

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2024

CONTACT:

Arena Stage

Ryan Impagliazzo - ryani@arenastage.org, 202-600-4051

Print Shop PR

Matt Ross / Nicole Capatasto - Nicole@PrintShopPR.com

ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES HANA S. SHARIF'S INAUGURAL SEASON

ARENA BOLDLY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE WITH NINE SHOWS IN THE 2024/25 SEASON

Direct from Broadway – Five Tony Nominations including ‘Best Play’

JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING

By **Jocelyn Bioh**

Directed by **Whitney White**

Produced in Associate with Madison Wells Live and LaChanze
September 6 – October 13, 2024

The World Premiere of

THE OTHER AMERICANS

Written By & Starring **John Leguizamo**

Directed by **Ruben Santiago-Hudson**

October 18 – November 24, 2024

The World Premiere of

DATA

By **Matthew Libby**

Directed by **Tyne Rafaeli**

October 31 – December 15, 2024

The World Premiere of
Agatha Christie's
DEATH ON THE NILE

Adapted for the Stage by **Ken Ludwig**
Directed by **Hana S. Sharif**
IN HER ARENA STAGE DIRECTORIAL DEBUT
November 22 – December 29, 2024

The Highly Anticipated Return Of
STEP AFRIKA!'S
MAGICAL MUSICAL HOLIDAY STEP SHOW
FOR A LIMITED HOLIDAY RUN
December 13 – 22, 2024

A NEW MUSICAL – TO BE ANNOUNCED
January 31 – March 16, 2025

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE
By **Edith Wharton**
Adapted for the Stage by **Karen Zacarías**
Directed by **Hana S. Sharif**
February 28 – March 30, 2025

The World Premiere of
FAKE IT UNTIL YOU MAKE IT
By **Larissa FastHorse**
Directed by **Michael John Garcés**
April 3 – May 4, 2025

The World Premiere of
UNTITLED TARELL ALVIN McCRANEY PLAY
Written By **Tarell Alvin McCraney**
May 16 – June 15, 2025

The World Premiere of
A WRINKLE IN TIME

Book by **Lauren Yee**
Music and Lyrics by **Heather Christian**
Based on the Novel Written by **Madeleine L'Engle**
Directed by **Lee Sunday Evans**
By Special Arrangement with Plate Spinner Productions and Diana DiMenna,
Aaron Glick, and Charlotte Jones Voiklis
June 12 – July 20, 2025

(May 14, 2024 - Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage Artistic Director **Hana S. Sharif** and Executive Producer **Edgar Dobie** today announced the company's 74th season. The upcoming season—the first programmed by **Sharif**—promises to be an electrifying blend of new works and reimagined classics. Comprised of nine subscription offerings, plus the return of the D.C. family-favorite winter tradition, Step Afrika!'s *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show*, the season boasts six world-premiere productions and collaborations with some of the nation's leading theater-makers. Season packages are now available for purchase at arenastage.org/dream.

"This season is a collection of ten dynamic American stories from our nation's most exciting and provocative artistic voices," said **Sharif**. "Arena Stage has a long and rich history of launching groundbreaking new plays into the world and I am honored to dream boldly as we lay the foundation for a future as limitless as our imaginations."

Arena Stage's 2024/25 Season marks a thrilling new chapter for American theater, deepening the venerated company's legacy of innovation since its founding in 1950. Under Sharif's direction, this season promises to reignite the transformative power of theater and reinvigorate audiences toward collective and individual dreams. Join us as we embark on a journey toward the future of storytelling. **Welcome to 2024/25: DREAMING FORWARD!**

2024/25 SEASON

Manhattan Theatre Club's production of

JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING

By **Jocelyn Bioh**

Directed by **Whitney White**

A Co-Production with **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** and **Chicago Shakespeare Theater**

In Association with **Madison Wells Live** and **LaChanze**

In the **Kreeger Theater** | **September 6 – October 13, 2024**

"Bioh's braided world of teeth sucking, sideways comments and dance breaks is rapturous." — *The Guardian*

Step into the vibrant world of *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*, direct from Broadway. Set in the pulsating heart of Harlem, this comedic gem unravels the complexities of cultural identity, assimilation, and the pursuit of the American Dream within the African immigrant community. Follow the uproarious escapades of Maria, Bea, Miriam, Aminata, Ndidi, Jaja, and others as they navigate life and laughter in Jaja's bustling hair braiding salon. With humor as rich as its characters, this five-time Tony Award-nominated production weaves hilarious moments with profound insights, celebrating the indomitable spirit and interconnectedness that define us all.

The World-Premiere Production of

THE OTHER AMERICANS

By John Leguizamo

Directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson

Starring John Leguizamo

Produced in Association with The Public Theater

In the Fichandler Stage | October 18 – November 24, 2024

This world-premiere drama will star Emmy Award-winning actor, comedian, and producer John Leguizamo

In Forest Hills, Queens, Nelson Castro, a Colombian American laundromat owner, grapples with a failing business and buried secrets. When his son Nick returns from a mental wellness facility after a traumatic incident, Nelson's world unravels. Committed to protecting his family and business, he tackles racial and identity challenges to achieve his dream, proving his success. In this gripping tale of resilience, Nelson must navigate morality's murky waters to salvage his future. Will he emerge victorious, or will his past consume everything he holds dear?

The World-Premiere Production of

DATA

By Matthew Libby

Directed by Tyne Rafaeli

In the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle | October 31 – December 15, 2024

A fast-paced techno-thriller unveiling the dark secrets lurking within Silicon Valley

Data is Matthew Libby's intriguingly suspenseful and relevant new play that takes you behind the locked doors of Silicon Valley. Its protagonist is Maneesh, a brilliant entry-level programmer at Athena Technologies, a data-mining firm. Content to work in the low-stress environment of User Experience, Maneesh has a crisis of conscience when he is offered a transfer to the more-central Data Analytics team, and learns the true nature of Athena's highly controversial and secretive work. Torn between idealism and survival, Maneesh is forced to come to terms with his unique American identity, all while learning the extent to which Athena is willing to go to hide its secrets.

The World-Premiere Production of

DEATH ON NILE

By Agatha Christie

Adapted for the Stage by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Hana S. Sharif

In the Kreeger Theater | November 22 – December 29, 2024

Ludwig's fourth premiere at Arena Stage marks Sharif's D.C. directorial debut

In Ken Ludwig's thrilling adaptation of Agatha Christie's *Death on the Nile*, Hercule Poirot becomes entangled in a web of deceit and desire aboard a cruise ship on the Nile River. When a murder occurs among the passengers, Poirot springs into action to unmask a killer who could strike again at any moment.

Limited Holiday Experience!

STEP AFRIKA!'S MAGICAL MUSICAL HOLIDAY STEP SHOW

In the Fichandler Stage | December 13 – 22, 2024

"A raucous, lively, interactive performance" — BroadwayWorld

Step back into the holiday spirit with the joyful return of Step Afrika!'s *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show*, where the rich tradition of African American stepping blends with the magic of the season. Enjoy laughter, songs, and dance with award-winning performers on the Fichandler Stage. DJ Nutcracker and his Arctic friends amplify the festive atmosphere. This vibrant, fun-filled show promises a memorable adventure for the entire family, captivating your heart and senses. Don't miss this extraordinary holiday "step-stravaganza"!

A NEW MUSICAL – TO BE ANNOUNCED

In the Kreeger Theater | January 31 – March 16, 2025

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

By Edith Wharton

Adapted for the Stage by Karen Zacarías

Directed by Hana S. Sharif

In the Fichandler Stage | February 28 – March 30, 2025

"Funny, poetic and deeply insightful" — The San Diego Union-Tribune

Against the lavish backdrop of 1870s New York, where hypocrisy thrives and hidden passions simmer, Karen Zacarías brings Edith Wharton's timeless masterpiece, *The Age of Innocence*, to the stage. This adaptation unveils a searing critique of high society's suffocating norms, presenting a riveting tale of forbidden desires. Surrounded on all sides by an ocean of societal conformity, love clashes with duty, and innocence is sacrificed. Follow the compelling journey of Newland Archer as he grapples with the rigid constraints of privilege, torn between tradition and the allure of forbidden passion.

The World-Premiere Production of

FAKE IT UNTIL YOU MAKE IT

By Larissa FastHorse

Directed by Michael John Garcés

Produced in Association with Center Theatre Group

In the Kreeger Theater | April 3 – May 4, 2025

A door-slamming, mistaken identity satirical farce

In Larissa FastHorse's uproarious comedy, a collision of friends and foes within the non-profit sector sets the stage for a whirlwind of competition, chaos, and comedic revelation. Meet Wynona, the Native American proprietor of N.O.B.U.S.H., and River, her white counterpart at Indigenous Nations Soaring. Their escalating rivalry ensnares colleagues and bystanders, leading to the unraveling of secrets that highlight the absurdities of ambition and authenticity. Amidst the laughter, genuine connections form, emphasizing the value of unexpected paths to success. *Fake It Until You Make It* is a humorous exploration of ambition, demonstrating that laughter often accompanies the pursuit of goals.

The World-Premiere Production of

UNTITLED TARELL ALVIN McCRAANEY PLAY

By Tarell Alvin McCraney

In the Fichandler Stage | May 16 – June 15, 2025

A new play about queer love and forest magic from the Oscar-winning screenwriter of Moonlight

Wilson and Free met in a dark park searching for *fun* not expecting to find love, light, and each other. Now a milestone anniversary has got them wondering if they have met Mr. Right or a long one-night stand with a lovely Mr. Maybe? With a little support and a lot of confusion from family, friends, and a stranger in the dark, the question remains: will Free and Wilson find their way together or will they let fear, and a secret lead them asunder?

The World-Premiere Production of

A WRINKLE IN TIME

Book by Lauren Yee

Music and Lyrics by Heather Christian

Based on the Novel Written by Madeleine L'Engle

Directed by Lee Sunday Evans

By Special Arrangement with Plate Spinner Productions and Diana DiMenna, Aaron Glick, and Charlotte Jones Voiklis

In the Kreeger Theater | June 12 – July 20, 2025

A world-premiere musical of the classic young adult novel

Meg Murry's father was experimenting with time travel and the fifth dimension when he mysteriously disappeared. Now, Meg, her friend Calvin, and her younger brother Charles Wallace must race to rescue him. Can they outwit the forces of evil they will encounter on their heart-stopping journey through space? Join Meg on this epic quest in an adventurous new musical adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's Newbery Medal-winning classic novel that will energize your spirit, expand your imagination, and inspire you to believe that love, friendship, and courage can conquer all.

**Plays, artists, and dates subject to change.*

Subscription packages are now on sale and may be purchased by visiting arenastage.org/dream. Packages may also be purchased by phone at 202-488-3300 or in person at the Arena Stage Sales Office, Tuesday through Sunday, from noon until 8 p.m.

The first racially integrated theater in our nation's capital and a pioneer of the regional theater movement, Arena Stage was founded on August 16, 1950, in Washington, D.C., by Zelda Fichandler, Tom Fichandler, and Edward Mangum. Today—nearly 75 years later—Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. We produce plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep, and dangerous in the American spirit, and present diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Consistently contributing to the American theatrical lexicon by commissioning and developing new plays, Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement and serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org

###

Connect with us:

facebook.com/arenastage

twitter.com/arenastage

instagram.com/arenastage

youtube.com/user/arenastage1

arenastage.org