

# ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: This release has been updated as of 2/6/13.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

December 4, 2012

ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES FULL COMPANY  
FOR DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE'S *GOOD PEOPLE*  
DIRECTED BY SHAW FESTIVAL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JACKIE MAXWELL

\*\*\*Tony Award nominee Johanna Day leads cast\*\*\*

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces the full company for **Good People**, the humor-filled Broadway hit about class, fate and economic hardship from Pulitzer Prize winner **David Lindsay-Abaire** (*Rabbit Hole*). Esteemed Canadian director **Jackie Maxwell**, now in her 11th season as Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival, makes her D.C. directorial debut and returns to direct in the United States after five years. Named Best Play by the New York Drama Critics' Circle during its Broadway run, *Good People* is a "poignant, brave and almost subversive" (*New York Post*) drama that runs **February 1-March 10, 2013 in the Kreeger Theater**.

Tony Award nominee **Johanna Day** (Broadway's *Proof*, Arena Stage's *The Quality of Life* and *The Rainmaker*) takes on the role of Margaret Walsh, a single mother in South Boston struggling to make ends meet. Day returns to the role after starring in the Boston premiere of *Good People* at Huntington Theatre Company, where the *Boston Globe* praised her performance as being "wonderfully war-weary...Day's exquisite sense of timing allows Margie to seem easygoing and amiable, before zapping her opponent with a sharp reply or insult delivered with a smile."

Day is joined by Helen Hayes Award winner **Andrew Long** (international tour of *Richard III*, Studio Theatre's *Frozen*) as Margaret's long-lost boyfriend Mike in a cast that also features **Francesca Choy-Kee** (Huntington Theatre Company's *Luck of the Irish*) as Kate, **Michael Glenn** (Kennedy Center's *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*) as Stevie, **Rosemary Knower** (Everyman Theatre's *Rabbit Hole*) as Dottie and **Amy McWilliams** (Ford's Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*, Signature Theatre's *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*) as Jean.

"Jackie Maxwell is an exceptional director and a dear artistic colleague, and I'm pleased to introduce her work to D.C. audiences," shares **Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith**. "I've had the privilege of watching Jackie's work change over time, and I'm always impressed with her exquisite use of language to tell a story. I admire her absolute adherence to the written word, and I'm confident that in Jackie's skilled hands, this strong play will strike a chord with our audiences."

"When I first read *Good People*, I was immediately taken by Margie and her plight," comments **Maxwell**. "I was amazed by the combination of bravery, humor and humanity in the script, and I couldn't be more delighted to direct this telling and surprising examination of class in society today at Arena Stage—a perfect forum for

—continued—

## **Arena Stage announces full company for *Good People*—Page 2**

this provocative story. Having so enjoyed having Molly's beautiful work at The Shaw, it is a real thrill to have the tables turned and now be with the terrific cast and wonderful group of people Molly has gathered here at Arena Stage."

"Most of my plays start as questions that I can't get out of my head. *Good People* is no exception," says **Lindsay-Abaire**. "Why aren't there more plays about class in America? Could I write about class without being didactic? Could I dramatize the complicated thoughts and feelings I've been wrestling with since I was 11 and got a scholarship to a fancy prep school out in the suburbs? Could I write about my old working class neighborhood in a way that accurately captured the attitudes and struggles of the people I know and grew up with? The only way I can ever answer those kinds of questions is to write a play, so out came *Good People*."

**About *Good People*:** Enter South Boston's Lower End, where minimum wage is the maximum wage and hard work and sacrifice don't ensure success. Facing eviction, single mother and mouthy "Southie" native Margaret Walsh reunites with an old flame, hoping that his fortune can somehow improve her own. But not every man wants to relive his past, and with each surprising twist of their meeting they discover the dire costs the truth can hold.

**The creative team for *Good People*** includes Set Designer **Todd Rosenthal**, Costume Designer **Linda Cho**, Lighting Designer **Michael Gilliam**, Original Composition & Sound Designer **James Sugg**, Stage Manager **Kurt Hall** and Assistant Stage Manager **Christi B. Spann**.

**David Lindsay-Abaire** (*Playwright*) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, screenwriter, lyricist and librettist. His play *Good People* premiered on Broadway and was awarded the 2011 New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play, The Horton Foote Prize, The Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award and two Tony nominations. TCG recently named David as the most produced playwright in America for the 2012-13 season, and *Good People* as the most produced play. His previous play, *Rabbit Hole*, received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, five Tony nominations and the Spirit of America Award. David was nominated for a Grammy Award and two Tony Awards for his work on *Shrek the Musical*. Prior to that, he was awarded the Kleban Award as America's most promising musical theatre lyricist. David's other plays include *Fuddy Meers*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Wonder of the World* and *A Devil Inside*, among others. In addition to his work in theater, David's screen credits include his film adaptation of *Rabbit Hole* (starring Nicole Kidman—Oscar Nomination), as well as the upcoming feature *Rise of the Guardians* (DreamWorks).

**Jackie Maxwell** (*Director*) makes her Arena Stage directorial debut with *Good People*. Currently in her 11th season as the Shaw Festival's Artistic Director, her select Shaw Festival credits include *Ragtime*; *Come Back, Little Sheba*; *Drama at Inish*; *Age of Arousal*; *An Ideal Husband*; *The Entertainer*; *Mrs. Warren's Profession*; *The Stepmother*; *Saint Joan*; *Arms and The Man*; *The Magic Fire*; *Gypsy*; *Bus Stop*; *Pygmalion*; *Rutherford and Son*; *Three Sisters*; *The Coronation Voyage*; *Merrily We Roll Along*; *Candida* and *Picnic*. She has worked extensively across Canada as a director, dramaturg and teacher for Tarragon Theatre, Canadian Stage Company, Mirvish Productions, Centaur Theatre, Theatre Calgary and the Charlottetown Festival. She made her U.S. directorial debut in 2007 at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre with the acclaimed production of *Saint Joan*. Additional U.S. directorial credits include the 2008 production of Conor McPherson's *Dublin Carol* (Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre). She is the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Laws (Queen's University); Herbert Whittaker/Drama Bench Award; honorary Doctor of Humanities (University of Windsor); and Gascon-Thomas Award (National Theatre School).

### **The Cast of *Good People* (in alphabetical order)**

**Francesca Choy-Kee** (*Kate*) makes her debut at Arena Stage. She has appeared Off-Broadway in *Letters to the End of the World* (world premiere, Theatre Row's Studio Theatre), E.L. Doctorow's *The March* (Symphony

### Arena Stage announces full company for *Good People*—Page 3

Space), *Evergreen* (Prospect Theater Company); and *Sorrows and Rejoicings*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Constant Wife*, *Picnic* and *As You Like It* (New York University's Graduate Acting Program). Her regional credits include *Chopin's Preludes* and *Please Stop Talking* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Really, Really* (The Kennedy Center), *She Stoops to Conquer* (McCarter Theatre), *Bossa Nova* (world premiere, Yale Repertory Theatre), *Agnes Under the Big Top* (world premiere, Long Wharf Theatre, Connecticut Critics Circle Award), *As You Like It* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park) and *Luck of the Irish* (The Huntington Theatre). Her international credits include *The Shipment* (Thalia Theatre, Hamburg, Germany). Ms. Choy-Kee is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts, The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and a 2009 MFA graduate of New York University's Graduate Acting Program.

**Johanna Day** (*Margaret*)'s Broadway credits include *August: Osage County*, *Proof* (Tony and Lucille Lortel Award nominations) and *Lombardi*. Regional credits include *Misery* (Bucks County Playhouse), *In a Forest: Dark and Deep* (Contemporary American Theater Festival), *The Realistic Joneses* (Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Best Ensemble), *Good People*, *God of Carnage* and *Carol Mulroney* (Huntington Theatre), *The Evildoers* (Yale Repertory Theatre), *The Rainmaker* (Helen Hayes Award for Best Actress) and *The Quality of Life* (Arena Stage), *Vigils* (Goodman Theatre), Ethan Coen's *Almost an Evening* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Peter and Jerry* (Second Stage Theatre, Drama Desk Award nomination), *Satellites* (New York Shakespeare Festival), *How I Learned to Drive* (original cast) and *Middletown* (Vineyard Theatre), *Distracted* (Mark Taper Forum), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hartford Stage) and *Blue Window* (Manhattan Theatre Club). Ms. Day's film and television credits include *Unbreakable*, *The Exonerated*, *Henry*, *The Eternal Pedicure*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Trial By Jury*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *Judging Amy*, *Royal Pains* and *Fringe*.

**Michael Glenn** (*Stevie*) makes his Arena debut with *Good People*. Michael is a D.C.-based actor who has appeared on dozens of stages in the Washington area. A few favorite past productions include: *Cat's Cradle*, *The Hothouse* (Longacre Lea); *Clybourne Park* (Woolly Mammoth); *Village Wooing* (Washington Stage Guild); *Henry VIII*, *Arcadia* (Folger Theatre); *A Flea in Her Ear* (Constellation); *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Signature Theatre). Michael has also done voice-over work as The Flash, Sinestro and Namor the Sub-Mariner, as well as hundreds of cowboys, mutants, outlaws and spies in audio adaptations for Graphic Audio. A company member with Longacre Lea, Michael has worked as an actor, assistant director and/or sound designer in every annual show since 2001. He can be seen on stage next in Olney Theatre Center's production of *Neville's Island*.

**Rosemary Knower** (*Dottie*) returns to Arena Stage after performing in *Agamemnon and His Daughters* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Regional appearances include Nat in *Rabbit Hole*, Mrs. Kravitz in *Red Herring*, at Everyman; Nurse Pipkin in *Things That Break* and Jan Ballas in *Memorandum* at Theatre of the First Amendment; Gertie in *Fuddy Meers* at Woolly Mammoth; Mary Lincoln in *Mary and Myra* at CATF; First Witch/Gentlewoman in *Macbeth* at Baltimore Shakespeare Festival; Boo Levy in *Last Night of Ballyhoo* at Walnut Street; and Ma in *Red Badge of Courage* at the Kennedy Center (also two national tours). Rosemary's film work includes *Live Free or Die Hard*, *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>* and all of John Waters' films since *Hairspray*. TV Credits include roles on *The Veep*, *The Wire* and *Homicide*.

**Andrew Long** (*Mike*) has Off-Broadway credits that include *The Misanthrope* and *Swansong*. Mr. Long is an affiliated artist at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., where he has performed in *Coriolanus*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Hamlet*, *Richard II*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Don Carlos*, *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar*, *Richard III*, *Henry IV*, *Henry V*, *Henry VI* and many others. He has also appeared in the international tour of *Richard III* (The Bridge Project); *Educating Rita* (Huntington Theatre); *My Fair Lady*, *Saving Aimee*, *The Fox on the Fairway* and *I Am My Own Wife* (Signature Theatre); *Frozen* (Studio Theatre); *Enrico IV*,

—continued—

## **Arena Stage announces full company for *Good People*—Page 4**

*Metamorphoses*, *Copenhagen* and *Amadeus* (The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); *M. Butterfly* and *Gross Indecency* (Guthrie Theater); Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; Pioneer Theatre Company; Chautauqua Theater Company; Olney Theatre Center; Arena Stage; the Oregon, Illinois and Alabama Shakespeare Festivals; and the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. His work has been recognized with a Helen Hayes Award, two Helen Hayes nominations, two Kevin Kline Award nominations, the 2007 Will Shakespeare Award and the 2010 Lunt Fontanne Fellowship.

**Amy McWilliams** (*Jean*)’s regional work includes *Signature: Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Brother Russia*, *Les Misérables* (Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Ensemble), *The Happy Time*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Sex Habits of American Women*, *Nevermore*, *Urinetown*, *Zander’s Boat*, *In the Garden*, *The Fix*, *Working*, *Cabaret*; Woolly Mammoth: *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play*, *Maria/Stuart*; Round House Theatre: *Charming Billy*; Forum Theatre: *Scorched*; Theatre Alliance: *Bread of Winter*, *Ambition Facing West*; Theater J: *Shlemiel the First*; Kennedy Center: *Sondheim Celebration (Sunday in the Park with George, Merrily We Roll Along)*, *Tennessee Williams Revisited (A Streetcar Named Desire, The Glass Menagerie)*; Ford’s Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*; *Grapes of Wrath*, *Inherit the Wind*. Other appearances at Arena Stage, TFA, Charter Theatre, Imagination Stage, Keegan Theatre, American Century Theater and the Kennedy Center’s Family Theater.

Full company bios and images available upon request. Please e-mail [press@arenastage.org](mailto:press@arenastage.org).

*Good People* is sponsored by Joan and David Maxwell.

### **Good People Special Events, Ticket Information and Performance Calendar**

#### ***Bread & Roses* series at Busboys and Poets—February 5 at 6:00 p.m.**

Join creative team members from *Good People*, local historians and community organizers for *Bread & Roses*, a monthly Busboys and Poets labor series focused on workers and organized labor. Explore the role of the working community in South Boston and the effects of hard work and sacrifice. This event will take place on Tuesday, February 5 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Busboys and Poets’ 5th and K Street location and is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [busboysandpoets.com/events/info/bread-roses](http://busboysandpoets.com/events/info/bread-roses).

#### **Looking for a Few Good People Job Fair at Arena Stage—March 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Inspired by *Good People*’s leading lady Margaret Walsh’s tenacity to find a job in a difficult economy, Arena Stage has partnered with the District of Columbia, led by **Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells**, to host a public job fair in Southwest D.C. March 1 at the Mead Center for American Theater. Recruiting companies onsite will include Comcast, Safeway and the United Planning Organization, among others. Organizations including Dress for Success, Street Sense and Strive D.C. will also be offering one-on-one services to enhance interview skills and strengthen job-seekers’ ability to get hired.

**TICKETS:** Tickets for *Good People* 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-Page tickets, HOTTIX and Hero’s Discounts, visit [arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs](http://arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs). Tickets may be purchased online at [arenastage.org](http://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

—continued—

## Arena Stage announces full company for *Good People*—Page 5

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

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

Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Weekday matinees at noon on Tuesday, 2/12; Wednesday, 2/13; & Wednesday, 2/27.

Full calendar: [tickets.arenastage.org/single/psDetail.aspx?psn=14309](https://tickets.arenastage.org/single/psDetail.aspx?psn=14309)

**Open-captioned performances:** 2/13 at 7:30 p.m. & 3/7 at 8:00 p.m.

**Audio-described performance:** 3/2 at 2:00 p.m.

**Post-show discussions:** 2/12, 2/13 & 2/27 after the noon matinee; 2/26 & 2/28 after the evening show.

**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 \$16. 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, and the garage closes one hour after the day's last performance ends. 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 call 202-488-3300 in advance to request valet parking. On days when valet parking is being used for accessibility, it is also available to general patrons one hour prior to show time for \$25, based on 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 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 seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org).*

Follow Arena Stage on **Twitter** @arenastage or [twitter.com/arenastage](https://twitter.com/arenastage) and mention *Good People* with #GoodPeople. Find us on **Facebook** at [facebook.com/arenastage](https://facebook.com/arenastage).

###