

# ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES SELECTED FLORISTS FOR COSTUME-THEMED FLORAL CONTEST INSPIRED BY UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF *MY FAIR LADY*

ARRANGEMENTS ON DISPLAY NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 2, 2012 IN THE MEAD CENTER

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces selected florists and judges for *Isn't She Lovely: Design in Bloom*, a costume-inspired floral arrangement contest. In celebration of Arena Stage's upcoming production of *My Fair Lady*, which runs November 3, 2012-January 6, 2013 and focuses on Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle, **15 local florists will create floral arrangements inspired by signature dresses from past Arena Stage productions.** The final floral arrangements will be judged on November 30 by WUSA9 Noon Anchor and Vice President for Media Outreach **JC Hayward** ([wusa9.com/life/company/staff.aspx](http://wusa9.com/life/company/staff.aspx)) and NBC News4 Morning Anchor **Barbara Harrison** ([nbcwashington.com/on-air/about-us](http://nbcwashington.com/on-air/about-us)), along with Arena Stage Artistic Director **Molly Smith**, and will be displayed at the Mead Center through December 2.

Floral designs will be loaded into the Mead Center from 8:00 a.m.-noon and will be judged from 3:00-4:00 p.m., resulting in a grand winner and two runners-up. Along with the exposure all of the selected florists will receive in the Mead Center, the grand winner will receive a business ad in an upcoming Arena Stage program and the runners-up will receive invitations to attend the opening night dinner and performance of *Metamorphoses* on February 14, 2013.

Each florist has been paired with a costume worn by a female lead in a past Arena Stage production, and these 15 signature costumes will be displayed in the Catwalk Café at the Mead Center leading up to the floral unveiling. The florists have received information about the character who wore the costume and the production in which it was featured, and they are encouraged to draw inspiration from the world of their plays, in addition to focusing on the color, texture and design elements of their dresses.

#### **Participating Florists:**

**Monica Berlin from Bud Floral Design in Germantown, MD**

Song Liling's costume from the 2004 production of *M. Butterfly*  
Designed by Carrie Robbins, worn by J. Hiroyuki Liao

**Liza Bourkard from DBI Events in Arlington, VA**

Nellie's bathing suit from the 2002 production of *South Pacific*  
Designed by Robert Perdziola, worn by Kate Baldwin

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**Stephanie Egly from Stephanie's Secret Garden Flower Shop in Poolesville, MD**

Adelaide's costume from the 1999 production of *Guys and Dolls*  
Designed by Paul Tazewell, worn by Alexandra Foucard

**Daniel Espejel from Flowers by Daniel L.L.C. in Washington, DC**

Gown worn in the 2010 production of *Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies*  
Designed by Reggie Ray, worn by Marva Hicks

**Janet Flowers from Janet Flowers Wedding and Event Designs in Washington, DC**

Gwendolen's gown from the 2004 production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*  
Designed by Zack Brown, worn by Susan Lynskey

**Andrea Gagnon from LynnVale Studios L.L.C. in Washington, DC**

Artemis's gown from the 2001 production of *Agamemnon and His Daughters*  
Designed by Lindsay W. Davis, worn by Naomi Jacobson

**Maribel Kalata from EightTreeStreet in Springfield, VA**

Lydia Lansing's gown from the 2003 production of *Shakespeare in Hollywood*  
Designed by Jess Goldstein, worn by Alice Ripley

**Theresa Hambleton and Mary Beth Lopresti from All Seasons Floral Preservation in Sterling and Charlottesville, VA**

Pauline's gown from the 2009 production of *Legacy of Light*  
Designed by Linda Cho, worn by Lindsey Kyler

**Jill Medawar from Toulies en Fleur in Washington, DC**

Aunt Ester's costume from the 2007 production of *Gem of the Ocean*  
Designed by Ilona Smogyi, worn by Lynnne Godfrey

**Marianne Raub from Helen Olivia in Alexandria, VA**

Mama Nadi's dress from the 2011 production of *Ruined*  
Designed by ESosa, worn by Jenny Jules

**Gerry Rogers and Rebecca Henry from Petal's Edge Floral Design in Alexandria, VA**

Clara's wedding gown from the 2010 production of *The Light in the Piazza*  
Designed by Linda J. Cho, worn by Margaret Anne Florence

**Clementine Simmons from Fruit of the Spirit Floral Designs in Fort Washington, MD**

Cunegonde's gown from the 1996 production of *Candide*  
Designed by Zack Brown, worn by Rebecca Baxter

**Patty Stimmel from Patty Stimmel Floral Designs in Arlington, VA**

Velma's dress from the 2009 production of *Crowns*  
Designed by Austin K. Sanderson, worn by Marva Hicks

**Philippa Tarrant from Philippa Tarrant Custom Florals in Washington, DC**

Aunt Eller's dress from the 2011 production of *Oklahoma!*  
Designed by Martin Pakledinaz, worn by Terry Burrell

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### Sarah von Pollaro from Urban Petals in Washington, DC

Eleanor Bachman's dress from the 2000 production of *The Great White Hope*  
Designed by Rosemary Pardee, worn by Kelly C. McAndrew

As previously reported, Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith says: "Arena Stage honors dynamic female voices, on and offstage, so this is a perfect way for us to celebrate the leading ladies who shine at Arena. The dresses chosen will inspire innovative and adventurous floral designs and will grace the Mead Center in this beautiful nod to designers of costumes and floral arrangements."

**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).

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