

May 9, 2008

Contact: Kate Taylor
Phone: 301.924.4485 x105
Email: ktaylor@olneytheatre.org

SEASON 2008

Mainstage Season

Bad Dates

March 19 – April 20

1776

April 9 – May 18

The Mousetrap

June 3 – June 29

Stuff Happens

June 17 – July 27

Rabbit Hole

July 15 – August 3

The Underpants

September 23 – October 19

Peter Pan

November 18 – January 4

Family Entertainment

Series

Mermaid Theatre of

Nova Scotia:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar &
Other Eric Carle Favourites
May 17

Cinderella and Her Sisters

October 9 – October 19

National Players

Big River

July 2 – July 27

Twelfth Night

September 10 – September 11

1984

September 17 – September 18

**JIM PETOSA
TO CONTINUE AS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

(Olney, MD) The Olney Theatre Board of Directors is proud to announce that Jim Petosa will continue as Artistic Director for the 70-year old institution. “Jim is one of the most talented Artistic Directors in the country. He is a tremendous artist with great leadership skills and we are delighted that he will be continuing with us,” states George Brown, Olney Board President.

The news comes after a June 2007 announcement that Petosa would finish his 15-year tenure as Artistic Director after the theater’s 2008 Season.

Since that time, a new zeitgeist has swept Olney. Motivated by critical and financial success of the 2008 season and the hiring of new, energetic Managing Director—Amy Marshall, the Board requested that Petosa reconsider his decision to leave at such an exciting time in the theater’s growth.

“I am energized by the Board's unexpected invitation to continue as Artistic Director of Olney Theatre Center and by the growing and excellent partnership with Amy. It is a new chapter in the life of this theater, and I am pleased to serve as its artistic leader for this next phase,” says Petosa.

Marshall is equally thrilled by the news. “I could not be happier about Jim reconsidering his decision to step away. I am delighted that our collaboration will continue; it allows me an opportunity to learn from his experience and wisdom. It is also inspiring to know that our productions will continue to be of the highest quality under Jim’s leadership,” says Marshall.

Petosa’s affiliation with the theater dates back to 1979. He has been Artistic Director since 1994, and he also serves as Artistic Director for National Players. In 2002, he was appointed Director of the School of Theatre at Boston University’s College of Fine Arts. Under

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Petosa's guidance, Olney Theater began a major expansion plan, the largest component of the plan was the New Mainstage (a 429-seat theater), which opened in the summer of 2005.

Petosa is a nationally recognized artist. His many Olney directing credits include *Democracy*, *Brooklyn Boy*, *In the Mood*, *An Enemy of the People*, *The Elephant Man*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Copenhagen*, *The Laramie Project*, and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well & Living in Paris* (*Helen Hayes Award*).

As a guest artist, he has directed at The Kennedy Center, The Studio Theatre, Round House Theatre, Washington Jewish Theatre, and Rep Stage. Petosa has directed for University of Maryland, College Park; The Catholic University of America; The George Washington University; and Middlebury College. He serves as a stage director for Boston University's acclaimed Opera Institute and serves as Executive Producer of the Boston University InCite Arts Festival, an annual event in New York City. His most recent direction of the Tom Stoppard/Andre Previn collaboration *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* performed at The Town Hall this past March. He continues his association as one of three artistic directors of Potomac Theatre Project, now in its 21st season, its second in New York City where he will be directing the New York premiere of Neal Bell's *Somewhere in the Pacific* this July.

Olney Theatre's 2008 Mainstage Season continues through the end of the calendar year. Tickets are still available by calling 301.924.3400 or visiting www.olneytheatre.org. The 2009 Season, again under Petosa's leadership, will be announced in late summer '08.

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