

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES SECOND EXTENSION FOR *THE ORIGINALIST*
WITH PERFORMANCES RESUMING MAY 19-31, 2015
AT ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER**

(Washington, D.C.) **John Strand's** acclaimed world-premiere drama *The Originalist*, based on Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, is receiving an unprecedented second extension. The production will run through the May 3 extension date, as previously announced, before **resuming again on May 19 and running through May 31**. *The Originalist* stars four-time Helen Hayes Award winner and acclaimed D.C. actor **Edward Gero** as the Justice and is under the direction of Artistic Director **Molly Smith**.

Featured alongside Gero, who returns to Arena Stage following his portrayal of legendary artist Mark Rothko in *Red* in 2012, are **Kerry Warren** (Broadway's *The River*) as Cat, the young clerk who becomes a sparring partner for Justice Scalia, and **Harlan Work** (Taffety Punk's *Charm*) as Brad, an eager Scalia devotee and Cat's opposite in every way.

Tickets are available online at arenastage.org or by phone at 202-488-3300.

What critics are saying:

"Guided with subtlety and heart by director Molly Smith." –*Talkin' Broadway*

"The country's most famous legal showman has gotten his show...Scalia, portrayed with terrific verve and snappy humor by Edward Gero." –*The New York Times*

"Strand's daring new play...Edward Gero's lively performance...lands the laughs, delivers the gravitas and at every turn makes you believe this tantalizing man." –*The Washington Post*

"Entertaining...Edward Gero, who looks remarkably like Justice Scalia, offered an eerily convincing physical impersonation of the justice—down to his Jackie Gleason slow burn, his operatic facial expressions and hand gestures, and his belly laugh." –*The Atlantic*

About *The Originalist*: Edward Gero returns to Arena Stage as one of America's most brilliant and polarizing figures: Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. When a bright, liberal, Harvard Law School graduate embarks on a nerve-racking clerkship with Justice Scalia, she discovers him to be both an infuriating sparring partner and an unexpected mentor. How will their relationship affect one of the most incendiary cases ever to reach

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Acclaimed world-premiere drama *The Originalist* extends again due to popular demand—Page 2

the nation's highest court? From Charles MacArthur Award winner John Strand (*Lovers and Executioners*) comes this daring new work about passionate people risking heart and soul to defend their version of the truth. This production is performed in the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle in an exciting new three-quarter thrust configuration.

Photo Editors, high-resolution photos are available here: arenastage.org/news-press/press-room/press-kits-photos/productions/the-originalist
(username: arenapress / password: arena1415)

For additional information on *The Originalist*, visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/the-originalist.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, 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. Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org.

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