



VIRGINIA STAGE COMPANY NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release • January 23, 2006 • Contact: Chad Bauman, (757) 627-6988 ext. 343

VSC Launches New Adult Outreach Program with the World Premiere of *Stowaway*

Virginia Stage Company launches a new adult outreach program with the world premiere of *Stowaway*, a touring production about the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1855, written and directed by Neal Easterling. *Stowaway* is inspired by the 1855 Yellow Fever epidemic in Norfolk that originated from a single ship, the Benjamin Franklin, and killed over one-third of the population in Hampton Roads. By November of that year, half of the surviving population fled the ravishes of this plague, leaving only a tiny part of the area's living population around to bury the mountains of bodies left at graveyards all over the city. The play takes accounts from historical records and mixes it with modern day concerns over epidemic diseases and their ports of entry into our country.

Stowaway opens on February 10, 2006 at The National Maritime Center (Nauticus) in Norfolk, VA. *Stowaway* will be performed on Friday, February 10 at 7pm, Saturday, February 11 at 2pm and Sunday, February 12 at 2pm. Subsequent performances will be held at the Mariner's Museum and Merchant's Square in Williamsburg. Dates and times are currently being finalized. Admission to all performances of *Stowaway* is free. For tickets to the performance at Nauticus, please go to their visitor's center on the first floor.

Stowaway is a historical drama written in six independent vignettes with a total running time of approximately 40 minutes. The actors featured in *Stowaway* are members of Virginia Stage Company's Emerging Artist Ensemble.

Neal Easterling is in his second season as Director of Education and Outreach at Virginia Stage Company where he has been working for the past 3 years. He has taught numerous classes to middle and high school students at various institutions including the Virginia Governor's School of the Arts and Stagedoor Manor, an internationally known summer training camp in the Catskill Mountains. Directing credits include: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Garden of Rikki Tikki Tavi*, *The Story of Jumping Mouse*, *Wiley and the Hairy Man* and *Cat's-Paw*, Virginia Stage Company, *The Jewish Wife* and *Batter the Doom Drum*, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, *Deflores* and *Oleanna*, Theatre South Carolina, *Song of Survival*, *The Women*, and *The Imaginary Invalid*, Stagedoor Manor, and *Hamlet*, Hampton Roads Shakespeare Festival. His production of *Goodly Creatures* with Virginia Stage Company and The Governor's School for the Arts was touted by The Virginian-Pilot as "...one of the all-around finest shows to hit Hampton Roads in ages." He holds a BA in Theatre with a focus in Directing from the University of South Carolina.

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

Virginia Stage Company | 27 Years New

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STOWAWAY

FACT SHEET

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Box Office Information: Tickets for *Stowaway* are free and can be obtained on the day of the performance at the performance location.

Cast

Man, Samuel, Az, Officer, Speaker, Reporter 4.....SAEED WILKINS
Armstrong, Michael, Captain, Reporter 2.....CHANEY TULLOS
Doctor, 2nd Woman, Agent, Woman, Reporter 1.....SHANNON MURPHY
Jamie, Woman, Tourist, Reporter 3.....MIA ULIBARRI

Creative Team

Written by: Neal Easterling
Director: Neal Easterling
Set Designer: Amy Keyser
Costume Designer: Carolyn Miller
Stage Manager: Candice Carter

Performance Schedule

Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, February 10 7:00pm at the National Maritime Center
(Nauticus in downtown Norfolk, VA)

Public Performances:

At Nauticus: Saturday, February 11 2:00pm
Sunday, February 12 2:00pm

At the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA: TBA

At Merchant's Square in Williamsburg, VA: TBA



STOWAWAY

THE CAST



SHANNON MURPHY (*ensemble*) was born in South Africa and grew up in Asia and Australia. She is a recent highest honors graduate of the University of Florida where she received a B.F.A. in acting. She just completed filming *Lonely Hearts* with John Travolta and James Gandolfini, due for release in 2006. Her favorite roles include Sophie in *Duck* and Chrissy in *Dancing at Lughnasa*. International performances include *Garbage for Fuel*, a play she co-wrote for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She is a member of VSC's Emerging Arts Ensemble and was seen on the mainstage as Belle in *A Christmas Carol*.



CHANEY TULLOS (*ensemble*) a Louisiana native, holds a M.F.A. in Acting from Louisiana State University. A member of VSC's Emerging Artist Ensemble, Chaney was Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol* and he currently tours with *Wiley & the Hairy Man* as the Hairy Man. With LSU, he was seen in *The Illusion* and the title role in *Tartuffe*. At Swine Palace (Baton Rouge's professional theatre), his credits include *The Laramie Project*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Tavern* and a joint production of *Macbeth* with New York's SITI Company. He also spent a season with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.



MIA ULABARRI (*ensemble*) joins VSC from Santa Fe New Mexico. Mia holds a B.A. in Theatre from the University of New Mexico. She appeared in a plethora of shows ranging from Ancient Greek comedies to modern day dramas such as the title roles in *Antigone* and *Lysistrata* as well as Sara in *Stop Kiss* and Nell in *A Few Stout Individuals*. Prior to Mia's engagement with VSC, she attended the Moscow Art Theatre School USA in Cambridge where she studied Stanislavsky and Chekavian techniques with American Repertory Theatre and Moscow Art Theatre Staff. Mia is a member of the Emerging Artist Ensemble and has been seen as Mrs. Dilbert in VSC's *A Christmas Carol*.



SAEED WILKINS (*ensemble*) a member of the Emerging Artist Ensemble at VSC, where he was most recently seen on the mainstage as Fred in *A Christmas Carol*. He attended Old Dominion University, where he studied Communications and Theatre. He has appeared in *The Laramie Project*, *Venus*, where he played the role of The Negro Resurrectionist and the ODU Theatre developed *Willow Song* which was performed in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. His favorites roles include Tybalt and Macbeth. Prior to VSC, Saeed acted for the FBI Academy in Quantico, helping the trainees to hone their interrogation and interviewing techniques thorough role playing.



STOWAWAY

THE COMPANY

Neal Easterling (Playwright & Director) is in his second season as Director of Education and Outreach at Virginia Stage Company where he has been working for the past 3 years. He has taught numerous classes to middle and high school students at various institutions including the Virginia Governor's School of the Arts and Stagedoor Manor, an internationally known summer training camp in the Catskill Mountains. Directing credits include: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Garden of Rikki Tikki Tavi*, *The Story of Jumping Mouse*, *Wiley and the Hairy Man* and *Cat's-Paw*, Virginia Stage Company, *The Jewish Wife* and *Batter the Doom Drum*, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, *Deflores* and *Oleanna*, Theatre South Carolina, *Song of Survival*, *The Women*, and *The Imaginary Invalid*, Stagedoor Manor, and *Hamlet*, Hampton Roads Shakespeare Festival. His production of *Goodly Creatures* with Virginia Stage Company and The Governor's School for the Arts was touted by The Virginian-Pilot as "...one of the all-around finest shows to hit Hampton Roads in ages." He holds a BA in Theatre with a focus in Directing from the University of South Carolina.

Candice Carter (Stage Manager) is excited to be returning to Virginia Stage Company for her 3rd season. Currently, she is Stage Managing *Stowaway* and *Wiley and the Hairy Man*, and Assistant Directing on *Of Mice and Men*. Last year she toured as the Stage Manager on *The Garden of Rikki Tikki Tavi* and *Danny, King of the Basement* as well as assisting on the mainstage shows, *A Christmas Carol* and *Treasure Island*. In the past, Candice has dedicated her time to the Properties Department and backstage for the mainstage productions at VSC. Candice has also been seen at The Hangar Theatre in New York working as an Assistant Director. Her credits include *Picnic on the Battlefield*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Haarlem Berlin*, and the world premiere of *Indoor/Outdoor* directed by Kevin Moriarty. Other directing credits include: *Pillow Talk* (Hangar Theatre), *Visiting Mr. Green*, *The Lesson* (JSU); assisting on *Vincent in Brixton*, *Cat's-Paw* (VSC). Stage Management credits include: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (JSU), *Big River*, *Pathway to Freedom*, *Sword of Peace* (Snow Camp Theatre), *Goodly Creatures*, *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* (VSC). Candice has a BA in Theatre from Jacksonville State University.