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The logo for Signature Theatre, featuring the word "signature" in a bold, orange, lowercase sans-serif font. A small black dot is positioned above the letter 'i'.

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**Nataschia Diaz to Star in *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*
A Highlight of Signature Theatre's Spring 2008
Kander & Ebb Celebration**

***The Kiss of the Spider Woman* to run March 11 – April 20 along with
The Happy Time April 1 – June 1, *The Visit* May 13 – June 22, and more**

Arlington, VA - December 14, 2007 - **Eric Schaeffer**, artistic director of **Signature Theatre**, announced today that the 'triple-threat' actress/singer/dancer **Nataschia Diaz** will star in ***The Kiss of the Spider Woman*** — a highlight of Signature Theatre's national **Kander & Ebb Celebration** in the spring of 2008.

As one of America's leading forces in innovative musical theater, Signature Theatre is saluting John Kander and Fred Ebb in a four-month festival, March – June 2008. The Celebration will feature the East Coast premiere of ***The Visit*** starring Chita Rivera, the rarely produced work ***The Happy Time***, the Tony®-nominated artist Karen Akers in her critically-acclaimed new cabaret show ***First You Dream: The Songs of Kander & Ebb***, and other events to be announced. Best known for their musicals *Cabaret* and *Chicago*, Kander and Ebb were the longest-running songwriting partnership in Broadway musical history, working together from 1965 to Ebb's death in 2004. Subscriptions are still available to the Kander & Ebb Celebration by calling Signature Theatre's Box Office at 703-820-9771 or by visiting www.signature-theatre.org.

Acclaimed for her versatility as an actor, singer, and dancer, **Diaz** came to national attention in a role critics say that she was born to play – Anita in *West Side Story*. A daughter in the theater family of world renowned opera bass Justino Diaz and ballerina Anna Aragno, Diaz has performed professionally since the age of nine. Initially receiving her training from the School of American Ballet, she went on to receive her BFA, graduating with honors from Carnegie Mellon University. Shortly after graduating, she received a featured role on the NBC soap *Another World*, and an offer from Julianne Boyd (creator of the *A My Name Alice* musicals) to play the role of Mrs. Squemish in her production of William Wicherly's restoration comedy, *The Country Wife* at Syracuse Stage.

Returning to New York, she got both her first off-Broadway and Broadway credits, starring opposite Tony-winner Daisy Eagan in *The Little Prince* at the John Houseman, and performing in Lincoln Center's award winning revival of *Carousel*.

When Diaz danced the role of Anita with the New York City Ballet for their *West Side Story Suites* helmed by Jerome Robbins, she received casting approval from both Mr. Robbins and librettist Arthur Laurents to perform the role in the national touring production of *West Side Story*. Her breakout performance as Anita won her Chicago's prestigious Joseph Jefferson Award, a Bay Area Theater Critics Award Nomination, and critical acclaim both across the country and internationally.

To date, Ms. Diaz enjoys a growing career on and off-Broadway, regionally, and on TV in an eclectic mix of parts and shows, due to her versatility as an actress, singer, and dancer. Washington area audiences have seen her in *West Side Story*, in *Carnival* as Lili, and, as part of the Kennedy Center Sondheim Festival, in *A Little Night Music* as Petra, singing “I Shall Marry the Miller’s Son.”

Signature Theatre’s creative team for *The Kiss of the Spider Woman* will include stage director Eric Schaeffer, Artistic Associates choreographer Karma Camp, music director Jon Kalbfleisch, and costume designer Anne Kennedy; set designer Adam Koch, and sound designer Matt Rowe.

ABOUT SIGNATURE

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 20 world premiere productions and commissions and 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 DC metropolitan area and New York, Signature has been a home to such theater luminaries as Cameron Mackintosh, Terrence McNally, John Kander and Fred Ebb, and, of course, Stephen Sondheim, the company's signature. In 2007, Signature moved into a new two-theater complex in Arlington, Virginia. Of Signature Theatre's new space, Charles Isherwood of *The New York Times* wrote "the company must find the sleek, new campus — with a large bar, two lobbies and two theaters — positively swanky,"....stating that "The Signature's flexible Max Theater...recalls the beloved Cottesloe at the National Theater in London."

Under Co-Founder and Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, Signature has been nominated for 216 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theater and has been honored with 54 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 10 minutes from downtown Washington, DC in Arlington's Shirlington Village. The new theater complex is located at 4200 Campbell Avenue (22206), just off I-395 at the Shirlington exit. For directions visit www.signature-theatre.org: "Plan Your Visit." Free parking is available in the adjacent public garage.

CONTACT INFO

Ticketmaster (703) 573-SEAT (7328) and www.ticketmaster.com

Signature Box Office (703) 820-9771

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www.signature-theatre.org