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Signature Theatre – Upcoming in Oct. & Nov. *Show Boat*: Nov. 10, 2009 - Jan. 17, 2010 “*Signature Sings*” Cabaret Shows: Oct. 13 - 18 and Nov. 17 – 22, 2009

Arlington, VA – Signature Theatre, winner of the 2009 Regional Theatre Tony Award®, continues its 20th anniversary season in October and November with the two types of musical productions for which the company has become renowned: musical theater and cabaret performances. November 10, 2009 through January 17, 2010, Signature reinvents the 1927 classic American musical, *Show Boat*, with Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer creating an intimate new staging in the 300-seat MAX Theatre, complete with a special new approved script and new orchestrations. Cabaret shows take over Signature’s other house, the 120-seat ARK Theatre, when Signature begins a year-long “best of” salute to its 20 years of musicals. From October 13 through 18, the cabaret offering **Signature Sings: 1989-1994** will feature music from *Company*, *Wings*, *Assassins*, and *Into the Woods*. Cabaret performances will again return from November 17 through 22 with **Signature Sings: 1995-1999**, featuring select songs from *First Lady Suite*, *Cabaret*, *A Grand Night for Singing*, *Passion*, *The Rink*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *Working*, *The Fix*, *A Little Night Music*, *Over and Over*, and *Tell Me on a Sunday*.

Details follow below.

SHOW BOAT

Music by Jerome Kern

Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Based on the novel *Show Boat* by Edna Ferber

Directed by Eric Schaeffer

November 10, 2009 – January 17, 2010 in The MAX

Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer reinvents the classic 1927 American musical *Show Boat* in an intimate new staging for our times. The production will feature new orchestrations – and a new overture – by the renowned Jonathan Tunick, winner of all four show business awards: the Tony®, Oscar, Emmy, and Grammy. Spanning the years 1880 to 1927, this lyrical masterpiece concerns the lives, loves, and heartbreaks of three generations of show folk on the Mississippi. *Show Boat* is a

sweeping tale of enduring love and devastating hatred, illuminating through unforgettable music the cruelty of prejudice – and the beauty of romance. Among its many beloved songs are *Make Believe*, *Bill*, *Can't Help Lovin' 'Dat Man*, and *Ol' Man River*. Ted Chapin, President of the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization, stated, "Signature has explored the repertoire of the modern musical theater with such expertise that mounting *Show Boat* – the granddaddy of them all – is a perfect fit, especially for an anniversary year. The Hammerstein/Kern/Ferber classic was remarkable in its time, and the Signature audiences will see that its boldness, romance, courage, and sheer beauty have lost none of their impact."

- 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.
- Added performances for *Show Boat* are Monday, November 23 at 7:30 pm; Monday, December 21 at 7:30 pm; and Monday, December 28 at 7:30 pm.
- There are no *Show Boat* performances Saturday, November 11 at 2:00 pm; Tuesday, November 14 at 7:30; Thursday, December 24 at 8:00 pm; Friday, December 25 at 8:00 pm; and Friday, January 1 at 8:00 pm.
- Ticket prices range from \$52 - \$76.

CABARET: Signature's 20 years of musical theater are saluted in a series of four cabaret evenings throughout the season.

- Cabaret show times are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 8:30 pm, Friday at 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm, Saturday at 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm, and Sunday at 2:00 pm.
- Tickets are \$33 each.

Signature Sings: 1989-1994

Performances October 13 – 18, 2009

Select songs performed from the musical productions from 1989-1994 including *Company*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Assassins*, *Wings – The Musical*, and *Into the Woods*. Starring Erin Driscoll, Eleasha Gamble, Amy McWilliams, Matt Pearson, and Stephen Schmidt.

Signature Sings: 1995-1999

Performances November 17 – 22, 2009

Select songs performed from the musical productions from 1995-1999 including *First Lady Suite*, *Cabaret*, *A Grand Night for Singing*, *Passion*, *The Rink*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *Working*, *The Fix*, *A Little Night Music*, *Over and Over*, and *Tell Me on a Sunday*.

PHOTOS

Editors: Pre-production photos of *Show Boat* and the cabarets are available for downloading from http://www.signature-theatre.org/photo_downloads.htm. (Link for press only: please do not publish).

TICKETS

Tickets are available by calling Ticketmaster at (703) 573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signature-theatre.org. Group discounts are available for parties of ten or more by contacting carlj@signature-theatre.org.

AMENITIES – ALI’S BAR

Starting one hour before and extending for one hour after performances, patrons can visit Ali’s Bar for outstanding wine, beer, mixed drinks, and chef-prepared light fare. The theater’s much praised source of refreshment overlooking a tree-lined boulevard has been masterminded by wine expert Suzanne McGrath, the proprietor of Shirlington’s acclaimed wine store, “The Curious Grape.” The purchase of tickets is not required to eat or drink at Ali’s Bar. (For cabaret shows, patrons can bring their food and beverages to the tables inside the theater).

ABOUT SIGNATURE

Recipient of the 2009 Regional Theatre Tony Award®, Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theater company dedicated to producing contemporary musicals and plays, reinventing classic musicals, and developing new work. Under the leadership of co-founder and Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer and Managing Director Maggie Boland, Signature has presented 26 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 composer, Stephen Sondheim. Since its founding in 1989, Signature has been nominated for 276 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theater and has been honored with 69 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Musical in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2009, and Outstanding Play in 1999.

Signature is partially supported by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and by a gift from Arlington County through the Arlington Commission for the Arts and the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources.

Directions

Signature Theatre is just nine 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 <http://signature-theatre.org/map.htm>.

Contact Information

Ticketmaster (703) 573-SEAT (7328)
Signature Administration (571) 527-1860
Signature Theatre

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