

# ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For high-resolution production images, visit the online press room:  
[arenastage.com/news-press/press-room/press-kits-photos/productions/the-lion](http://arenastage.com/news-press/press-room/press-kits-photos/productions/the-lion)  
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**SINGER/SONGWRITER BENJAMIN SCHEUER  
BRINGS SOLO MUSICAL *THE LION*  
TO ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER  
FEBRUARY 26-APRIL 10, 2016**

(Washington, D.C.) Award-winning singer/songwriter Benjamin Scheuer's solo musical *The Lion* makes its Washington, D.C. debut at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater. Scheuer uses his guitar—actually, six guitars—to take audiences on a rock ‘n’ roll journey and tell a heartwarming coming-of-age story that explores his transition from boyhood to manhood. Called an “irresistible winner” and “deeply moving” by *New York Daily News*, *The Lion* is presented in association with Eva Price and runs February 26-April 10, 2016 in the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle.

*The Lion* is directed by Sean Daniels, named “one of the top 15 up-and-coming artists in the U.S. whose work will be transforming America’s stages for decades to come” by *American Theatre*, and comes to Arena Stage as part of a multi-city tour. *The Lion* premiered Off-Broadway at Manhattan Theatre Club/New York City Center in 2014 and received an encore run at the Lynn Redgrave Theater, winning the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Solo Performance.

“Sometimes you come across a little show with a big heart. This is a beautiful example,” shares Artistic Director Molly Smith. “Benjamin Scheuer brings us his personal story about the complexities of family relationships, but really what he brings is his love of music. Art truly makes beauty out of the challenges of life.”

“When John Lennon was asked about how to write a good song, he said, ‘Tell the truth and make it rhyme,’” says Scheuer. “I’m doing my very best to follow his advice.”

“Benjamin Scheuer is the most dangerously honest charmer I know,” adds Daniels. “As someone who was born in Potomac, Maryland and grew up going to Arena Stage with my parents, it’s an absolute honor to get to return to share this incredibly brave and healing story.”

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### Critical acclaim for *The Lion*:

"Spellbinding! See it now. See it again. The best musical I've seen this year!" –*Huffington Post*

"Poignant and unexpected! Benjamin Scheuer's songs are powerful, charismatic and easy to become lost in." –*NBC New York*

"Only the hardest hearted could resist." –*The New York Times*

"Benjamin Scheuer might be singing about his life, but really, he's singing about all of us."  
–*TheaterMania.com*

Included in "Top 10 Theatrical Performances of 2015" –*Manhattan Digest, Huffington Post* and *NBC New York*

**Benjamin Scheuer** (*Writer/Performer*) is the recipient of the 2015 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Solo Performance and a 2015 Theatre World Award. The animated music videos for Benjamin's songs "The Lion" and "Cookie-tin Banjo" have won prizes at the Annecy Film Festival, British Animation Awards, Encounters Film Festival, Crystal Palace Festival and Buenos Aires' ExpoToons Film Festival. Benjamin's album "Songs from THE LION" will be released in 2016, along with animated videos for the songs "Weather the Storm" and "Cure." With photographer Riya Lerner, Benjamin is co-creator of the art book "Between Two Spaces," from which 50 percent of proceeds go to the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society ([www.betweentwospaces.com](http://www.betweentwospaces.com)). Benjamin has toured with Mary Chapin Carpenter and performed at venues including Royal Albert Hall in London and Lincoln Center in New York. He has been a writer-in-residence at Goodspeed, Weston Playhouse and the Johnny Mercer Songwriting Workshop and been commissioned by Williamstown Theatre Festival. Benjamin lives in New York City. *The Lion* is on tour through February 2017. Twitter/Instagram: @benjaminscheuer. [www.benjaminscheuer.com](http://www.benjaminscheuer.com)

**Sean Daniels** (*Director*) has directed at Manhattan Theatre Club, Lynn Redgrave Theater, the Kennedy Center, St. James Theatre (West End), Actors Theatre of Louisville, Portland Center Stage, Geva Theatre Center, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Cleveland Play House, Alliance Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Long Wharf Theatre, Dad's Garage Theatre Company, Swine Palace, Neo-Futurists, Aurora Theatre, Crowded Fire Theater and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. His direction and shows have won "Best New Musical" in London; the Drama Desk Award in New York City; and "Best Play" and "Best Director" in the Bay Area, Rochester and Atlanta. His shows have also been nominated for a Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle Award. Sean was named "one of the top 15 up-and-coming artists in the U.S. whose work will be transforming America's stages for decades to come" and "one of seven people reshaping and revitalizing the American musical" by *American Theatre*. He is the artistic director of Merrimack Repertory Theatre. He previously served as artist-at-large for Geva Theatre Center and spent four years at the Tony Award-winning Actors Theatre of Louisville as the theater's associate artistic director, where he directed 17 productions including five Humana Festivals. Sean is the former associate artistic director/resident director of California Shakespeare Theater and before that spent a decade as artistic director and co-founder of Dad's Garage Theatre Company in Atlanta. Twitter: @seandaniels.

The creative team for *The Lion* also includes Set Designer **Neil Patel**, Lighting Designer **Ben Stanton**, Sound Designer **Leon Rothenberg**, Costume Consultant **Jennifer Caprio** and Production Supervisor **Dom Ruggiero**.

For full company bios please visit [arenastage.com/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/the-lion](http://arenastage.com/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/the-lion).

### **Post-Show Conversations**

Connect with our shows beyond the performance at a post-show conversation with artists and staff—March 10 following the 8:00 p.m. performance; March 16 and March 22 following the noon performance; and March 22 following the 7:30 p.m. performance.

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### Production Information

#### [The Lion](#)

Written and performed by Benjamin Scheuer

Directed by Sean Daniels

In the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle / February 26-April 10, 2016

**ABOUT:** Some stories have to be sung. Writer/performer Benjamin Scheuer uses his guitar—actually, six guitars—in this wholly-original musical experience that tells a coming-of-age story that “lifts the spirit” (*Time Out New York*). The award-winning songwriter inspires and disarms with his raw wit and emotional depth as he leads you on a rock ‘n’ roll journey from boyhood to manhood, through pain and healing, to discover the redemptive power of music. Don’t miss the show *New York Daily News* calls “an irresistible winner.” Much like its hero, *The Lion* roars.

### **CREATIVE TEAM:**

Playwright/Performer: Benjamin Scheuer

Director: Sean Daniels

Set Designer: Neil Patel

Lighting Designer: Ben Stanton

Sound Designer: Leon Rothenberg

Costume Consultant: Jennifer Caprio

Production Supervisor: Dom Ruggiero

### Plan Your Visit

**TICKETS:** Tickets for *The Lion* are \$40-\$70, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs such as pay-your-age tickets, student discounts, family fun packs, Southwest Nights and hero’s discounts, visit [arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs](http://arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs).

Tickets may be purchased online at [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org), by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C.

Sales Office/Subscriptions: 202-488-3300

Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets: 202-488-4380

TTY for deaf patrons: 202-484-0247

Info for patrons with disabilities: 202-488-3300

### **PERFORMANCE DATES:**

Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Weekday matinees at noon on Wednesday, 3/16 and Tuesday, 3/22

Full calendar: [tickets.arenastage.org/single/PSDetail.aspx?psn=20765](http://tickets.arenastage.org/single/PSDetail.aspx?psn=20765)

**Open-captioned performances:** 3/17 at 8:00 p.m. and 3/23 at 7:30 p.m.

**Audio-described performances:** 3/5 at 2:00 p.m.

**CATWALK CAFÉ:** **Prix fixe meals** are now available at the Catwalk Café and include a choice of soup or salad, main entrée and dessert. Pre-ordered meals are only \$22 (\$25 if purchased that day). To pre-order and see the menu, call 202-488-3300 or visit [arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/the-café/](http://arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/the-café/). The Catwalk Café opens two hours before the show, and reservations are recommended.

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To **pre-order drinks** from the Catwalk Café for up to 50% savings (\$6 house wine and beer), visit [tickets.arenastage.org/cart/precart.aspx?p=1007](https://tickets.arenastage.org/cart/precart.aspx?p=1007).

**METRO:** Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is only one block from the Waterfront-SEU Metro station (Green Line). When exiting the station, walk west on M Street toward Sixth Street, and the main entrance to the Mead Center is on the right.

**PARKING:** Parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage. Subscribers may purchase parking in advance for \$16. Single ticket buyers may purchase parking in advance for \$19 or on the day of the performance for \$22 on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited handicapped parking is available by reservation. Advanced parking must be reserved by calling 202-488-3300. The entrance to the Mead Center garage is on Maine Avenue between Sixth and Seventh streets, and the garage closes one hour after the day's last performance ends. Patrons can also park at the Public Parking Garage at 1101 Fourth Street, one block from the Mead Center, for \$11. Street parking is also available along Maine Avenue.

**VALET PARKING:** Arena Stage offers valet service at no additional cost to patrons with accessibility needs who call 202-488-3300 in advance to request valet parking. On days when valet parking is being used for accessibility, it is also available to general patrons one hour prior to show time for \$25, based on availability. To use valet parking, pull up to the main entrance on Sixth Street.

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

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### **Connect with us:**

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**Facebook:** [facebook.com/arenastage](https://facebook.com/arenastage)

**Twitter:** @arenastage, follow *The Lion* with #TheLion

**Instagram:** [Instagram.com/arenastage](https://Instagram.com/arenastage)

**YouTube:** [youtube.com/arenastage1](https://youtube.com/arenastage1)

**Pinterest:** [pinterest.com/arenastage](https://pinterest.com/arenastage)

**Blog:** [blog.arenastage.org](https://blog.arenastage.org)