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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Arena Stage Artist Update—Page 2

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 Innurato’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 Zoooos (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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