

# signaturenews

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 4, 2010  
Contact: Suzanne Stephens, Publicist  
(571) 527-1833 (office) / (202) 438-6234 (mobile)  
[stephenss@signature-theatre.org](mailto:stephenss@signature-theatre.org)

## SUMMER AT THE TONY AWARD-WINNING SIGNATURE THEATRE FEATURES:

- The musical *[title of show]* through June 27 in The Ark
- “Signature Sings” performances June 24 – 26 in The Max
- “Sizzlin’ Summer” cabaret performances July 6 – 24
- Free *Target Open House* July 17
- Major new production of the musical *Chess* opening August 10

Arlington, VA – This summer, the Tony Award-winning **Signature Theatre** features exciting performances ranging from its specialty, fully staged musicals with *[title of show]* and *Chess*, to its popular cabaret evenings of show tunes, jazz, blues, and rock. The summer offerings are topped off by the annual *Target Open House* on July 17, a free all-day extravaganza for the whole family. Tickets to Signature are available by calling Ticketmaster at (703) 573-SEAT (7328) or visiting [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org). Group discounts are available for parties of ten or more.

### Signature’s Summer Schedule:

Through June 27

**The Washington Premiere of the musical**

***[title of show]***

**Music and Lyrics by Jeff Bowen**

**Book by Hunter Bell**

**Directed by Matthew Gardiner**

**Tickets: \$52 - \$76**

The hit musical comedy *[title of show]*, winner of three Obie Awards and a Tony nomination, is a zany take on two friends’ decision to write a musical. When two struggling writers, Jeff and Hunter, decide to submit their own musical to a festival, they find the process of writing a musical itself more interesting than any play or movie they could adapt. So assisted by actress friends Susan and Heidi (and Larry on the piano), they chose their subject – two friends writing about what to write about. *[title of show]* puts the audience right in the middle of the creative process—dizzy, unpredictable, and uproarious. Helen Hayes Award-winner **Matthew Gardiner**

directs this love letter to musical theater — a uniquely American art form — and to the joys of collaboration.

June 24 – 26 – evenings at 8 pm

**“Signature Sings” Performances**

Tickets: \$33

The final chapter in Signature’s 20th Anniversary series ends with a bash in The MAX Theatre featuring songs from the last five years at Signature.

Signature favorites Eleasha Gamble, Will Gartshore, Tracy Lynn Olivera, and Bligh Voth will perform from Signature productions including *Pacific Overtures*, *Urinetown*, *Nevermore*, *My Fair Lady*, *Saving Aimee*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Glory Days*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *The Happy Time*, *The Visit*, *Ace*, *Les Misérables*, and *Giant*.

July 6 - 24

**Signature's “Sizzlin' Summer Cabaret” Performances**

Tickets: \$20

Signature offers three weeks of live music and performances ranging from cabaret and show tunes to jazz, blues, and rock. Resident Director Matthew Gardiner has lined up the best talent from Broadway and beyond for Signature's summer audience:

July 6, 8pm

Nynth Avenue Drifters

July 7, 8pm

NYC Singer-Songwriter Circle

July 8, 8pm

Next Generation Honorees Showcase

Chris Miller & Scott Davenport Richards

July 9, 8pm

21/24: Tamar & The River

July 10, 8pm

21/24: Tamar & The River

July 13, 8pm

Danica Dora

July 14, 8pm

Bligh Voth & Weslie Woodley

July 15, 8pm

Tracy Lynn Olivera

July 16, 7:30pm

Ain't Got No: A Rock/Pop Cabaret

July 16, 9:30pm

Will Gartshore

July 20, 8pm

Stephen Gregory Smith & Karissa Swanigan

July 21, 8pm  
Sandy Bainum Sings Dorothy Parker  
July 22, 8pm  
Natascia Diaz with Michael Pemberton  
July 23, 7:30pm  
Marcy Heisler & Zina Goldrich  
July 23, 9:30pm  
Bob McDonald Sings John Raitt  
July 24, 7:30pm  
Colleen McHugh: The Songs of Judy Garland  
July 24, 9:30pm  
Natascia Diaz

Saturday, July 17 from noon – 9:30 pm

**Signature's Target Open House**

Tickets: Free!

Signature celebrates the best in musical theater and drama at its Target Open House on Saturday, July 17 from noon – 9:30 pm. Free and open to the public, this fun-filled special event sponsored by Target is 9½ hours of exciting performances, master classes, demonstrations, exhibits, and kids' activities offered in locations all over the Signature Theatre complex and on the Plaza. Events begin every 15 minutes. Details to be announced.

The Target Open House is sponsored by Target.

August 10 – September 26, 2010

**CHESS**

**Book by Richard Nelson**

**Music by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson**

**Lyrics by Tim Rice**

**Directed by Eric Schaeffer**

**The MAX**

**Tickets: \$55 - \$81**

Washington's First Major Production of the 1984 Rock Musical by the Composers of *Mamma Mia!*

Broadway's **Jill Paice** (*Curtains, The 39 Steps*), **Euan Morton** (Boy George in *Taboo, Sondheim on Sondheim*), and **Jeremy Kushnier** (*Footloose, Rent*) star in the rock musical **Chess**, to be directed by Signature's Artistic Director **Eric Schaeffer**.

Written by *Mamma Mia!* composers **Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson** with *Evita* and *Lion King* lyricist **Tim Rice**, the 1984 cult musical of Cold War competition in love and chess is being given its first major Washington area production. **Chess** features the hit single "One Night in Bangkok," and unforgettable songs as such "Anthem," "I Know Him So Well," "Nobody's Side," and "Pity the Child." *Time Magazine* called it "one of the best rock scores ever produced in the theater."

## **AMENITIES – ALI’S BAR**

Starting one hour before and extending for one hour after performances, patrons can visit Ali’s Bar for outstanding wine, beer, mixed drinks, and chef-prepared light fare. The theater’s much praised source of refreshment overlooking a tree-lined boulevard has been masterminded by wine expert Suzanne McGrath, the proprietor of Shirlington’s gourmet wine store, The Curious Grape. Ticket purchase is not required to eat or drink at Ali’s Bar.

## **ABOUT SIGNATURE**

Recipient of the 2009 Regional Theatre Tony Award, Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theater company 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 become renowned for combining Broadway-quality productions with intimate playing spaces. In addition to the finest talent from the DC metropolitan area and New York, Signature has been a home to such theater luminaries as John Kander and Fred Ebb, Cameron Mackintosh, Terrence McNally, and the company’s signature composer, Stephen Sondheim. Since its founding in 1989, Signature has been nominated for 276 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theater and has been honored with 70 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Musical in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2009, and Outstanding Play in 1999.

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 just nine minutes from the Washington Monument in Arlington’s Shirlington Village. The theater complex 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**

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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