

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Olivia F. Haas, Director of PR & Marketing
 haaso@signature-theatre.org
 (703) 820-9771 ext. 103

**SIGNATURE PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY
 FALLEN FROM PROUST BY EMMY & MACARTHUR-WINNING
 PLAYWRIGHT NORMAN ALLEN**

- **Director Will Pomerantz makes Signature Theatre debut**
- **Play offers Light-Hearted Laughs for Post-Holiday Doldrums**

Arlington, VA — Signature Theatre presents the world premiere comedy *Fallen from Proust* by **Norman Allen**, winner of two Capitol Region Emmy Awards for his documentary work and the Charles MacArthur Award for playwriting. Director **Will Pomerantz**, known to Washington audiences for his production of *The Shape of Things* at The Studio Theatre, makes his Signature debut at the helm of this romantic comedy about three hip thirty-somethings who manipulate an ever-changing triangle of friendship, love and Clumber Spaniels. Modern day San Francisco is the setting for this roundelay of sexual shenanigans where Republican affiliations are anathema, homosexuality is passé and an ancient volume of Proust holds the key to all mysteries. *Fallen from Proust* runs **January 11 – February 20, 2005, at Signature Theatre. Tickets are on sale now! Call**

(703) 218-6500 or visit www.signature-theatre.org.

eric schaeffer
 artistic director

sam sweet
 managing director

“Signature did a reading of an early draft of *Proust* about four years ago,” explained Artistic Director **Eric Schaeffer**. “We did that one week and a reading of Norman’s *In the Garden* the next. It was a toss-up which one to produce first. The time seemed right for *In the Garden*, though. It ended up winning the MacArthur Award and getting produced around the country so I think we made the right decision. But we’ve been waiting for a chance to get back to *Fallen from Proust* ever since. We could all use a good comedy right now.”

Playwright **Norman Allen** added, “People hear the title and they think they’re in for something heavy, but in fact the title just refers to a prop that becomes central to the plot. This is a play that’s full of twists and turns, enough that we can’t even offer a synopsis without giving away some of the fun. People who have seen my earlier work, like *In the Garden* or *Nijinsky’s Last Dance* might be expecting something a little darker. There’s certainly meat on the bones of this piece, and we get some political mileage out of a gay Republican character but this is — first, last and always — a good time.”

Allen has enjoyed a longstanding collaborative relationship with the Signature team. Previous Signature premieres include *Melville Slept Here*, *Nijinsky’s Last Dance* (Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Play), *In the Garden* (Charles MacArthur Award) and *The Christmas Carol Rag*; all with subsequent productions throughout the United States. *Nijinsky’s Last Dance* toured South Africa and was revived for a month-long run at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where Allen’s play for young audiences, *The Light of Excalibur*, was recently commissioned and produced. Other local credits include Olney Theatre’s *Coffee with Richelieu* and the Washington Ballet’s *Journey Home*, starring the women of Sweet Honey in the Rock. For PBS, Allen scripted documentaries on Vincent Van Gogh and John Singer Sargent and received regional Emmy Awards for his work on *Mary Cassatt/A Brush with Independence* and *From Renoir to Rothko/The Eye of Duncan Phillips*.

— MORE —

3806 s. four mile run dr.
 arlington, va 22206

administration
 703.820.9771

box office/tickets.com
 703.218.6500

fax
 703.820.7790

www.signature-theatre.org

Upcoming work at Signature Theatre includes the musical *Nevermore*, based on the poetry of Edgar Allan Poe, with music by Matt Conner. Allen is the founder and director of the *Signature in the Schools* program, presenting an annual world premiere play on a historic subject in collaboration with a cast and crew of local high school students. His feature articles and opinion pieces can be found in national publications.

Director **Will Pomerantz** made a spectacular Washington debut with his direction of Neil LaBute’s *The Shape of Things* at The Studio Theatre. He has developed new plays and musicals in New York and regionally, and has directed classical texts by Ibsen, Shakespeare, Chekhov, Strindberg and Weidekind. He has created stage adaptations based on the writings of John Cheever, Dorothy Parker, Christopher Isherwood and Charles Dickens. His work has been seen at The New York Shakespeare Festival, Hartford Stage, The Pittsburgh Public, The Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Denver Center, The Mark Taper Forum, New Dramatists, Soho Rep, New York Theatre Workshop and Ensemble Studio Theatre. He is currently Director-in-Residence for The Culture Project/45 Bleecker, where he has directed numerous projects, most recently Julia Jordan’s *Tatiana in Color: The Trial of Egon Schiele*.

The *Fallen from Proust* cast draws on the best of local talent, and a stellar newcomer to the Washington theatre scene. **Damon Boggess**, playing book editor Gary, makes his Washington debut after gaining credits at the Georgia and Baltimore Shakespeare festivals, Alliance Theatre and Theatre in the Square. **Michael Glenn**, as Gary’s roommate Roger, is the recipient of a 2002 Mary Goldwater Award and well known to local audiences for his appearances with the Washington Stage Guild, ACTCo, the Folger Shakespeare Theatre, and Rorschach. **Hope Lambert**, playing Gary’s girlfriend, was seen most recently in *The Early Miracle* at Charter Theatre. Local credits include *Lady MacBeth* at The Folger Shakespeare Theatre; *Elsa in The Road to Mecca* at Olney Theatre; *Beth in Little Women* at The Kennedy Center, and *Olivia in Twelfth Night* at Washington Shakespeare Company. New York credits include Cherry Lane Theatre, The Bank Street Theatre, and Manhattan Theatre Source. **Daniel Frith** returns to Signature after appearances in *The Diaries* and *What the Butler Saw*. Other area credits include *Cooking with Elvis* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, *Arcadia* at Rep Stage, *All’s Well that End’s Well* at the Folger, and *The Shakespeare Stealer* at the Kennedy Center.

Set Designer **James Kronzer** has received six Helen Hayes Awards, most recently for *Drawer Boy* at the Round House Theatre. Previous Signature credits include: *Elegies*, *Twentieth Century*, and *In the Garden* (Helen Hayes nomination). Costume designer **Jenn Miller**’s Signature work includes *One Red Flower*, the world premiere of *Donna Q*, and the concert version of *Mack and Mabel*. Lighting designer **Jason H. Thompson** makes his Signature debut. His New York credits include *Ghost Opera* and *Pulse Shadows* at Alice-Tully Hall, and *Cooking for Kings* at 59E59 Theatre.

World Premiere Comedy
FALLEN FROM PROUST
 by Norman Allen

The Cast

Gary	Damon Boggess
Alan	Daniel Frith
Roger	Michael Glenn
Michelle	Hope Lambert

— MORE —

The Creative Team

Director	Will Pomerantz
Set Designer	James Kronzer
Costume Designer	Jenn Miller
Lighting Designer	Jason H. Thompson
Sound Designer	Brendon Vierra
Properties	Ashley Semrick
Stage Manager	Jess W. Speaker, III

Performance Schedule**January 11 – February 20, 2005***Press Date:* Sunday, January 16*Show Times:* Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. **NOTE:** There is no show on Tuesday, January 18.**Tickets**

Tickets are \$25 to \$39 and are available by calling tickets.com at (800) 955-5566 or (703) 218-6500 and can also be purchased online at www.signature-theatre.org. The Signature Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and during performances.

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 176 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theatre and has been honored with 37 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Musical in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2004 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 Washington, DC at 3806 South Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington, VA immediately off I-395 at the Shirlington exit.

Contact Info

Administration: (703) 820-9771

Fax: (703) 820-7790

Website: www.signature-theatre.org

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