



VSC Presents A Raisin In The Sun

Landmark American Play Celebrates 50th Anniversary

March 30 through April 18, 2010 at Norfolk's Wells Theatre

Virginia Stage Company proudly presents *A Raisin in the Sun*, the powerful masterpiece that was the first accurate and honest portrayal of the African-American experience to appear on the popular American stage. It has been called "one of a handful of great American plays" by the *Washington Post* and the play that "changed American theater forever" by *The New York Times*. *A Raisin in the Sun* runs March 30 through April 18, 2010 at the historic Wells Theatre.

From their tenement apartment, the Younger family awaits an insurance payout that could make their dreams of a better life come true - if it doesn't tear them apart. Each of the family has his or her own idea of how to use the money to make their lives better. The title of the play is inspired by a line in the poem "Harlem: A Dream Deferred" by Langston Hughes, one of the most prominent voices in the Harlem Renaissance.

*"What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the sun?"*

Though many years have passed since Lorraine Hansberry's play first premiered, VSC Artistic Director Chris Hanna said, "This play is just as relevant today as it was 50 years ago. Time has proven it to be an enduring masterpiece of the American stage that gains new power with the passing of history."

The play opened on Broadway in 1959 with a cast including Sydney Poitier and Ruby Dee, was nominated for four Tony awards and won the New York Drama Critics' Best Play of the Year citation. A 2004 Broadway revival starring Sean Combs, Phylicia Rashad and Audra McDonald was awarded two Tony awards and was then reincarnated as a made-for-television movie.

A Raisin In The Sun is especially fitting as VSC's contribution to Minds Wide Open, Virginia's statewide celebration of women in the arts. In an unprecedented collaboration, more than 1,700 performances and exhibits across Virginia are celebrating the roles women play in our fine and performing arts. For more information on Minds Wide Open and a statewide schedule of events, visit www.vamindswideopen.org



Tickets for *A Raisin in the Sun* range from \$15 to \$50. Dress Rehearsal is Sunday, March 30 at 7 pm with a donation of \$10, and the popular Best Ticket in Town preview performances are Tuesday, March 30 at 7 pm, Wednesday and Thursday, March 31 and April 1 at 8 pm with all seats \$15. Opening night is Friday, April 2 at 8 pm. Tickets may be purchased through Ticketmaster by calling 800-982-2787 or at any Ticketmaster outlet, at the VSC box office, or online at www.vastage.com. Group discounts are available by calling 757-627-6988 Ext. 358.

Following *A Raisin in the Sun*, VSC and The Virginia Arts Festival will co-present the Reduced Shakespeare Company in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. This Season Extra is a fun and frantic romp through all 37 of the Bard's plays in 90 minutes. Whether you're a Shakespeare fan or not, you'll love this hilarious production.

Virginia Stage Company is the region's only fully professional resident theater company, serving an audience of over 90,000 annually. Since its founding, VSC has made significant contributions to the quality of life in Hampton Roads: presenting more than 185 plays through more than 3,700 performances; revitalizing and renovating the historic Wells Theatre; providing educational programs for students of all ages; and preserving the legacy of live theater for future generations.

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Media Release

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