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ATTACHMENTS: PHOTO, CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY'S YODER BARN

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**VIRGINIA PREMIERE THEATRE ANNOUNCES ITS 2008-2009 FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON AND SECONDARY RESIDENCE AT CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY'S YODER BARN THEATRE**

Virginia Premiere Theatre (VPT), the professional company currently in residence at The Kimball Theatre in Williamsburg announces that it will move its secondary residence for its 2008-2009 Fifth Anniversary season to Christopher Newport University's Yoder Barn Theatre in Newport News.

Said Robert Ruffin, VPT's Producing Artistic Director, "We are delighted to be in Newport News and look forward to working with Christopher Newport University as we have in the past. This fall we will be conducting classes for the University's Life Long Learning Program and hope we will find more opportunities to create a thriving relationship as we develop brand new theatrical work on the Peninsula. Two of our world premieres from last year moved on to productions outside of Virginia and we hope that through our work the Cities of Williamsburg and Newport News will be recognized as arts innovators as well as cultural presenters."

Dedicated to developing new plays, the company will present productions both in Williamsburg and Newport News. It will begin its season with the Virginia Premiere of *Nixon's Nixon* by Russell Lees. The play will run October 10 through November 1. *Nixon's Nixon* is a political dramatic comedy that imagines what might have taken place in the White House the night prior to President Nixon's resignation. Featuring Frank

discussions between Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the play is an outrageously funny and frightening look at the inside of Presidential politics.

Back by popular demand beginning November 21, VPT will present its original production of *The Gift of the Magi*. The play will run through December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Based on O. Henry's classic American Holiday tale, *The Gift of the Magi* takes place in Charlottesville, Virginia and New York City in the early 1900's and tells the story of newlyweds Jim and Della young as they struggle through financial hardship to discover the true meaning of love.

From February 11 to March 21, VPT will present, *Full Moon Over Montmartre* by Virginian and native Richmonder Billy Doswell. This poignant love story views the difficulties of aging through the eyes of a modern day Romeo and Juliet. The play was originally produced at the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre in Mars Hill, North Carolina, and this production will represent its Virginia Premiere.

VPT will present a regional premiere of Josh C. Manheimer's jungle comedy, *Kuru* from April 8 to May 16. Set in Papua New Guinea, *Kuru* follows Dr. Arthur Roman's as he searches for a cure to the mysterious *Kuru* disease. When the Dr.'s fiancée from Iowa shows up unexpectedly and starts a cooking school, things go from bad to worse for the Nobel Prize winning scientist.

Virginia Premiere Theatre's not-for-profit mission is to enrich Virginia and bring national recognition to its arts through the creation of new plays. To date, VPT has presented thirteen world and regional premiere productions.

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