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**signature**news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 4, 2011

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## Signature Theatre Hosts *Hairspray*-Style Dance Party with “The Big Hair Ball”

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### Dances Classes, Big Hair Salon, DeeJay, and Prizes! Meet *Hairspray* Cast Members

Arlington, VA, October 4, 2011 – Join the party! Tease it up. Throw on your best A-line and go-go boots...or that shagadelic wide tie – and put on your dancin’ shoes. On **Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm**, Signature Theatre will be transforming their theater into a *Hairspray*-style dance party with ‘**The Big Hair Ball.**’ Party-goers can enjoy crab cakes, sliders, Natty Boh, and other Baltimore treats, while mingling with cast members of Signature’s upcoming production of the Tony Award®-winning musical, *Hairspray*. Prizes will also be awarded for ‘Best Beehive,’ ‘Most Colorful Suit,’ and Miss Signature Hon. Patrons can also participate in dance classes offered and have their hair teased at Big Hair Salon. Tickets are available at three different price levels and can be purchased by calling the Signature Development Office at (571) 527-1828. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit <http://www.signature-theatre.org/big-hair-ball-2>.

“The **Big Hair Ball** is the perfect way to celebrate and inaugurate Signature’s production of this already iconic musical,” said **Eric Schaeffer**, Signature’s Artistic Director. “This promises to be a special event, filled with great music, tasty treats, and outrageous hairdos. Signature parties are always a blast and never disappoint – and this one may just beat them all.”

*Hairspray* will play at Signature Theatre from November 21, 2011 – January 29, 2012 and will be directed by **Eric Schaeffer**. National radio host **Robert Aubry Davis** (WETA’s “Around Town” and Sirius/XM Radio) will be making his musical theater stage debut, playing the iconic role of Edna Turnblad. Based on the 1988 cult film directed by **John Waters**, *Hairspray* features music by **Marc Shaiman**, lyrics by **Scott Wittman** and **Marc Shaiman**, and a book by **Mark O’Donnell** and **Thomas Meehan**. The musical, which played on Broadway for 6 ½ years, took home eight 2003 Tony Awards®, including “Best Musical.” *Hairspray* is sponsored by Jaylee Mead and, in part, by STGi.

## **SIGNATURE'S 2011-12 SEASON TICKETS**

Signature Theatre's 2011-2012 line-up features the Tony Award®-winning shows *Hairspray* and *God of Carnage* and the Washington DC premiere of the cult classic musical *Xanadu*. The season also features an unprecedented five world premiere works, including *The Hollow*, *The Boy Detective Fails* (both now playing in repertory), *Brother Russia*, and *Really Really*. In addition to the mainstage shows, Signature presents three productions with limited engagements, including the world premieres of *A Second Chance* and *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South* (currently playing through October 9<sup>th</sup>). Stephen Sondheim's first musical *Saturday Night* will be a special concert event that will play for four performances only.

Single tickets are now available by calling Ticketmaster at (703) 573-SEAT. Discount subscription packages (starting at 3 shows) are available by calling the Signature Box Office at (703) 820-9771 or visiting our website. Student discount tickets are \$30 for mainstage shows and \$20 for limited engagements and must be purchased the week of the performance. For more information on the 2011-12 season, please visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

## **ABOUT SIGNATURE**

Recipient of the 2009 Regional Theatre Tony Award®, Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theater company in Arlington, Virginia 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 35 world premiere productions and is renowned for combining Broadway-quality productions with intimate playing spaces.

In addition to hosting the finest talent from the DC metropolitan area and New York, Signature has been home to such theatre luminaries as Chita Rivera, George Hearn, Hunter Foster, Emily Skinner, Marc Kudisch, Judy Kuhn, John Kander and Fred Ebb, Cameron Mackintosh, Terrence McNally, and the company's signature composer, Stephen Sondheim. Since its founding in 1989, Signature has won 72 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the Washington, DC region's professional theater and has been honored with 293 nominations.

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 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**

Subscriptions/Groups: (703) 820-9771  
Single Tickets: Ticketmaster (703) 573-SEAT (7328)  
Signature Administration (571) 527-1860  
Signature Theatre • 4200 Campbell Avenue • Arlington, VA 22206  
<http://www.signature-theatre.org>

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