

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORLD-PREMIERE POLITICAL DRAMA *THE ORIGINALIST* EXTENDS
DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND THROUGH MAY 3, 2015
WITH EIGHT ADDED PERFORMANCES
AT ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER

(Washington, D.C.) John Strand's new political drama *The Originalist*, based on Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, will receive eight additional performances during its world-premiere run at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater. The play, which 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, now runs through May 3, 2015.

Joining 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 may be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C.

On the news of the extension Smith shares, "We are seeing our fiercely intelligent city embrace and seek out politics onstage, and I couldn't be happier that John's daring play, featuring this incredible cast led by Edward Gero, will have the ability to be seen by more Washingtonians and continue to be part of the discourse on Capitol Hill."

What critics are saying:

"Daring...Edward Gero's lively performance...lands the laughs, delivers the gravitas and at every turn makes you believe this tantalizing man." —*Washington Post*

"Tightly drawn and mouthwateringly funny...some of the best acting in Washington. Edward Gero is a continuing wonder." —*DC Theatre Scene*

"Provocative...the actors deliver strong performances...a polished production at Arena that's worthy of an audience willing to be challenged." —*Broadway World*

"Strand's *The Originalist* has plenty to chew on thanks to the confident direction by Arena's Molly Smith." —*DC Metro Theater Arts*

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World-premiere political drama *The Originalist* extends due to popular demand—Page 2

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-wracking 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 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)

Production video available upon request.

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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