of Nero after starring in both the South Coast Repertory and Berkeley Repertory Theatre productions of *You, Nero*. Also reprising their roles are **Susannah Schulman** as Poppaea and **Kasey Mahaffy** as Fabiolo. **Marc Vietor** (Kennedy Center's *Company*, Broadway's *Present Laughter* directed by Martin) joins the cast as Scribonius.

Returning Arena favorites include Helen Hayes Award winner **Nancy Robinette** as Agrippina (Arena's *Death of a Salesman*, Shakespeare Theatre Company's *The Heir Apparent*), **Laurence O'Dwyer** as Burrus (Arena's *Trouble in Mind*, Helen Hayes Award winner for Arena's *The Fantasticks*) and **John C. Vennema** as Seneca (Arena's *A Time to Kill*). Additional casting for supplemental actors will be announced at a later date.

As Rome collapses beneath Nero's outrageous narcissism, a forgotten playwright tries to restore order through the art of theater in this "gloriously funny" (*New York Times*) farce. Amid the chaos of crime, lust and politics, convincing the world's most famous debaucher to choose virtue over vice proves to be a Herculean task. Amy Freed's wild romp questions whether well-crafted drama and intellect are any match for decadence and good old-fashioned bloodshed.

Full bios and images available upon request. Please e-mail [press@arenastage.org](mailto:press@arenastage.org). Complete company including creative team to be announced at a later date.

**TICKETS:** Tickets for *You, Nero* 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, 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](http://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

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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, 12/7; Tuesday, 12/20 and Wednesday, 12/21

Full calendar: <http://tickets.arenastage.org/single/psDetail.aspx?psn=13295>

**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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