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for american theater

# ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHOTO EDITORS: For high-resolution publicity images, visit the online press room here:  
<http://arenastage.org/news-press/press-room/press-kits-photos/productions/the-originalist>  
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FINAL PERFORMANCES FOR RECORD-BREAKING WORLD PREMIERE *THE ORIGINALIST*  
STARRING EDWARD GERO AS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA  
BY JOHN STRAND & DIRECTED BY MOLLY SMITH

PRODUCTION MUST CLOSE MAY 31, 2015

\*\*\* Special post-show conversation, Marriage Equality in the Court, to happen May 28 \*\*\*

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces the world-premiere political drama *The Originalist*, by John Strand and directed by Artistic Director Molly Smith, has officially surpassed *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins* as the highest selling production in the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle. Edward Gero, who stars as polarizing Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, already made Arena Stage box office history when he starred as Mark Rothko in the critically-acclaimed play *Red* in 2012—still the highest selling production to date in the Kreeger Theater. *The Originalist* also stars 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 Scalia-devotee Brad.

*The Originalist* must close Sunday, May 31, 2015.

Arena Stage will host **Marriage Equality in the Court**, a special conversation **Thursday, May 28 following the 8:00 p.m. performance**, focused on same-sex marriage's road to the Supreme Court, the recent hearing of *Obergefell v. Hodges* and what the June decision could mean for marriage equality in the United States. The conversation will feature *The New York Times* Supreme Court Reporter Adam Liptak, National Campaign Director of Freedom to Marry and Author of *Winning Marriage* Marc Solomon and Legal Director of the Human Rights Campaign Sarah Warbelow. Director and Professor of Media and Public Affairs and International Affairs at George Washington University Frank Sesno serves as guest moderator. For biographies and up-to-date information, visit [arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/the-originalist](http://arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/the-originalist).

Patrons will be invited to stay for the free conversation, and those without tickets to the performance interested in attending should arrive at 9:40 p.m.

Tickets for *The Originalist* are available online at [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org) or by phone at 202-488-3300.

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## Record-breaking world premiere of *The Originalist* must close May 31—Page 2

### What critics are saying:

“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*

“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*

“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-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.

**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](http://arenastage.org).

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