

signaturenews

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SIGNATURE UNVEILS ITS NEW TWO-THEATER COMPLEX IN SHIRLINGTON VILLAGE WITH AN OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND JANUARY 13 – 14, 2007

- All Open House events free and open to the community
- Events include performances, family activities, master classes, and tours
- Featured performers include Tony® nominees Euan Morton and Emily Skinner
- Open House sponsored by Target and WETA

Arlington, VA — Signature Theatre will open the doors of its new two-theater complex for the first time with an Open House scheduled for Saturday, January 13 and Sunday, January 14, 2007. As part of its grand opening celebration, Signature invites the public to experience the new building through performances, family activities, master classes, and backstage tours all weekend long. Highlighted events include concerts by Tony® nominees Euan Morton and Emily Skinner, and a preview performance of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Into the Woods. All events are free and open to the community. A full schedule of Open House events is available at www.signature-theatre.org. Signature's new building is located in Shirlington Village at 2800 S. Stafford St., Arlington, VA 22206. Free parking is available in the public garage adjacent to Signature's new location.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

*All events listed are **free and open to the public**, and tickets are not required unless otherwise noted. Events are 45 minutes long, unless otherwise noted. For ticketed events, free ticket distribution starts at 11:30 AM the day of the event at Signature Theatre's new box office. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis with a limit of two (2) per person.*

— MORE —

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2007

11:30 AM

Doors and Box Office Opens

Free ticket distribution for *Euan Morton in Concert* begins.

12:00 PM

Euan Morton in Concert

In the MAX Theatre

TICKETED EVENT

Tony® nominee Euan Morton performs an acoustic set from his critically acclaimed CD *NewClear*. The concert also features favorite covers, and songs he co-wrote with Signature's commissioned writer, Robbie Roth. Morton earned acclaim as Boy George in both the Broadway and London productions of *Taboo*. Recent theater credits include Tony Kushner's *Brundibar*, and an Obie award-winning performance in the New York Public Theatre's production of *Measure for Measure*.

12:00 PM

Master Class in Dance

Taught by Karma Camp

In the Shen Rehearsal Room

Bring along your dance shoes for a master class led by Helen Hayes award-winning choreographer and Signature Artistic Associate Karma Camp (*My Fair Lady*, *Urinetown*, *Assassins*, *Into the Woods*). Open to the public to view or participate.

1:00 PM

Master Class in Auditioning

Taught by Eric Schaeffer

In the Shen Rehearsal Room

Signature's Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer leads a master class in auditioning for pre-selected students from local universities. The class is open to the public to watch and learn, and is followed by a question and answer period.

2:00 PM

Shaw Revisited: A Reading of Dear Liar

Featuring My Fair Lady stars Terrence P. Currier and Sally Murphy

In the Shen Rehearsal Room

Upon reading George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, actress Mrs. Patrick Campbell declared she deserved writing credit for many of the exchanges between Higgins and Eliza, as they were taken from her correspondence with Shaw. Jerome Kitty's play *Dear Liar* is a dramatization of the letters exchanged between George Bernard Shaw and Mrs. Campbell. Signature welcomes back *My Fair Lady* stars Terrence P. Currier and Sally Murphy for this special reading.

This reading runs 1 hour and 45 minutes.

2:30 PM

Euan Morton in Concert

In the ARK Theatre

TICKETED EVENT

See description above.

4:30 PM

Master Class in Design

Taught by James Kronzer and Anne Kennedy

In the Shen Rehearsal Room

— MORE —

Scenic designer James Kronzer (*My Fair Lady*, *Urinetown*) and costume designer Anne Kennedy (*Assassins*, *Urinetown*) answers questions and share their insights regarding the process of taking designs from the page to the stage.

5:30 PM

Sondheim Tonight: Judy Simmons Cabaret

With Alex Tang on piano

In the ARK Theatre

*Judy Simmons was featured in *Company*, the first Sondheim show produced in Signature's old converted garage space. Simmons has performed and produced numerous cabaret presentations throughout the DC area, and served as producer/director of Signature cabaret series.*

5:30 PM

Master Class in Composition

Taught by Matt Conner

In the Shen Rehearsal Room

*Actor and composer Matt Conner (Nevermore) shares his thoughts on composition and the process of musical development. Conner talks about his latest work, *The Underground Railroad*, currently in development at Signature. If you've ever wanted to write a musical, take this master class with Conner, a Shenandoah Conservatory graduate.*

7:00 PM

Jacquelyn Piro Cabaret

In the ARK Theatre

*Jacquelyn Piro returns to Signature Theatre. Best known as Lizzie, her Helen Hayes Award winning role in *110 in the Shade*, and *Elmira* in last season's *Nevermore*, Piro will sing her favorite songs from American musical theater.*

8:30 PM

Josh Lefkowitz: Solo Performance

In the ARK Theatre

*Actor and playwright Josh Lefkowitz appeared in Signature's world premiere production of *One Red Flower*. His one-man-show, *Help Wanted*, received raves at both the New York and Capital Fringe Festivals, and recently had a successful run at Woolly Mammoth. Lefkowitz shares an intimate look at some of his newest material.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2007

11:30 AM

Doors and Box Office Opens

*Free ticket distribution for *Emily Skinner in Concert* and *Into the Woods* Preview begins.*

12:00 PM

Emily Skinner in Concert

With Ross Patterson on piano

In the MAX Theatre

TICKETED EVENT

*Tony® Award nominee and Virginia native Emily Skinner will grace the stage in Signature's new two-theater complex in a concert that's not to be missed. Skinner appeared in Kennedy Center productions of *Mame*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Company*, and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Her Broadway credits include *Side Show*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, James Joyce's *The Dead*, *Full Monty*, and *Dinner at Eight*.*

12:30 PM

Master Class in Auditioning

Taught by Eric Schaeffer

In the Shen Rehearsal Room

See above description.

1:00 PM

Emerging Voices Cabaret

Featuring Songs from Musicals in Development at Signature Theatre

In the MAX Theatre

*An intrepid producer of new work, Signature opens its doors to some exciting and vibrant young songwriters and performers. This cabaret features up-and-coming musical theater talent, alongside some Signature favorites. Featuring music by composers with works in development including Nick Blaemire and the composer of last season's *Nevermore* Matt Conner, this cabaret will showcase the next generation of songwriters and performers.*

1:30 PM

Master Class in Vocal Performance

Taught by Jane Pesci Townsend

In the Shen Rehearsal Room

Jane Pesci Townsend, professional actress and chair of the Rome School of Music at The Catholic University of America, leads a master class in vocal performance for pre-selected students from local universities. The class is open to the public to watch and learn, and is followed by a question and answer period.

2:30 PM

Into the Woods Open Rehearsal

Directed by Eric Schaeffer

In the MAX Theatre

*Director Eric Schaeffer invites the public to observe a portion of the rehearsal process for the mainstage production of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's *Into the Woods*. This rare opportunity provides a unique glimpse into the behind-the-scenes creative process for a musical production.*

2:30 PM

Master Class in Design

Taught by Robert Perdziola

In the Shen Rehearsal Room

*Costume and Scenic Designer Robert Perdziola (*Follies*, *Into the Woods*) takes your questions and shares his insights regarding the process of turning one's vision into a functional design for the actors on stage, using his current project, the set and costumes for Signature's new production of *Into the Woods*, as illustration.*

3:00 PM

Something Old, Something New: Terrence P. Currier and Beverly Cosham Cabaret

In the ARK Theatre

*Mix your favorite jazz standards, classic folk songs, a few new songs, and tales from a theatrical life and you get an eclectic cabaret that's sure to entertain. DC favorite Terrence P. Currier (*My Fair Lady*) and cabaret diva Beverly Cosham join forces for a special afternoon performance.*

4:00 PM

Holding Pattern Reading

Written and Directed by Joe Calarco

Featuring Nancy Robinette

In the Shen Rehearsal Room

Originally previewed at the Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage New Play Festival in September, Signature

presents the second reading of this new play in development by Joe Calarco. *Holding Pattern* explores the funny and sad details of eight peoples lives as they wait out the hours stuck in a bar at National Airport during a security breach.

This reading is 1 hour and 30 minutes.

4:30 PM

Overtures Graduates in Concert

Featuring the 2006 Overtures Students

In the ARK Theatre

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

5:00 PM

Emily Skinner in Concert

With Ross Patterson on piano

In the ARK Theatre

TICKETED EVENT

See above description.

7:00 PM

Into the Woods Preview Performance

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

Directed by Eric Schaeffer

Featuring Florrie Bagel, April Harr Blandin, Matt Conner, Daniel Cooney, Priscilla Cuellar, Steven Cupo, Erin Driscoll, Eleasha Gamble, Dana Krueger, Sean MacLaughlin, Channez McQuay, Donna Migliaccio, James Moye, Stephen Gregory Smith, Stephanie Waters, Lauren Williams, and Harry A. Winter

In the MAX Theatre

TICKETED EVENT

Be among the first to experience a full-scale musical production in Signature's new MAX Theatre for the most anticipated show of the season. The well-known tales of Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Little Red Riding Hood are combined with an original story of a Baker and his Wife who desperately want children, but must remove the curse standing in their way. As the characters work to live "Happy Ever After," they face consequences traditionally ignored in fairy tales. "Into the Woods simply sings...you float into an enchanted world" (*The New York Times*). In distinct Signature-style, we bring you this tangled, twisted telling of Grimm's fairy tales starring a cast of Signature favorites. Eric Schaeffer directs his twelfth Sondheim musical to bring the grandest opening to Signature's new home.

This show is approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

10:00 PM

Little River Turnpike

With Amy McWilliams, Stephen McWilliams, and Stephen Gregory Smith

Join Signature favorites Amy McWilliams (*Working, Urinetown, Nevermore*), Stephen McWilliams (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*), Stephen Gregory Smith (*110 in the Shade, One Red Flower, Assassins*) for an acoustic set that is a little bit country, a little bit rock and roll. Stick around after our free performance of *Into the Woods* for the final performance of the Open House Weekend.

ONGOING OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

Building Tours

Beginning in the Lower Lobby

Tours of Signature's new building will depart every half hour from the Information Desk in the Mead Lobby. Patrons will be shown the entire complex, including the backstage areas.

Kids Activity: Mask and Hat Building

In the Mead Lobby

Bring the kids and get creative! Face painting, mask making, and hat building will be offered by Signature's experienced costume shop and wardrobe staff. Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm.

Refreshments

In the Mead Lobby

Live piano music will be performed in the upstairs Mead Lobby throughout the weekend. Open House sponsor Target will host a café, providing free food and drink for all visitors. And you'll find information booths by Signature Theatre and Open House sponsor WETA.

The Signature Open House Weekend is sponsored by TARGET



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ALL PERFORMANCES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ABOUT SIGNATURE

Signature is a non-profit professional theater dedicated to producing contemporary plays and musicals, reinventing classic musicals, and developing new work. To date, Signature has presented 21 world premiere productions and six world premiere commissions. The works of Stephen Sondheim, however, remain Signature's signature. Signature is renowned for combining Broadway-quality productions with an intimate playing space, and using live orchestras with unamplified performers. In addition to the finest talent from the D.C. metro-area, Signature has been a home to such luminaries as Cameron Mackintosh, Stephen Sondheim, Terrence McNally, John Kander and Fred Ebb. Now in its 17th season under Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, Signature has been nominated for 209 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theater (18 nominations in 2006) and has been honored with 50 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Musical in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2005, 2006, and Outstanding Play in 1999. Signature was also recognized by the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation for "its artistic vision and commitment to the support and development of musical theatre artists." Signature was recently awarded a \$1 million grant from The Shen Family Foundation for the creation of The American Musical Voices Project, a two-pronged program consisting of Musical Theatre Composer Grants and Musical Theatre Leadership Awards. The Composer Grants support the commissioning and presentation of three emerging composers' new musicals over the course of the next four theater seasons. Commissions were awarded to Ricky Ian Gordon, Michael John LaChiusa, and Joseph Thalken. The Leadership Awards, presented in May 2006, recognized Bruce Coughlin, Adam Guettel, Audra McDonald, and Ted Sperling for their extraordinary influence on and contribution to the advancement of new musical theater. In November, Signature moved into its new \$16 million two-theater complex in Shirlington Village with the grand opening scheduled for January 2007. Signature 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, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and the Washington, DC Convention and Tourism Corporation.

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