



the mead center
for american theater

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 AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP CHANGES WITHIN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

***** Outgoing Chair David Shiffrin becomes President as Beth Newburger Schwartz steps up as Chair *****

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces that **Beth Newburger Schwartz** has been elected by the Board of Trustees to a three year term as Board Chair, effective July 1, 2013. Outgoing Board Chair **David Shiffrin**, who served in that position since July 2010, will continue to work as Board President through the 2013/14 season. Newburger Schwartz, previous Vice Chair of Communications and a Trustee since 1993, will focus on the long-term operational Board strategy, while Shiffrin, a Trustee since 1992, will continue to work directly with the 33-member governing Board of Trustees on annual fundraising objectives.

“David was Chair during a critical transition period for Arena as we moved into the Mead Center and found our footing here,” shares **Artistic Director Molly Smith**. “We were fortunate to have his love of the art form guide his leadership at a time when we could have been consumed by the grandeur of the building. He was the right leader for that time, and now Beth is the right leader to move us into the next phase of Arena’s life. Beth brings her keen strategic eye to help us grow as we look ahead to fulfill our mission of lighting up the Mead Center every night of the year.”

Officers of the Board will also include Vice Chairs **Michele G. Berman, Edgar Dobie, Patti Herman, Sheila Stampfli, Raymond Sczudlo** and **Vicki Hicks**; Secretary **Judith Batty**; Treasurer **Hank Schlosberg** and Assistant Treasurer **Larry Franks**. For a full list of the 2013/14 Board of Trustees visit arenastage.org/about/board-of-trustees/.

Adds **Executive Producer Edgar Dobie**, “As the gavel passed from David to Beth, we are reminded of how blessed we are to have such dedicated board leadership. As we celebrate the many victories in our first three years in the Mead Center, we now plan the next three years with as much confidence and joy as ever.”

Beth Newburger Schwartz is currently heading Epoch Communications, a marketing/consulting company for the preservation community. She is known for her work as Director of Communications for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and prior to that was appointed by President Clinton to co-chair the Presidential Women’s History Commission and Vice Chair the bi-partisan Congressional Women’s Progress Commission. She also served in both Clinton Administrations as Associate Administrator of the General Services Administration and Outreach Coordinator for the White House Office of Women’s Initiatives and Outreach. Beth previously served as Founder/CEO of Corabi International Telemetrics, Inc.; Founder/President of Owlcat/Digital Research, Inc.; Publisher of the Washington Woman Magazine; Chairman/CEO of Health Street Inc.; Marketing Manager of the Washington Post and Director of Advertising for the New Republic Magazine. Newburger Schwartz is a former Chairman and currently a trustee of the National Children’s Museum and serves on the Boards of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, Jewish Women’s Archive and the Boat Owners

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Association of the United States (BOAT/U.S.). A Cornell University Graduate, she is listed in “Who’s Who in America” and “Who’s Who in the World.” She is married to Richard Schwartz, Founder and Chairman of BOAT/U.S.

David Shiffrin is a former real estate attorney with over 25 years of experience in the commercial real estate field. He was a partner with the law firm of Linowes and Blocher until 1991 when he joined the Resolution Trust Corporation where he was Senior Counsel for Real Estate. He also served in that capacity at the FDIC when the RTC completed its work. After leaving the FDIC, Shiffrin was a Special Advisor for the FCC Auctions Division. He served as the Interim Executive Director of the Cultural Development Corporation and serves on the Boards of several nonprofit associations, including the Cultural Development Corporation. He co-chaired the capital campaign for the Source Theater and is also active at the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of WETA, Facilitating Leadership in Youth (FLY) and the Clark University Board of Visitors and served for many years at The Maret School as a senior advisor to the Scholarship Auction. Shiffrin has a B.A. from Clark University and a J.D. from the New England School of Law. He is married to the former Peggy Kobacker and they have two children, Laura and Carrie.

***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.*

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