

# ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

November 14, 2013

### ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER TO HOST THIRD ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER AND PERFORMANCE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2013

(Washington, D.C.) Every year, hundreds of D.C.-area military families must spend the Thanksgiving holiday away from loved ones. In gratitude for their service, **Arena Stage is inviting wounded warriors, service men and women, and their families to a complimentary dinner and performance of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* starring Malcolm-Jamal Warner at the Mead Center for American Theater (1101 Sixth St., SW) on Friday, November 29.** Arena Stage is working through the USO-Metro to distribute the tickets irrespective of rank. It is anticipated that about 200 service men and women and their families will experience this special evening.

“Hosting a Thanksgiving dinner and performance here at Arena each year for members of the military and their families is so important to us,” shares **Arena Stage Executive Producer Edgar Dobie**. “This act of kind recognition and thanks will remain at the top of the list for as long as we have good women and men volunteering to keep us secure at home.”

Dinner will be prepared and served by **Ridgewells Catering** at 5:30 p.m., and guests will enjoy a performance of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* at 8:00 p.m. The evening's speaking program will include remarks from **Lawrence Duncan III**, Vice President for Federal and State Government Relations and PAC Affairs at Lockheed Martin for Washington Operations.

The event is supported in part by generous contributions from lead sponsor **Lockheed Martin**, as well as **Northrop Grumman Corporation, USAA Real Estate Company, USO, Clark Construction Group, LLC, The Coca-Cola Company, David Bruce Smith Foundation** and **GEICO**. This event is also the recipient of a grant from the **Bob Woodruff Foundation (BWF)**, which works to ensure injured veterans and their families are thriving long after they return home.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information contact Chief Development Officer Holly Oliver at [holliver@arenastage.org](mailto:holliver@arenastage.org) or 202-600-4029.

*Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs about 116,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. The Corporation's net sales for 2012 were \$47.2 billion.*

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*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 seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org)*

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