

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

ARENA STAGE ARTIST UPDATE

July 9, 2014

JAYNE HOUDYSHELL, JONATHAN HADARY, E. FAYE BUTLER AND KAMILAH FORBES JOIN ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER'S 2014/15 SEASON

Tony-nominated actress **Jayne Houdyshell** (Broadway's *Romeo and Juliet*, *Follies*, *Wicked*, *Well*) will kick off Arena Stage's 2014/15 season in her D.C. stage debut starring as Alma in Morris Panych's world-premiere comedy *The Shoplifters*, September 5 – October 19, 2014.

She will be followed by another seasoned Broadway veteran, **Jonathan Hadary** (Broadway's *All Shook Up*, *Gore Vidal's The Best Man*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Gypsy*), in the iconic role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, under the direction of Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith October 31, 2014 – January 4, 2015.

Arena Stage favorite **E. Faye Butler**, who recently wowed audiences with her powerhouse performance in *Smokey Joe's Café*, will return to the theater as Ruby in the classic American drama *King Hedley II* by August Wilson and directed by Timothy Douglas, February 6 – March 8, 2015.

Kamilah Forbes will make her Arena Stage directorial debut with Katori Hall's world-premiere comedy-drama *The Blood Quilt*, April 24 – June 7, 2015. Forbes, a Howard University alumna, is artistic director of the Hip-Hop Theater Festival, and has previously collaborated with Hall as associate director of *The Mountaintop* on Broadway, among other projects.

For complete season information, visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season. Additional casting and creative team updates for the 2014/15 Arena Stage season will be announced at a later date.

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Artist Biographies (in order of appearance during the 2014/15 season):

Jayne Houdyshell makes her Arena Stage debut with *The Shoplifters*. In 2006 she won a Theatre World Award and received her first Tony nomination for her portrayal of Ann in Lisa Kron's *Well*. She also received a Tony nomination in 2012 for *Follies*. Other Broadway credits include *Romeo & Juliet*, *Dead Accounts*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Wicked*. Off-Broadway, Jayne has appeared in *Harrison Texas* at Primary Stages; *The Language Archive* at Roundabout Theater Company, *Coraline* at MCC (for which she received a Drama Desk Nomination); *The New Century* at Lincoln Center; *The Receptionist* at Manhattan Theatre Club (Lucille Lortel Nomination); *The Pain and the Itch* at Playwrights Horizons; *Much Ado about Nothing* at the New York Shakespeare Festival and *Well* at the Public Theatre for which she won the Obie Award. Jayne has worked at regional theaters across the country, including *The Pain and The Itch* at Steppenwolf Theatre (2005 Jefferson Award); *The Clean House* at Philadelphia's Wilma Theatre (2005 Barrymore Award), Yale Repertory Theater, McCarter Theatre, Actors Theater of Louisville and many others. Her work on film includes *Garden State*, *Carol*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Morning Glory*, *Bounty Hunter* and *Everybody's Fine* while her work on television includes *Blue Bloods*, *Law & Order* (all versions), *Loving Leah* and *Third Watch*. Last year, Jayne received a special Drama Desk award for "her artistry as an exceptionally versatile and distinctive Broadway and off-Broadway performer."

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Jonathan Hadary is a New Yorker with many Washington credits, among them *The Little Foxes* at the Shakespeare Theatre, *The Matchmaker* at Ford's Theatre, as well as *Wenceslas Square*, *Gypsy* and *Angels in America* (Helen Hayes Award – Roy Cohn) at The Kennedy Center. Broadway credits include *Awake and Sing!*, *Golden Boy*, *Spamalot*, *All Shook Up*, *Gypsy* (1990 Tony nomination), *As Is* (Obie Award, ACE nomination) and Albert Innaurato's *Gemini*. His off-Broadway credits include last summer's *Comedy of Errors* at the Delacorte; *The Destiny of Me*; *Assassins*; *Weird Romance*; and *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*. On-screen credits include Kenneth Lonergan's *Margaret*, the Coen brothers' *Intolerable Cruelty*, *A Time To Kill*, *Private Parts* and Adult Swim's *The Heart*, *She Holler*. He is a graduate of the Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda and a co-founder of the area's student-run Wildwood Summer Theatre, now in its 50th season. Jonathan used to usher at Arena Stage.

E. Faye Butler's previous Arena Stage productions include *Smokey Joe's Café—The Songs of Leiber and Stoller*, *Pullman Porter Blues*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Oklahoma!*, *Crowns*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Polk County* and *Dinah Was*. She performed with the Washington Ballet in *The Great Gatsby* and *Blues Until June* at the Kennedy Center. National and regional tours include *Mamma Mia*, *Dinah Was*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Nunsense* and *Don't Bother Me...* E. Faye has appeared at regional theaters including Signature Theatre, Center Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, Court Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Lincolnshire Theatre, Dallas Theatre Company, Northlight Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Yale Repertory and Pasadena Playhouse. She is the recipient of six Jeff Awards, three Black Theatre Alliance Awards, an After Dark Award, John Barrymore Award, R.A.M.I. Award, two Helen Hayes Awards and seven nominations, an Excellence in the Arts Award, Ovation Award and the 2011 Sarah Siddons Society Leading Lady Award. In 2012 she was named a Lunt-Fontaine Fellow.

Kamilah Forbes: Broadway (Associate Director): *Holler if Ya Hear Me*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Lucky Guy*, *Stick Fly*, *The Mountaintop*, *Def Poetry Jam* (Tour). Recent (Director): *Sunset Baby* (Labyrinth), *Circle Unbroken* (651 Arts), *Sweet Billy and the Zooloos* (Summer Stage), *Tribute to Marvin Gaye* (Kennedy Center). Other: Lincoln Center Theater, Public Theater, Lark Play Development Center, Arena Stage, Artistic Director Hip-Hop Theater Festival. TV: Producer HBO *Def Poetry Jam*; Executive Producer HBO *Brave New Voices*. Forbes is a graduate of Howard University.

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