

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** John Kelly  
John Kelly PR  
434-296-5577  
[john@johnkellypr.com](mailto:john@johnkellypr.com)

**UPROARIOUS LAUGHS IN SUMMER FORECAST AS HERITAGE THEATRE  
FESTIVAL PREPARES TO PRESENT *MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS***

**Fabulous Farce Takes Behind-The-Scenes Look at Making of *Gone with the Wind*  
Tickets Currently On Sale At Culbreth Box Office or Online at [www.uvahtf.org](http://www.uvahtf.org)**

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – June 30, 2009 – Imagine you are the producer of the biggest movie in Hollywood history and it is stalled in production. It is the late 1930's and the script for your film, *Gone with the Wind*, is a total disaster. Every day of shooting you miss costs you \$50,000. So what's a mogul to do?

If you are David O.Selznick in the hilarious Hollywood sendup *Moonlight and Magnolias*, you lock yourself in a room with the best writer and director of the day and vow to not come out until you get it right. And you insist on feeding them only peanuts and bananas (because, of course, you believe food will impede the flow of creative juices!).

That's the premise of Ron Hutchinson's acclaimed comedy. Heritage Theatre Festival's production of *Moonlight and Magnolias*, directed by Douglas Sprigg and featuring the return of longtime Charlottesville media favorite Dave Cupp, opens at Culbreth Theatre on Thursday, July 9. The show runs July 9-11, July 28, 31 and August 5.

Performances begin at 7:30PM and there will be a special post-show "Talk Back" with cast members on July 28. Tickets for the show are \$22 for adults, \$19 for seniors (60+) and U.Va. faculty and staff and \$14 for students. Season and single show tickets are now available at the Heritage Box Office, online at [www.uvahtf.org](http://www.uvahtf.org) or by calling 434-924-3376.

According to director Douglas Sprigg, *Moonlight and Magnolias* uses a true story as a launching pad for an evening pure fun. "The year 1939 was an incredible year for good movies, highlighted by *Gone With the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz*. After five weeks of shooting, Selznick was unhappy with what he had, so he called in writer Ben Hecht and pulls director Victor Fleming (played by Dave Cupp) off of *Wizard of Oz* to join him in getting the job done."

One major problem...Hecht had never read the bestselling book, forcing Selznick and Fleming to act out the already melodramatic tale – from burnin' buildings to birthin' babies and beyond. The playful pantomime helps set the stage for an off-the-wall evening of giggles and guffaws as this trio tests their endurance and sanity in the name of art.

The show has taken on a life imitating art quality for Sprigg and his cast. “With a typical summer theatre rehearsal window, we are portraying the stress of working on a deadline and experiencing it all at the same time!” Those stresses, he said, have been helped by working with a great group of actors. “We have an incredibly talented cast who are well known in the theater community here, including Steven Levine, Daria Okugawa, Bob Porter and of course, Dave Cupp.”

The 2009 Heritage Theatre Festival season continues at the Culbreth Theatre on July 16 with the timeless tale ***On Golden Pond***, opening at Culbreth Theatre on July 16. The play will be followed by the uproarious Texas-sized laughs of ***Red, White & Tuna*** (opening July 21 at the Helms Theatre) and the plant-eats-man mania of ***Little Shop of Horrors*** (opening July 23 at the Culbreth Theatre).

***Oliver!*** continues its run at Culbreth Theatre through July 3. ***Pump Boys and Dinettes*** continues its run at the Helms Theatre through July 11.

For complete ticket and schedule information or to order your tickets today, visit [www.uvahtf.org](http://www.uvahtf.org) or call the box office at 34-924-3376.

Press photos are available at <http://www.virginia.edu/heritagetheatre/pressCenter.htm>.

###