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UPDATED CALENDAR INFORMATION FOR SIGNATURE THEATRE'S 2008-2009 SEASON (as of September 2008 – with *Les Misérables* added)

Arlington, VA – Signature Theatre's 2008-2009 season runs from August 27, 2008 through June 13, 2009 and features six productions as well as the special concert presentation of *Anyone Can Whistle* and cabaret offerings. For more information visit www.signature-theatre.org.

SIGNATURE'S 2008-2009 SEASON

August 26 – September 28, 2008

East Coast Premiere

ACE

A Musical Adventure

Music by Richard Oberacker

Book and Lyrics by Robert Taylor and Richard Oberacker

Choreography by Karma Camp

Directed by Eric Schaeffer

In The MAX

Tickets range from \$49 to \$77

Set in 1950s heartland America, *Ace* is the epic story of one boy's journey to come to terms with his past, find his place in the present, and unlock his future. When 10-year-old Danny Lucas receives a toy plane as an unexpected gift from his foster parents, a parallel world of dreamtime adventures begins to unfold. With an ace fighter as his guide, Danny is transported back in time – flying into the gathering storm over Europe during aerial dogfights of WWI and soaring with the daring Tiger squadrons of WWII in the skies above Southeast Asia. A tale of triumph, transcendence, humor, and heart as seen through the prism of a child's eyes, *Ace*

magically explores the heroic lives and unforeseen legacies of the men and women of our greatest generations.

September 3 – 6, 2008

CABARET: *THE LOST SONGS OF BROADWAY 1940 – 1950**

In The ARK

Tickets are \$30

We highlight *The Lost Songs of Broadway* with a varied collection of terrific tunes from lesser-known shows that are still deserving of center-stage attention. This season we'll focus the attention on shows from the 1940s-1950s and bring to your attention some of Broadway's best but lost music.

September 23 – November 16, 2008

Washington Premiere

THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE

By Martin McDonagh

Directed by Jeremy Skidmore

In The ARK

Tickets range from \$44 to \$71

“...cunningly constructed, deeply and intensely felt, bitter blood curdling, and breathtakingly funny.” – *Sunday Times* (London)

On a lonely road on the island of Inishmore, someone killed an Irish Liberation Army enforcer's cat. Padraic may be a terrorist, but he loves that cat more than life itself, and someone is going to pay for kitty's execution...just as soon as Padraic returns from his stint of torture and chip-shop bombing in Northern Ireland. This witty, ironic, and wild look at the hypocrisy of violence escalates from mayhem to a hilarious surprise ending that leaves audiences gasping for breath.

October 6, 2008, ONE NIGHT ONLY

Second Annual Great American Musicals Concert

ANYONE CAN WHISTLE

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by Arthur Laurents

Directed by Eric Schaeffer

Performed at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center

Tickets range from \$50 to \$150

Wacky, intelligent, and highly unconventional, *Anyone Can Whistle* has become a legendary cult classic. An absurdist fantasy-cum-political satire, the musical tells the story of a corrupt mayoress who fakes a miracle to revitalize her bankrupt town, the rational nurse who's determined to expose the fraud, and the easy going doctor who intends to sit back and enjoy the chaos. With its poignant message about the role of the individual in conformist society, and its still-relevant barbs aimed at government,

religion, and science, *Anyone Can Whistle* is a command performance for any Sondheimianiac.

December 2, 2008 – January 25, 2009

LES MISERABLES

A musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg

Based on a novel by Victor Hugo

Music by Claude-Michel Schönberg

Lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer

Original French Text by Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel

Additional material by James Fenton

Orchestrations by John Cameron

Scenic Design by Walt Spangler

Costume Design by Kathleen Geldard

Lighting Design by Mark Lanks

Sound Design by Matt Rowe

Music Direction by Jon Kalbfleisch

Choreography by Karma Camp

Directed by Eric Schaeffer

With Greg Stone, Tom Zemon, Doug Kreeger, Tracy Lynn Olivera, Stephanie Waters, Felicia Curry, Christopher Bloch, and Sherri L. Edelen

In The MAX

Tickets range from \$65 to \$87

Signature Theatre will present an innovative new production of the beloved 1985 musical *Les Misérables*, to be staged by Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer. By special permission from producer Cameron Mackintosh, Signature will produce a brand-new version of *Les Miz* by creating an environmental staging that combines the epic scale of 30 actors, 138 costumes, a Broadway-sized 14-piece orchestra, and a five-ton steel set with the intimacy of a 280-seat theater. Mackintosh stated, "One of the great pleasures of being involved with the creation of *Les Misérables* is seeing this marvelous musical being done in a completely different and original way. Having seen many shows brilliantly reimagined at Signature I have no doubt that Eric and his team will come up with a revolutionary new take on *Les Miz* unlike anything anyone has seen before. Viva la différence!"

One of the most popular musicals of all time, Boublil and Schönberg's *Les Misérables* is a passionate saga of love and betrayal set during the upheaval of post revolutionary France. At its center, fugitive Jean Valjean is pitted against the tenacious Inspector Javert in a lifelong struggle to evade capture. This deeply personal drama of a man seeking redemption is played out against a sweeping historical backdrop of unparalleled scale, where the worlds of student revolutionaries, thieves and criminals, and desperate young lovers collide. Based on Victor Hugo's classic 1862 novel, *Les Miz* is full of show-stopping numbers such as "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," and "One Day More."

December 17 – 20, 2008

CABARET: *DECEMBER DIVAS II**

In The ARK

Tickets are \$30

Missed out on last season's holiday hit? Now you'll have a second chance to celebrate the season with a newly crafted *December Divas* cabaret. Join these DC Divas for a delightful evening of holiday classics and humor.

January 13 – March 8, 2009

**Three-time Helen Hayes Award winner HOLLY TWYFORD in
Washington Premiere**

THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED

By Douglas Carter Beane

Directed by Michael Baron

In The ARK

Tickets range from \$44 to \$71

"Theatergoers have cause to rejoice. Devastatingly funny, with dizzy, irresistible writing that brings down the house." – *The New York Times*

Sure, we love the cinema for its great "auteurs," its glorious faces, and its daring images. But in this tabloid age where big stars go on *Oprah* and make such spectacles of themselves, what we *really* love is all that dish! *The Little Dog Laughed* follows the adventures of Mitchell Green, a movie star who could make it big if it weren't for one teensy-weensy problem— his hard-driving agent, Diane (Twyford), can't seem to keep him in the closet. Trying to help him navigate Hollywood's choppy waters, the devilish Diane is doing all she can to keep Mitchell away from the cute rent boy who's caught his eye...and the rent boy's girlfriend! (*Wait...the rent boy has a girlfriend???*) Will there be a happy ending when the final credits roll?

March 18-21, 2009

CABARET: *LaCHIUSA'S LADIES**

In The ARK

Tickets are \$30

Audiences will be treated to a special evening of composer Michael John La Chiusa's songs written from the perspective of some of musical theater's most interesting, complex women. And boy, does LaChiusa know how to write a sure-fire hit song! It's a Cabaret evening you won't want to miss. Part of the American Musical Voices Project: Part One – Michael John LaChiusa.

April 7 – May 31, 2009

Washington Premiere

SEE WHAT I WANNA SEE

Words and Music by Michael John LaChiusa

Based on short stories by Ryunosuke Akutagawa

As translated by Takashi Kojima
Directed by Helen Hayes Award winner Matthew Gardiner
In The ARK
Tickets range from \$49 to \$77

“...a powerhouse of a show whose sheer intensity will knock you flat. LaChiusa’s stagecraft is sure, and his edgy, pop-flavored score commandingly individual. He is thinking hard about the future of the post-Sondheim musical, and in *See What I Wanna See* he has gone a long way to showing us what it will look like.” – *The Wall Street Journal*

See What I Wanna See, a musical about lust, greed, murder, faith, and redemption, was named one of the Best Musicals of 2005 by *New York Magazine*. Nominated for nine Drama Desk Awards, including Best Musical, the show is based on three short stories that unfold like a Japanese screen painting. In *Kesa and Morito*, set in medieval Japan, two lovers sing of the ecstasy and torment of their affair. *R Shomon*, set in 1951 New York City, follows the investigation of a crime of passion and the witnesses’ contradicting versions of the event. *Gloryday*, set in present day New York, presents a priest during a crisis of faith after a terrible tragedy strikes the city. *See What I Wanna See* asks the question, “what *is* truth?” You’ll be amazed by the kaleidoscope of answers.

April 28 – May 31, 2009

World Premiere

GIANT

Music and Lyrics by Michael John LaChiusa

Book by Sybille Pearson

Based on the novel by Edna Ferber

Directed by Eric Schaeffer

In The MAX

Tickets range from \$49 to \$77

Adapted from the American classic by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edna Ferber (*Showboat*), *Giant* is a daring new musical, already acknowledged as one of the most promising contemporary theater debuts. Epic in vision and scope, swept with passion and violence, touched by humor and sorrow, *Giant* is the powerful story of a Texas rancher and his Virginia-born wife as they face increasing challenges in their marriage and family in an ever-changing American landscape. Five-time Tony Award® nominee (*Marie Christine*, *The Wild Party*), LaChiusa is the first recipient of the American Musical Voices Project Award to present a new work on Signature’s stage.

Sponsored by The Shen Family Foundation

June 10 – 13, 2009

CABARET: PARTIAL ECLIPSE*

In The MAX

Tickets are \$30

Delve into the musical world of *Nevermore* composer and Signature favorite Matt Conner. Conner's world premiere song cycle reveals the want of love and the never-ending search to find that perfect partner.

***CABARET OFFERINGS**

An extension of Signature's commitment to musical theater, the Cabaret series provides a distinct entertainment experience. Presented in Signature's style with cabaret-table seating, drinks, and food from our full-service bar, the Cabaret series creates a lively night-club atmosphere. Join the brightest artists from Washington and New York for special evenings of popular show tunes, jazz numbers, and ballads intertwined with spirited storytelling and live accompaniment.

ABOUT SIGNATURE

Under the leadership of Co-founder and Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer and Managing Director Maggie Boland, Signature is a non-profit professional theater company dedicated to producing contemporary musicals and plays, reinventing classic musicals, and developing new work. To date, Signature has presented over 25 world premiere productions and is renowned for combining Broadway-quality productions with intimate playing spaces. In addition to the finest talent from the DC metropolitan area and New York, Signature has been a home to such theater luminaries as John Kander and Fred Ebb, Cameron Mackintosh, Terrence McNally, and the company's signature, Stephen Sondheim. Signature has been nominated for 234 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theater and has been honored with 59 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Musical in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2005, and 2006, and Outstanding Play in 1999.

Directions

Signature Theatre is just 12 minutes from downtown Washington, DC in Arlington's Shirlington Village. The new theater complex is located at 4200 Campbell Avenue (22206) off I-395 at the Shirlington exit. After the exit, blue Signature signs mark the way to the Theatre. Free parking is available in two adjacent public garages. Please note that Campbell Avenue is a new street and GPS online mapping systems such as mapquest.com do not yet recognize Signature Theatre's address. For directions visit www.signature-theatre.org.

Contact Info

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