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Signature Theatre Produces An Innovative New Version of

BOUBLIL AND SCHÖNBERG'S **LES MISÉRABLES**

Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer Stages First Major Black Box Theater
Presentation of *Les Miz* in America

Performances Dec. 2 – Jan. 25 (extended to Feb. 22)
at Signature's MAX Theatre

Arlington, VA – Signature Theatre presents an innovative new production of the beloved 1985 musical *Les Misérables* staged by Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer in Signature's MAX Theatre from December 2, 2008 – January 25, 2009 (and extended to February 22). By special permission from producer Cameron Mackintosh, Signature Theatre is producing a brand-new version of *Les Miz* by creating an environmental staging that combines the epic scale of 28 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 reimaged 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."

The cast includes **Greg Stone**, from the national touring companies of *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*, as the fugitive Jean Valjean. **Tom Zemon**, of the Broadway productions of *Les*

Miz and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, is his relentless pursuer Javert. **Andrew Call** of *Glory Days* and *Altar Boyz* is the student revolutionary Marius, in love with Cosette, **Stephanie Waters**, who played the role on Broadway and was featured in Signature's *Into the Woods*. Playing Cosette's mother Fantine is Signature Theatre favorite and two-time Helen Hayes nominee **Tracy Lynn Olivera**. **Christopher Bloch** of Signature's *Urinetown* is Thenardier and Signature's Helen Hayes Award winner **Sherri L. Edelen** is Madame Thenardier, with the exciting young actress **Felicia Curry** playing their daughter Eponine. **Chris Sizemore** makes his Signature debut as the student leader Enjolras.

Joining Eric Schaeffer on the creative team are choreographer **Karma Camp**, musical director **Jon Kalbfleisch**, set designer **Walt Spangler**, costumer designer **Kathleen Geldard**, lighting designer **Mark Lanks**, and sound designer **Matt Rowe**.

Director Schaeffer commented, "*Les Misérables* is the perfect show for Signature because we're known for reinventing the Broadway musical. We're taking a great work like *Les Miz* and reimagining it for our stage and our audience. It's an epic show to be seen in the intimate setting of only 280 seats and we're setting it in a whole different world. Walt Spangler's set encases the entire theater, where the audience cannot help but be in Paris, in the barricades, in the tavern. It's really exciting to have people who think they know the show rediscover it in this truly amazing way."

Schaeffer continued, "Most productions follow the romanticism of *Les Misérables*. Signature's has that romanticism but at the same time emphasize the fact that it's a story about a war, a revolution with blood and death that's tearing people apart. The cast is made up of amazing Washington area performers plus great people I've worked with in New York. In The MAX Theatre, hearing all those voices and using the Broadway orchestration is thrilling. No one in our country will ever have witnessed *Les Misérables* like this. That is what makes this production so special."

Tickets for *Les Misérables*, ranging in price from \$65 to \$87, are on sale by calling Ticketmaster at (703) 573-7328 or visiting www.signature-theatre.org. Show times are Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 pm, Thursday and Friday at 8:00 pm, Saturday at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm, and Sunday at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Special 8:00 pm holiday performances are scheduled for December 23 and 30. No performances will take place on December 16, 24, 25, and January 1.

Special packages are available to enhance patrons' experience of *Les Misérables*. There are "Miz Kids" family offerings sponsored in part by Target and "The Paris Pass," which includes drinks, souvenir programs and more. "Beyond the Barricade" backstage tours are being held on weekends throughout the run. Signature is also offering a special New Year's Eve gala performance and party. For more information on these packages visit www.signature-theatre.org or call the Signature Theatre Box Office at (703) 820-9771.

EDITORS: Photos for *Les Misérables* are available for downloading from http://www.signature-theatre.org/photo_downloads.htm. (Link for press only: please do not publish).

Signature Theatre presents
BOUBLIL and SCHÖNBERG'S
Les Misérables

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

The original London production was adapted and directed by Trevor Nunn and John Caird.
This production is licensed by Music Theatre International by arrangement with Cameron Mackintosh.

CAST

Greg Stone	Jean Valjean
Tom Zemon	Javert
Andrew Call	Marius
Tracy Lynn Olivera	Fantine
Stephanie Waters	Cosette
Felicia Curry	Eponine
Christopher Bloch	Thenardier
Sherri L. Edelen	Madame Thenardier
Chris Sizemore	Enjolras
Kurt Boehm	Fauchelevant/Claquesous
Matt Conner	Montparnasse
James Gardiner	Babet
Adam Ethan Grabau	Bamatbois/Grantaire
Michael Grew	Courfeyrac
Thomas Hunter Hedgpeth	Jean Prouvaire
Sam Ludwig	Feuilly
Aaron Reeder	Bishop of Digne/Lesgles
Thomas Adrian Simpson	Combeferre/Foreman
Stephen Gregory Smith	Joly
Russell Sunday	Brujon/Army Officer
Eleasha Gamble	Ensemble
Channez McQuay	Ensemble
Amy McWilliams	Ensemble
Hannah Willman	Ensemble
Weslie Woodley	Ensemble

Les Misérables is sponsored in part by Jaylee Mead.

Signature Theatre's 2008-2009 season is partially supported by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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 some GPS online mapping systems do not yet recognize Signature Theatre's address. For directions visit www.signature-theatre.org.

Contact Information

Ticketmaster (703) 573-SEAT (7328)
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