

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIGNATURE THEATRE EXTENDS RUN OF *PACIFIC OVERTURES* THROUGH JULY 10 DUE TO DEMAND FOR TICKETS!

Arlington, VA — Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer announced today a one-week extension of Sondheim’s *Pacific Overtures*. “The audience response has been overwhelming — they are really responding to the show, which is always rewarding,” expressed Schaeffer. Spanning 150 years of Japan’s fascinating history, *Pacific Overtures* tells a brilliant tale of culture clash as sparked by America’s 1853 mission to Westernize Japan. The story of Japan’s emergence from an isolated country rooted in tradition to its current position at the forefront of international politics is told through the eyes of Kayama and Manjiro — two friends turned bitter enemies as they struggle with traditional and Western influences. *Pacific Overtures* features Sondheim’s most daring music — an adventurous blend of Broadway razzle-dazzle and pure Eastern beauty. Based on the ancient form of Kabuki theatre, a small chamber version of *Pacific Overtures* is thrilling in Signature’s intimate space. *Pacific Overtures* is running now through July 10, 2005, at Signature Theatre.

eric schaeffer
artistic director

sam sweet
managing director

WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING:

“A bold expedition. Gutsy new production. Schaeffer... stages it with a feisty exuberance. Highly entertaining. Puts the human dimension of *Pacific Overtures* under a microscope in a thrilling way. Over the years, Schaeffer, a die-hard Sondheim partisan, has developed... a knack for rethinking big musicals in smaller packaging.” — Peter Marks, *The Washington Post*

“A triumphant staging.” — Scott Vogel, *The Washington Post*

The “striking opening is a declaration of sorts — that the evening will offer precision rather than spectacle, intimate revelation rather than glitz. ...Schaeffer is known for finding the human pulse in work that’s usually played for razzle-dazzle.” — Bob Mondello, *Washington City Paper*

“A riveting barebones interpretation. Eric Schaeffer ... specializes in paring down big Sondheim musicals to fit the intimate dimensions of Signature’s small theater. Excellent performances.” — Patrick Foliard, *Washington Blade*

“Thirty years after its stunning debut, it takes a big fish like Eric Schaeffer ... to re-envision such a large work for a smaller theater, producing a reverently scaled-down version.” — Jolene Munch, *Metro Weekly*

“Sondheim’s astonishingly well-crafted 1976 show remains compelling in the Signature Theatre’s colorful production. Both a technical and an artistic success ... entertaining with beautiful songs, an eye-catching design, and a top-flight cast.” — Sam Thielman, *Washington Theater Review*

— MORE —

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PACIFIC OVERTURES

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman

Additional material by Hugh Wheeler

Pacific Overtures is made possible through the generous support of Gil and Jaylee Mead, with additional support from Shugoll Research, National Endowment for the Arts, and Helen Lee Henderson.

The Cast (in alphabetical order)

Michael Bunce	Shogun's Mother, Merchant, Officer, British Admiral, Sailor
Matt Conner	Tomate, Son, Kanagawa Girl, Commodore Perry, Lord, Daughter
Steven Cupo	Lord Abe, Observer, Soothsayer, Kanagawa Girl
Daniel Felton	Manjiro, Fisherman, Priest, Warrior, American Admiral
Will Gartshore	Kayama
Channez McQuay	Councilor, Grandmother, Wife, Madam, Officer, Noble, Lord
Donna Migliaccio	Reciter, Shogun, Emperor
Thomas Adrian Simpson	Councilor, Companion, Priest, Russian Admiral, Sailor, Assassin
Stephen Gregory Smith	Samurai, Observer, Officer, Priest, Kanagawa Girl, Boy, French Admiral, Sailor
Harry A. Winter	Samurai, Thief, Physician, Kanagawa Girl, Old Man, Dutch Admiral, Storyteller

The Creative Team

Director	Eric Schaeffer	Costume Designer	Anne Kennedy
Choreographer	Karma Camp	Sound Designer	Tony Angelini
Music Director	Jon Kalbfleisch	Orchestrations	Jonathan Tunick
Set Designer	Eric Schaeffer	Properties	Katherine Osborne
Lighting Designer	Mark Lanks	Stage Manager	Jess W. Speaker, III

Performance Schedule**Now extended through July 10, 2005***Show Times:* Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30pm, Thursday – Saturday at 8:00pm, and Sunday at 2:00pm & 7:00pm.**Tickets**Tickets are \$30 – \$49 and are available at Tickets.com at (703) 218-6500 or online at www.signature-theatre.org.**Signature Theatre**

Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theatre dedicated to producing contemporary plays and musicals and to the development of new work. Now in its 15th season under Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, Signature has been nominated for 191 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theatre and has been honored with 42 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Musical in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2005 and Outstanding Play in 1999. Signature Theatre is a member of the Theatre Communications Group, The League of Washington Theatres, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, the Arlington Arts Alliance, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

Directions

Signature Theatre is located just five miles from downtown Washington, DC at 3806 South Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington, VA immediately off I-395 at the Shirlington exit.

Contact Info

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