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## Signature Theatre Presents 3 Weeks of Cabaret Fun Out-of-the-Sun With Its Annual *Sizzlin' Summer Cabaret* Series

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**Broadway's Marc Kudisch and Julia Murney  
Headline List of Cabaret Performances**

**"21/24 Signature Lab" Presentation of the New Musical  
*I Capture the Castle* to Kick Off the Series**

Arlington, VA, June 10, 2011 – Virginia's **Signature Theatre** heats up during the dog days of summer with their annual **Sizzlin' Summer Cabaret**, a 3-week series featuring thirteen individual acts sure to keep things red hot. Headlining the talented array of solo artists assembled will be Tony Award® nominee **Marc Kudisch** (Broadway's *9 to 5*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*) with his *What Makes Me Tick* cabaret coming straight from Feinstein's. Broadway star **Julia Murney** (Elphaba in *Wicked* and a Drama Desk nominee for *The Wild Party*) will also be performing for two nights with her own mix of renowned stage songs.

Other solo performances featured in the **Sizzlin' Summer Cabaret** include **Sandy Bainum** (Signature's *Sunset Boulevard* and *Show Boat*), **Erin Driscoll** (Signature's [title of show] and *Sweeney Todd*), **Peter Fox** (the cabaret shows *Everything's Coming Up Sondheim* and *Let Me Be the Music*), **Will Gartshore** (*Show Boat*, *Urinetown* at Signature), **Bob McDonald** (Signature's *Putting it Together* and *Anyone Can Whistle* in Concert), **Colleen McHugh** (AfterDark Award for "Outstanding Cabaret Artist" and selected as Chicago's "Best Cabaret Artist, 2001), and **Lauren Williams** (*Into the Woods*, *A Funny Thing Happened...* at Signature).

Signature will also be celebrating the magic of Irving Berlin with two performances of ***Let Me Sing and I'm Happy*** (*The Music of Irving Berlin*), a collection of Berlin favorites. The show, originally produced by Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, features D.C. favorites **Sherri L. Edelen** (*Les Miserables*, *Side Show*), **James Gardiner** ([title of show], *Chess*), **Matt Pearson** (*See What I*

*Wanna See*, *Lost Songs of Broadway* cabaret), and **Bayla Whitten** (*Chess*, *Merrily We Roll Along*) singing Berlin standards such as “Check to Cheek,” “Blue Skies,” and “Always.”

The **21/24 Signature Lab**, now in its third year, jumpstarts the series with a presentation of the new musical *I Capture the Castle* on July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The **21/24 Signature Lab**, an initiative for the creation of musical theatre works by young composers, is part of Signature’s celebrated **American Musical Voices Project: Next Generation**. Based on the renowned novel and film by **Dodie Smith** (*One Hundred and One Dalmatians*), *I Capture the Castle* features music by Next Generation Composer Award recipient **Peter Foley** – with lyrics by **Marion Adler** and book by **Kenneth Vega**. Helen Hayes Award winner **Aaron Posner** (Folger Theatre’s *Comedy of Errors* and *Arcadia*) will direct this charming, coming-of-age tale of an eccentric artistic family who move into a decaying English castle in the 1930’s.

The 21/24 acting company features **Alexis Bronkovic**, **Zack Colonna**, **Lauren Culpepper**, **Susan Derry**, **Natascia Diaz**, **James Gardiner**, **Helen Hedman**, **Eric Hissom**, **James Konicek**, **Tim Rogan**, and **Danny Yoerges**.

Signature’s Artistic Director **Eric Schaeffer** stated, “With the impressive collection of talents we have assembled, this year’s **Sizzlin’ Summer Cabaret** promises to be a scorcher. Signature is always extremely proud to be home to new musicals, and our **21/24 program** allows us to continue our efforts as a leading force in supporting exciting new work by emerging young composers.”

The **Sizzlin’ Summer Cabaret** also includes the debut of **Open Mic Night** on July 20<sup>th</sup>, giving anyone and everyone a chance to show off their singing chops in front of an audience. Promising singers can sign up to perform beginning at 7:00pm in the Signature Theatre lobby. The finale of the Cabaret series brings the return of the very popular **Revenge of the Understudies**, with performances by a host of talented performers who have understudied at Signature this past season, including **Jonathan Atkinson**, **Bill Diggle**, **Katie Grace Heidbreder**, **Greg Maheu**, **Gia Mora**, **Chris Mueller**, **Gannon O’Brien**, **Kirstin Reigler**, **Tim Rogan**, **Rachel Schur**, and **Nadine Zahr**.

## **SIZZLIN’ SUMMER CABARET SCHEDULE**

21/24 Lab: *I Capture the Castle* (MAX Theatre)  
21/24 Lab: *I Capture the Castle* (MAX Theatre)

Saturday, July 16 at 8:00pm  
Sunday, July 17 at 8:00pm

Open Mic Night  
Will Gartshore: *All the King’s Men*  
Will Gartshore: *All the King’s Men*  
Peter Fox: *Be Yourself (Everyone Else Is Taken)*

Wednesday, July 20 at 8:00pm  
Thursday, July 21 at 8:00pm  
Friday, July 22 at 7:30pm  
Friday, July 22 at 9:30pm

## **SIGNATURE’S TARGET OPEN HOUSE**

Let Me Sing & I’m Happy: The Music of Irving Berlin  
Let Me Sing & I’m Happy: The Music of Irving Berlin  
Colleen McHugh: *Prêt-à-Porter – Cole Porter’s French Collection*

Saturday, July 23 from noon – 10pm

Bob McDonald: *What About Bob?*  
Marc Kudisch: *What Makes Me Tick*  
Marc Kudisch: *What Makes Me Tick*  
Sandy Bainum: *Great Songs Seldom Heard*  
Lauren Williams: *What Would Doris Do?*  
Julia Murney  
Erin Driscoll: *Coming Into Focus*

Friday, July 29 at 7:30pm  
Friday, July 29 at 9:30pm  
Saturday, July 30 at 7:30pm

Saturday, July 30 at 9:30pm  
Monday, August 1 at 8:00pm  
Tuesday, August 2 at 8:00pm  
Wednesday, August 3 at 8:00pm  
Thursday, August 4 at 7:30pm  
Friday, August 5 at 8:00pm  
Friday, August 5 at 9:30pm

Julia Murney  
Revenge of the Understudies

Saturday, August 6 at 8:00pm  
Saturday, August 6 at 9:30pm

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **21/24 Signature Lab** are \$20 general admission.

Tickets for all other cabarets are \$25 general admission.

Signature is offering a special **All-Access Pass** for \$125 to the first 100 callers. The **All-Access Pass** allows patrons to see all the cabarets at no additional cost – subject to availability.

Tickets can be purchased at the box office, by calling Ticketmaster (703-573-SEAT) or visiting [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

**All-Access Passes** MUST be purchased at the box office (703-820-9771).

### **ABOUT THE AMERICAN MUSICAL VOICES PROJECT (AMVP)**

Signature Theatre's **American Musical Voices Project** is the largest single musical theater commissioning and producing initiative of any U.S. theater. Founded in May 2006 and funded by **The Shen Family Foundation**, the AMVP demonstrates Signature's commitment to producing full productions of world premiere musical theatre works. Through the AMVP, **Musical Theater Composer Grants** have been awarded to **Ricky Ian Gordon, Michael John LaChiusa, Joseph Thalken, Adam Guettel** and **Jeanine Tesori**. Each of the grants includes a commission to create a new full-length musical, with a commitment for full production as part of Signature Theatre's mainstage season. In April 2009, *Giant* by Michael John LaChiusa received its world premiere at Signature Theatre. Ricky Ian Gordon's *Sycamore Trees* premiered in May 2010, and Joseph Thalken's musical, *And the Curtain Rises* premiered in March 2011.

As part of the AMVP, **Musical Theater Leadership Awards** have been made to four individuals in recognition of their extraordinary influence on and contribution to the advancement of new musical theater, orchestrator Bruce Coughlin, composer Adam Guettel, singer/actress Audra McDonald, and director/musical director/orchestrator Ted Sperling.

In June 2008, the AMVP added **The Next Generation** program. That year, emerging composers Matt Conner, Adam Gwon, & Gabriel Kahane each received a commission to write new musicals for Signature Theatre and honorees Peter Foley and Marisa Michelson were given grants for the development of their musical ideas. In July 2009, the Theatre launched "**21/24 Signature Lab**," three weeks of rehearsal & performances of new works by **The Next Generation** composers. Also announced as part of The Next Generation segment of the AMVP were two additional musical commissions awarded to Peter Foley and Marisa Michelson, as well as honoree grants given to Chris Miller and Scott Davenport Richards for the development of future musical ideas. In 2010, Miller and Richards were awarded commissions through **The Next Generation** program, and Joshua Schmidt and Joshua Rosenblum were named honorees.

### **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 32 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

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<http://www.signature-theatre.org>

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