

For Immediate Release
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MetroStage to Open with World Premiere of *Glimpses of the Moon* September 8 - October 17

August 15, 2010: Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin is pleased to announce that MetroStage's 2010-11 season will open with the world premiere of ***Glimpses of the Moon***, a Jazz Age musical based on a novel by Edith Wharton. The book and lyrics are written by Tajlei Levis and the composer is John Mercurio. ***Glimpses of the Moon*** will be in performance September 8 - October 17.

In 2008 and 2009 ***Glimpses of the Moon*** was performed on 25 Monday evenings in a cabaret space in New York in the Oak Room at the Algonquin Hotel, a fitting location for a 1922 Jazz Age musical. The story follows the journey of Nick and Susy, who, popular but penniless, devise the ultimate fundraising scheme: to marry and live off the wedding presents while they help one another look for suitable millionaires to marry. The plan works perfectly -- until they fall in love. This new romantic musical portrays the jazzy whirl of New York society in 1922, from champagne-soaked dinner parties to luxurious vacation cottages to New York's elegant hotels. Broadwayworld.com called it a "sparkling valentine to the Jazz Age."

New York director/choreographer **David Marquez** most recently directed and choreographed *Suessical* for Weston Playhouse. On Broadway he has choreographed *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Gershwin's Fascinating Rhythm*. He has choreographed productions in regional theatres all over the country and has a dance studio in New York City. Writer **Tajlei Levis** has also written *A Time to Be Born: A 1940's New York Musical* with composer John Mercurio (New York International Fringe Festival). Composer **John Mercurio** wrote *Academy* (New York Musical Theater Festival), and was awarded the ASCAP Foundation Cole Porter Award for music and lyrics. Other musicals that he has written include *Myth* (O'Neill Music Theater Conference), and *Diva Diaries* (Lakeshore Theatre, Chicago). He is currently writing the score for *Hooray for Iceboy!*. **Darius Smith** is the music director. He was last seen at MetroStage on keyboards for *The Stephen Schwartz Project*. He is a professor of musical theatre at Howard University and is also a composer.

The cast includes **Natascia Diaz**, who was most recently seen at MetroStage in the world premiere of *ROOMS*, a rock musical (Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Actress). Her Broadway credits include *Suessical*, *Capeman* and *Man of La Mancha*. Most recently, she played Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* (Hanger Theatre, Ithaca, NY) and in August will play the lead in *Capeman* at the Delacorte Theatre in Central Park. **Stephen Schmidt** was most recently seen in *Triumph of Love* at Olney. He received the Helen Hayes Award for *Urinetown* (Signature),

and Helen Hayes nominations for *Willy Wonka* (Kennedy Center), *Wonderful Life* (Toby's) and *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Woolly Mammoth).

Gia Mora was most recently seen at MetroStage in *Cool Papa's Party* (Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Ensemble). Other Helen Hayes nominations include *She Stoops To Conquer* (Ensemble, Woolly Mammoth) and *A Prayer for Owen Meany* (Supporting Actress, Round House). **Sam Ludwig** was just seen in the DC Fringe show *Super Claudio Bros* (with Gia and other cast members Matt Anderson and Lauren Williams), and has appeared in *[title of show]*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Les Miserables* (Signature).

Lauren Williams has appeared in *Into the Woods* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (both receiving Helen Hayes nominations, Signature) and at Studio in *Reefer Madness* and *Dog Sees God* (Helen Hayes nomination, Ensemble). **Matthew Anderson** was most recently seen at MetroStage in the acclaimed record-breaking production of *The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)*. He has also performed at the Kennedy Center (Youth and Family Programs and *Shear Madness*). In addition to this cast there will be the role of Cabaret Singer that will feature some of MetroStage's favorite performers: Lori Williams (*All Night Strut, Cool Papa's Party*), Tracy McMullan (*Noel and Gertie, Two Queens One Castle*), and Roz White (*Three Sistahs, Pearl Bailey...By Request, Cool Papa's Party, Bricktop*). They will appear in rotation.

The design team includes Daniel Pinha, set; Andrew Griffin, lights; and Lisa Zinni, costumes.

Performances for ***Glimpses of the Moon*** will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, Sundays at 3pm and 7pm, September 8 - October 17. (Exceptions include a Wednesday at 8pm PWYC on September 8 and no performance on Friday September 10.) Thursday September 9 will also be a PWYC. Preview performances on Saturday September 11 and the Sunday matinee September 12 will have \$25 tickets available. Press night is Sunday September 12 at 7pm.

For ticket reservations call 800 494-8497 or go online to <http://www.boxofficetickets.com/metrostage>. For information and group sales call 703-548-9044.

MetroStage is located at 1201 North Royal St. in North Old Town Alexandria. There is a free parking lot and fine dining nearby. The theatre is handicap accessible. <http://www.metrostage.org>