

ADDRESS
4200 Campbell Ave.
Arlington, Virginia
22206

BOX OFFICE
703 820 9771
ADMIN OFFICE
571 527 1860

FACSIMILE
703 845 0236
WEBSITE
www.signature-theatre.org

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Eric Schaeffer
MANAGING DIRECTOR
Maggie Boland

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 18, 2008
Suzanne Stephens, Publicist
(571) 527-1833
stephenss@signature-theatre.org

Signature Theatre Reveals the Full Schedule for its 3rd Annual Open House on Saturday, August 2 from Noon – 9:30 pm

FREE PERFORMANCES, MASTER CLASSES, DEMONSTRATIONS, CONTESTS, AND EXHIBITS

Arlington, VA – July 18, 2008 – Signature Theatre celebrates the best in musical theater and drama with its 3rd annual Open House on Saturday, August 2 from noon – 9:30 pm. Free and open to the public, this special Signature event is a full fun schedule of performances, master classes, demonstrations, contests, and exhibits in Signature's swanky two-theater complex. Headline performers will include R&B and Broadway *Dreamgirl* Julia Nixon and Signature's *Witches of Eastwick* star and Tony®-nominee Emily Skinner. Open House attendees can go behind the scenes of the award-winning Theatre, hear musical highlights of the upcoming season, show off their skills in "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" tests of musical theater knowledge, name-that-Signature-tune contests, and Sondheim sing-a-longs, learn new dance steps from a Helen Hayes-winning choreographer, and more.

Special children's activities include workshops in stage combat for 6 –12 year olds, as well as a moon bounce, snow cones, and library story-time and crafts offerings.

For more information visit www.signature-theatre.org.

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2008 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Free performances, master classes, and events take place every 15 minutes.



12:00 Signature Season Highlights Concert

Highlights from this Season's Musicals *Ace*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *See What I Wanna See* & *Giant* featuring Erin Driscoll, Eleasha Gamble, James Gardiner, Will Gartshore, and Tracy Lynn Olivera



12:15 Overtures Graduates in Concert

Students from Signature's summer musical theatre institute perform their favorite songs. This is a chance to see future musical theatre stars in the making.

Library 12:15

Signature Theatre Documentary Screening

This film offers an inside look at the development of Signature Theatre and the transition from The Garage to the New Building. The Signature Theatre Documentary is directed and produced by Ben Crutchfield and Alexis Van Dyke, edited by Alexis Van Dyke. The 30 minute film will be followed by Q&A with the film makers.

Lobby 12:30

Lobby Performance: Little River Turnpike

Amy McWilliams, Steve McWilliams, and Stephen Gregory Smith join together to sing some of their favorite pop songs in our lobby performance space. Don't miss this special performance.

Library 12:45

Brad Waller Children's Stage Combat Workshop

Fight choreographer Brad Waller, teaches a workshop in stage combat for kids ages 6-12pm. Locally, he has served as a fight choreographer on many of Shakespeare Theatre's productions.

SHEN 1:00

Will Gartshore: Acting with Music Master Class

Helen Hayes Award winner Will Gartshore (*Urinetown*, *Assassins*, *Merrily We Roll Along*) leads a master class in acting a song for pre-selected students from local universities. The class is open to the public to watch and learn followed by a question and answer period.



1:15 Game Show: Who Wants to Be A Millionaire

Well no one is actually going to win a million dollars but we do have some pretty cool prizes. How much do you know about musical theatre and Signature? Test your knowledge for a chance to win such prizes as a season subscription for two, dinner with Eric Schaeffer, and much more. Get your Lifelines ready and join Matt Conner, Eric Schaeffer, and the infamous Leopard Ladies as they host, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

(Only 30 minutes)



1:30 Emily Skinner: Broadway, My Way

Tony® Award nominee and Virginia native Emily Skinner brings her acclaimed Feinstein's cabaret act to Signature Theatre. Emily Skinner appeared in Signature Theatre's *The Witches of Eastwick* and will appear in this season's new musical adventure *Ace*. Her Broadway credits include *Side Show*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, James Joyce's *The Dead*, *Full Monty*, and *Dinner at Eight*.

cs 1:45

A Conversation with Signature's Costume Shop Manager, Guy Bailey

Learn all about what it takes to bring the works of costume designers like Susan Hilferty, Bob Perdziola, Anne Kennedy and others to life. Costume Shop Manager Guy Bailey, will give you a behind the scenes look at what goes on in Signature Theatre's costume shop.

SOND. 2:00




A Conversation with Signature's Production Team



Join Signature Theatre's Production Manager, Technical Director, and Master Electrician as they give you the inside scoop on what it takes to mount a Signature Theatre production.



2:15 Stephen Gregory Smith: Insomnioke Cabaret

Helen Hayes Award winner Stephen Gregory Smith (*110 In the Shade*, *Into the Woods*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*) shares selections from his latest cabaret act *Insomnioke*.

- SHEN 2:30 Eric Schaeffer: Performance Master Class**
Signature's Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer leads a master class for pre-selected students from local universities. The class is open to the public to watch and learn followed by a question and answer period.
- Lobby 2:30 Lobby Performance: My Audition Book**
Join Overtures Graduates and recent *Kander & Ebb Overtures Cabaret* performers Florrie Bagel (*Into The Woods, Broadway in Ballston*), Priscilla Cuellar (*My Fair Lady, Into The Woods, Saving Aimee*), and Weslie Woodley as they share with you their favorite songs from their audition book.
- Library 2:45 Brad Waller Stage Combat Workshop**
Fight choreographer Brad Waller, teaches a workshop in stage combat. Locally he has served as a fight choreographer on many of Shakespeare Theatre's productions.
-  **3:00 Musical Mayhem: Signature's Improv Show (Where Anyone Can See The Lieutenant's Giant Dog Whistle)**
A hilarious comedy improv show featuring some of your favorite Signature performers. Watch as these seasoned actors let their hair down in a show of improv, music, sketches, games and much more. It's certain to be a blast.
- Plaza 3:15 Plaza Concert: Temika Moore**
Philadelphia native and DC area resident, Temika Moore is jazzy, soulful, and simply organic. Imagine the folk-style of Tracy Chapman meets the refined soul of Anita Baker.
-  **3:30 Sondheim Sing-A-Long**
Come sing-a-long to the music of the composer that Signature knows best. Join local performers as they teach you to sing songs from some of your favorite Sondheim musicals.
- SHEN 3:45 Matthew Gardiner: Dancin' Broadway Master Class**
Bring along your dance shoes for a master class led by Helen Hayes Award Winner Matthew Gardiner (*Studio Theatre's Reefer Madness and Jerry Springer The Opera*). Open for the public to view or participate.
- cs 4:00 A Conversation with Signature's Costume Shop Manager, Guy Bailey**
Learn all about what it takes to bring the works of costume designers like Susan Hilferty, Bob Perdziola, Anne Kennedy and others to life. Costume Shop Manager Guy Bailey, will give you a behind the scenes look at what goes on in Signature Theatre's costume shop.
- Lobby 4:00 Lobby Performance: Peter Lerman**
Join singer/songwriter Peter Lerman in the lobby as he shares his unique blend of musical theatre and folk music. Lerman writes in a style called "New Americana" - folk songs fused with dramatic storytelling, influenced by such songwriters as Steve Goodman, Arlo Guthrie, Randy Newman, and Shel Silverstein.
- Library 4:15 Signature Theatre Documentary Screening**
This film offers an inside look at the development of Signature Theatre and the transition from The Garage to the New Building. The Signature Theatre Documentary is directed and produced by Ben Crutchfield and Alexis Van Dyke, edited by Alexis Van Dyke. The 30 minute film will be followed by Q&A with the film makers.
-  **4:30 Julia Nixon in Concert**
Award winning artist and former Broadway *Dreamgirl*, Julia Nixon, shares her favorites as well as songs from her debut album, *Keepin' On Track*.

-  **4:45** **Game Show: Name That Signature Tune**
Does that song sound familiar? Do you know what Signature musical it's from? Join composer and actor Matt Conner and Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer as they take us on a nostalgic trip through Signature's past shows. Who knows you might even pick up prize. (Only 30 minutes)
- Plaza** **5:00** **Plaza Concert: Temika Moore**
Philadelphia native and DC area resident, Temika Moore is jazzy, soulful, and simply organic. Imagine the folk-style of Tracy Chapman meets the refined soul of Anita Baker.
- SHEN** **5:15** **Michael Baron: Auditioning Master Class**
Watch as local university students get behind-the-scenes instruction on the art of auditioning from Signature Theatre's own casting director, Michael Baron. Open for the public to view or participate.
- Lobby** **5:30** **Lobby Performance: Matt Conner**
Matt Conner's piano stylings have become a pre-show staple here at Signature Theatre. Enjoy a cool beverage in the lobby while you wait for the next performance to begin, as local composer and actor Matt Conner sits down at the piano to entertain you in true Signature fashion.
-  **5:45** **Signature Season Highlights Concert**
Highlights from this Season's Musicals *Ace*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *See What I Wanna See* & *Giant* featuring Erin Driscoll, Eleasha Gamble, James Gardiner, Will Gartshore, and Tracy Lynn Olivera
-  **6:00** **Emily Skinner: Broadway, My Way**
Tony® Award nominee and Virginia native Emily Skinner brings her acclaimed Feinstein's cabaret act to Signature Theatre. Emily Skinner appeared in Signature Theatre's *The Witches of Eastwick* and will appear in this season's new musical adventure *Ace*. Her Broadway credits include *Side Show*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, James Joyce's *The Dead*, *Full Monty*, and *Dinner at Eight*.
- Plaza** **6:15** **Plaza Concert: Nothing Unexpected**
From Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, *Nothing Unexpected* is a four piece rock band. The band has graced the stage with the likes of Bob Dylan, Gnarl's Barkley, Matchbook Romance, Punchline, Fall Out Boy and many more.
- SHEN** **6:30** **Ask Maggie & Eric: A Conversation with Signature's Leadership Team**
Do you have a question about our upcoming season? Join Signature's new Managing Director, Maggie Boland, and Artistic Director, Eric Schaeffer for a special one time conversation.
-  **6:45** **Game Show: Who Wants to Be A Millionaire**
Well no one is actually going to win a million dollars but we do have some pretty cool prizes. How much do you know about musical theatre and Signature? Test your knowledge for a chance to win such prizes as a season subscription for two, dinner with Eric Schaeffer, and much more. Get your Lifelines ready and join Matt Conner, Eric Schaeffer, and the infamous Leopard Ladies as they host, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"
(Only 30 minutes)
- SOND.** **6:45** **A Conversation with Signature's Production Team**
Join Signature Theatre's Production Manager, Technical Director, and Master Electrician as they give you the inside scoop on what it takes to mount a Signature Theatre production.
- SOND.** **7:00** **A Conversation with Signature's Production Team**

Join Signature Theatre's Production Manager, Technical Director, and Master Electrician as they give you the inside scoop on what it takes to mount a Signature Theatre production.

Lobby 7:15 Lobby Performance: Matt Conner & Friends
Enjoy the musical stylings of *Nevermore* composer and Signature favorite Matt Conner in our lobby performance space.

Plaza 7:15 Plaza Concert: Ssuuna
Through an exotic fusion of traditional and contemporary East African music, dance and storytelling accompanied by traditional instruments, SSUUNA will take the audience on a crucial but delightful cultural extravaganza with a promise to experience our cultural similarities and to walk away respecting the differences. SSUUNA; The Spirit of Africa is here to keep love in action.



7:30 Julia Nixon in Concert
Award winning artist and former Broadway *Dreamgirl*, Julia Nixon, shares her favorites as well as songs from her debut album, *Keepin' On Track*.



7:45 Revenge of the Understudies Cabaret
A cabaret featuring the understudies from Signature's 2007-2008 Season, these are some very talented young performers that are not to be missed.

Plaza 8:30 Signature Sings Broadway in Shirlington
Welcome back the day's performers and additional special guests for an exciting closer to the Open House. Featuring some of your favorite Broadway tunes, this a concert that you just can't miss.

ONGOING OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

Signature Street

The Plaza

Enjoy our family activities throughout the day including a moon bounce, snow cones, popcorn, and balloons.

Kids Activities: Story-Time and Crafts

Shirlington Library

Bring the kids and get creative from 12am-4:30pm.

Signature Design Showcase

Sondheim Rehearsal Room

Feast your eyes on some of the memorable set models, costume sketches and more from Signature's past productions from 12am-8pm

Signature Costume Showcase

Signature Costume Shop

Take a look at actual costume pieces from previous as well as upcoming Signature productions from 12am-8pm

Refreshments & Information

In the Mead Lobby

Ali's Bar will be open to purchase snacks and sodas. And you'll find staff on hand to answer any questions about the Theatre and the upcoming season.

ALL PERFORMANCES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 the adjacent public garage. 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

Signature Administration: (571) 527-1860

Signature Theatre

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