



VIRGINIA STAGE COMPANY  
**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release • December 14, 2005 • Contact: Chad Bauman, (757) 627-6988 ext. 343

**VSC Welcomes the New Year With the Multi-Award  
Winning Play *Intimate Apparel***

Virginia Stage Company rings in the New Year with *Intimate Apparel*, written by Lynn Nottage and directed by Jane Page. *Intimate Apparel* is a loving and evocative portrait of an African-American woman in New York at the turn of the 20th century who earns her living sewing "intimate apparel" for uptown wealthy socialites and downtown women of ill repute. She finds warmth with a man she cannot touch, and is courted by another who lives thousands of miles away.

The production runs from January 17 through February 5, 2006. Tickets to *Intimate Apparel* range in price from \$8.00 to \$42.50, with January 15 serving as a Pay-What-You-Can performance. Virginia Stage Company will continue its popular Best Ticket in Town Program during the 2005-06 Season. Best Ticket in Town performances will be January 17-19 and all tickets will be sold for \$8.00. All tickets may be purchased at the VSC Box Office, by calling (757) 627-1234 or online at [www.vastage.com](http://www.vastage.com). Immediately following the performances at the Wells Theatre, the production will transfer to Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Lowell, Massachusetts where it will perform for an additional four weeks.

*Intimate Apparel* was inspired by the story of playwright Lynn Nottage's great-grandmother, a seamstress who arrived alone in New York City in 1902 and began corresponding with a man who was working on the Panama Canal. From these personal accounts, Nottage weaves a tale that has captivated audiences across America, garnering five prestigious national awards: the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, John Gassner Award, Steinberg New Play Award and the American Theatre Critics Association's Francesca Primus Award.

This production will be a visual feast for Virginia Stage Company's audiences. As a resident professional theater, Virginia Stage Company builds and assembles artistic elements for each production in house. For this single production, the costume shop has used 119 yards of fabric to build over 30 period costume pieces including 8 corsets, a wedding dress, 5 day dresses and a man's suit which are all specifically tailored to the actors wearing them. Each corset in the production took 20 hours to create, and include 24 pattern pieces, 16 bones and three layers of fabric each. The wedding dress alone took over 60 hours from rendering to realization.

Jane Page is delighted to return to the Virginia Stage Company where last season she directed the highly successful *Driving Miss Daisy*. This season Jane directed *An O'Henry Christmas* for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and *Intimate Apparel* for the Arvada Center in Denver. Although based in Denver, Jane's work takes her across the country and abroad. This season alone her work will be seen in Colorado, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Alabama and here in Virginia. Her other recent productions include an award winning *Over the Tavern*, *A Thousand Clowns*, *The Crimson Thread* and *Rounding Third*. *Amelia Lives*, an original play Jane directed, garnered a Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland.

For a complete press kit, please contact Chad Bauman, Director of Communications, at (757) 627-6988 ext. 343.

Virginia Stage Company || 27 Years New

**Chris Hanna**, Artistic Director    **Keith Stava**, Managing Director

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## FACT SHEET

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**Box Office Information:** In Person: At the Wells Theater (corner of Tazewell & Monticello Streets), Phone: 757-627-1234, Fax: 757-628-5958, Online: [www.vastage.com](http://www.vastage.com).

### Cast

Mrs. Dickerson.....ELIZABETH VAN DYKE\*  
Esther Mills.....NADINE MOZON\*  
George Armstrong.....KENNEDY PUGH\*  
Mrs. Van Buren.....KRISTIE DALE SANDERS\*  
Mr. Marks.....HOWARD KAYE\*  
Mayme.....LAIONA MICHELLE\*

\* denotes membership in Actors' Equity Associate

### Creative Team

**Written by:** Lynn Nottage  
**Director:** Jane Page  
**Set Designer:** Bill Clarke  
**Costume Designer:** Nanzi Adzima  
**Lighting Designer:** Dan Kotlowitz  
**Sound Designer:** Kevin Dunayer  
**Stage Manager:** Karen Oberthal

## **Performance Schedule**

**Pay-What-You-Can Performance:** Sunday, January 15, 2006 7:00pm

**Best Ticket in Town Performances (Previews):** Tuesday, Jan. 17 7:00 pm; Wednesday, Jan. 18 8:00 pm; Thursday, Jan. 19 8:00pm

**Opening Night/Press Night:** Friday, Jan. 20 8:00 pm

**Public Performances:** Saturday, Jan. 21 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm; Sunday, Jan. 22 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; Tuesday, Jan. 24 7:00 pm; Wednesday, Jan. 25 8:00pm; Thursday, Jan. 26 8:00 pm; Friday, Jan. 27 8:00 pm; Saturday, Jan. 28 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm; Sunday, Jan. 29 2:00 pm; Tuesday, Jan. 31 7:00 pm; Wednesday, Feb. 1 8:00 pm; Thursday, Feb. 2 8:00 pm; Friday, Feb. 3 8:00pm, Saturday, Feb. 4 4:00pm & 8:00pm; Sunday, Feb. 5 2:00pm

**Signed Performance:** Saturday, Jan. 28 8:00pm

**After Performance Discussion:** Sunday, Jan. 22 2:00pm

**Closing Performance:** Sunday, Feb. 5 2:00pm



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## THE CAST



**HOWARD KAYE** (*Mr. Marks*) pleased to make his VSC debut in *Intimate Apparel*. Credits include plays and musicals at Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Longwharf Theatre, Centerstage, The Alliance Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the Berkshire Theatre Festival, Syracuse Stage, Pittsburgh Public Theatre and the West Virginia Public Theatre to name some. On Broadway in *Miss Saigon*. Off-Broadway in *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater*, *Little Ham* and *The Little Prince*. He created the role of the Priest in the original North American company of *Mamma Mia!* and recently starred in the 2005 International Fringe Festival award winning musical of *Silence of the Lambs*. Film: *Broadway Damage*. Television: *All My Children*. Mr. Kaye is a graduate of The Juilliard School--Drama Division. Thanks again, Jane!



**LAIONA MICHELLE** (*Mayme*) is delighted to return to the Virginia Stage Theatre, where she performed in the award winning production of *Constant Star*. Some of her regional theatre credits include: Arena Stage, Merrimack Theatre Company, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Laguna Playhouse, Syracuse Theatre Company, Florida Stage Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and Delaware Theatre Company. She was recently nominated- Best Lead Actress by the Helen Hayes 2005 Awards for her work in *Yellowman* at the Arena Stage. Some of her TV and Film credits include: *Law and Order*, *All My Children*, and the independent film, *Lift*. Ms. Michelle received her MFA from Brandeis University in 2000. Heartfelt thanks to her urgent agent and the Creative Talent Company for their support.



**NADINE MOZON** (*Esther*) theater credits include the world premiere of *The Taste Test*, *Fences*, *For Colored Girls...*, *With a Hammer and a Nail*, *Home*, *Lily* in *Crumbs From The Table Of Joy*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Them That's Got*, *Talking With...* and *Boogie Woogie Landscapes*; Television: *Law and Order (Criminal Intent and Trial by Jury)*, *Reading Rainbow*, *One Life to Live*; and Film: principal roles in *Two Weeks Notice* (with Sandra Bullock), *Shaft* (with Samuel L. Jackson), *Sam the Man*, *Marci X* and *Spider-Man 2*. Ms. Mozon is also a poet and dramatist whose work has been published and produced for the stage. Among her credits as dramatist are her one-woman show that received an AUDELCO nomination in New York and a Drama-Logue Award in Los Angeles and a commissioned ensemble theater piece, *ID Please*. She is a published poet who has been featured in NY venues ranging from Nuyorican Poets Café to Lincoln Center, regionally at festivals, and hosted as guest artist at colleges and universities. Ms. Mozon's book of poetry, *Kiss it Up to God* is currently available in stores and online. She continues to reach a diverse community of all ages via her MozArt workshops in poetry and theater..



**KENNEDY PUGH** (*George*) is happy to make his VSC debut. Credits include: the European Tour of *Hair*, regional productions of *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Sideman*, *The Full Monty*, *Aida*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Boys Next Door*. He has also been seen on daytime television's *All My Children* as well as *Saturday Night Live*. Mr. Pugh was a singer for Barbara Streisand's farewell concert at Madison Square Garden. He would love to thank God, his family and friends.



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## THE CAST



**KRISTIE DALE SANDERS** (*Mrs. Van Buren*) was last seen at VSC as Yvette in *Vaudeville*. Broadway: *Urinetown*, *The Sound of Music*. Off-Broadway: *Johnny Guitar*, *A Class Act*, *Hello Muddah*, *Hello Fadduh*. Favorites include: *Flight of the Lawnchair Man* (Goodspeed), *Illyria & Three Penny Opera* (NJ Shakespeare), *Private Lives* (Riverside), *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* (North Shore), *Anna Karenin & Dark of the Moon* (Quantum Theatre), World premiere of *Trust & West Coast* premiere of *Cover of Life* (ACT, Seattle), *Labor of Love* at the Barcelona Olympics & Japan. *My Favorite Broadway Diva* (Carnegie Hall), *Broadway Pops Series* (New Haven Symphony), *Sweeney Todd*, *A Chorus Line*. TV: *All My Children*. Kristie received her BFA in acting from California Institute of the Arts.



**ELIZABETH VAN DYKE** (*Mrs. Dickerson*) is happy to be returning to VSC where she played Julia in *Wedding Band* directed by Charles Towers. Ms. Van Dyke recently played Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* at the St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre where she also directed *Pretty Fire* and played Antigone in *The Gospel at Colonus*. Other Acting Credits include *Blue* (Coconut Grove Theatre), *The Amen Corner*, *Flyin' West*, *Piano Lesson*, *Joe Turners Come & Gone*, *For Colored Girls*, *The Country Wife*, *Queen and the Rebels*, *King Lear*; and many others. Her television credits include *Law & Order*, *Law & Order SVU*, *100 Centre Street*, *New York Undercover*, *Deadline* and *Third Watch*. Ms. Van Dyke has received an Audelco Award for her portrayal of *Zora Neale Hurston*, the Roy Acuff Chair of Excellence in Theatre from Austin Peay State University, and an Ace Award for her work in *Love to All*, *Lorraine*. Ms. Van Dyke has also originated the role of Mattie Cheeks in *No Niggers*, *No Jews*, & *No Dogs* by Johny Henry Redwood (Audelco Nomination) and the role of Fannie Mae Dove in *Flyin' West*.



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## THE COMPANY

**Lynn Nottage** (*playwright*) is a playwright from Brooklyn. Her plays include *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Mud, River, Stone*, *Por 'Knockers, Poof!* (Heideman Award), and *Las Meninas*, which premiered at San Jose Repertory in 2002. Her plays have been produced Off-Broadway and regionally by The Acting Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Alliance Theatre, Buffalo Studio Arena, Crossroads Theatre, Freedom Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Playwrights Horizons, Second Stage, South Coast Repertory, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Yale Repertory, the Vineyard Theatre and many others. Ms. Nottage has received playwriting fellowships from Manhattan Theatre Club, New Dramatists, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She is also the recipient of a Playwrights Horizons Amblin/Dreamworks Commission, AT&T Onstage award and a NEA/TCG (1999-2000) grant for a year-long residency at Freedom Theatre. She is a member of New Dramatists and a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama.

**Jane Page** (*Director*) is delighted to return to the Virginia Stage Company where last season she directed *Driving Miss Daisy*. This season Jane directed *An O'Henry Christmas* for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and *Intimate Apparel* for the Arvada Center in Denver. Last summer, she directed the critically acclaimed *Othello* for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (CSF). Previous productions at CSF include the hit *Wild West Much Ado About Nothing* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Although based in Denver, Jane's work takes her across the country and abroad. Last season her work was seen in Ohio, Virginia, New York, and Michigan. This season her work will be seen in Colorado, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Alabama and here in Virginia. Her other recent productions include an award winning *Over the Tavern*, *A Thousand Clowns*, *The Crimson Thread* and *Rounding Third*. Coming up this season she is looking forward to directing *She Stoops to Conquer*. In addition, Jane is currently in conversations with the Vienna's English Theatre. *Amelia Lives*, an original play Jane directed, garnered a Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. She is grateful for the ongoing support of her husband, Gavin Cameron-Webb and her friends.

**Bill Clarke** (*Set Designer*) is pleased to return to Virginia Stage Company where he previously designed the world premiere of *The Taste Test*, *Top Girls*, *Fairy Tales of New York* and *Arms and the Man*. He designed *A Walk in the Woods* and *Abby's Song* on Broadway, and his off-Broadway work includes *The Daughter-in-Law* (Mint Theater; *NYTimes* 10 Best List of '03-'04 season), *June Moon* (Drama Dep't), *Queens Blvd.*, Ann Magnuson's *You Could Be Home Now* (New York Shakespeare Festival), Keith Reddin's *The Innocents' Crusade* (Manhattan Theater Club), Alan Havis' *Morocco* (WPA) and *The Cherry Orchard* (Juilliard), plus the upcoming *Treason* at the Perry Street Theater. Regional credits include Seattle Rep, Old Globe, Milwaukee Rep, Denver Center, American Repertory Theatre, Huntington, McCarter, Alliance, Cincinnati Playhouse, Merrimack Rep, Pioneer Theater, Studio Arena and Cleveland Playhouse. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and a recipient of the Hollywood Drama-Logue Award and San Diego Theater Critics' Circle Award.



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## THE COMPANY

**Nanzi Adzima** (Costume Designer) has previously designed *Vincent in Brixton*, *Glass Managerie*, *Vaudeville*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Private Lives* for Virginia Stage Company, and over 125 productions in New York and throughout regional theatres in the United States including The Actors Theatre of Louisville, Syracuse Stage, The Olney Center for the Arts, Capital Repertory, The McCarter Theater, Vermont Stage, Playmakers Repertory, Indiana Repertory, The Clarence Brown Theatre of Knoxville, Manhattan Theater Club, The Public Theater, and Goodspeed Opera House. On Broadway, she designed *The Five O'Clock Girl* and Harvey Fierstein's *Safe Sex*, and has received an Emmy Award for *Guiding Light* and an Emmy Award Nomination for *Square One TV*. A graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Nanzi lives by the sea in New Jersey.

**Dan Kotlowitz** (*Lighting Designer*) is pleased to be returning to the Virginia Stage Company after 15 years - when he designed *The Rainmaker* and met his lovely wife. Other regional credits include designs Hartford Stage, LaJolla Playhouse, Long Wharf Theatre, Trinity Repertory, George Street Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse, Milwaukee Repertory, Portland Stage, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, StageWest, Berkshire Theater Festival, Shakespeare and Company, Studio Arena and the Northlight Theatre. His lighting has been seen Off-Broadway in productions of *Turn of the Screw*, *Scotland Road*, *Sabina*, *The Wash*, *Yankee Dawg You Die*, *The Perfect Party*, *Money Talks*, *Mysteries* and *What's So Funny, Ladies and Gentlemen Jerome Kern* and *Reno Once Removed*. His work has been seen in NYC at the New York Shakespeare Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, Astor Place, The Promenade, Primary Stages, The Clurman Theatre and Cathedral St. John the Divine. He has collaborated with singer/performance artist Diamanda Galas in the US and Europe on her productions of *Plague Mass*, *Vena Cava*, *Judgment Day*, *Insekta* and *The Sporting Life*. Mr. Kotlowitz is a professor at Dartmouth College.

**Kevin Dunayer** (Sound Designer) is the resident Sound Designer for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival where he has been designing for the past 19 years. Kevin has designed sound for over 250 productions including 60 Shakespeare productions. Past credits include Sound Design for: Alley Theatre (Houston, TX), Dallas Theatre Center, others. Selected Sound Engineer credits include: *American Song*, directed by Anne Bogart, and *Svengali*, directed by Gregory Boyd, The Grammy Awards, President Clinton's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, The Emmy Awards, and The American Image Awards. Kevin is member of Local 1 in New York City and was nominated for two Denver Critic's Circle Awards for Sound Design. He earned his BA at the University of North Carolina and his MFA in Sound Design from the California Institute of the Arts.



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## THE COMPANY

**Karen Oberthal** (Stage Manager) is glad to be back at VSC. Past VSC credits include *Rounding Third*, *Treasure Island*, *Yellowman*, *Greetings!*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Rough Crossing*, *Vaudeville*, *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*, and three productions of *A Christmas Carol*. Recently, she stage managed Maximilian Schell's production of *Der Rosenkavalier* and Robert Wilson's *Madama Butterfly* for the Los Angeles Opera. Other stage management credits include Commonwealth Theatre Company's *The Belle of Amherst* starring Sandy Duncan; Portsmouth's TodiMusicFest, Virginia Opera (where she was the Production Stage Manger for several seasons), The Shakespeare Theatre, New Orleans Opera, Cleveland Opera, and Opera Grand Rapids.

**Merrimack Repertory Theatre (Lowell, MA)** is one of just four LORT theatres in Massachusetts and the only one serving Lowell, the state's fourth-largest city and the arts and cultural center of the Merrimack Valley, a rapidly-growing region 25 miles northwest of Boston. Now in its 27<sup>th</sup> Season, MRT has been under the artistic direction of Charles Towers since 2001. During his tenure, the company has become known for high-quality productions of mostly contemporary and new plays, all chosen in support of MRT's mission "to advance the cause of human understanding through the art of theatre" while at the same time endorsing its desire to create "a vibrant contemporary theatre for a vibrant contemporary audience." Over the past five years MRT has produced twenty regional premieres and five world premieres including *Real Hush-Hush* by John Corwin, *The Art of Sacrifice* by Anthony Clarvoe, *The Kreutzer Sonata* by Larry and Margaret Pine, and *Fallen* by Craig Warner. MRT's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming*, directed by Mr. Towers this past June, presaged the playwright's receipt of the Nobel Prize in Literature and was recently included on the Boston Globe's "Best of 2005" list. Other notable productions include *The Price* by Arthur Miller, *Boston Marriage* by David Mamet, and *Gun-Shy*, *Something in the Air* and *Rounding Third* - all by Richard Dresser. MRT is proud to be co-producing with Virginia Stage Company, where Mr. Towers served as Artistic Director from 1983 – 1991, and looks forward to the possibility of more such productions in the future. Additional information can be found at the company's web site: [www.merrimackrep.org](http://www.merrimackrep.org)