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HERITAGE THEATRE FESTIVAL TO PRESENT *ON GOLDEN POND*

*Beloved, Bittersweet Story of One Family's Memorable Maine Summer
Comes to Culbreth Theatre Beginning July 16*

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – July 7, 2009 – One of the most memorable curmudgeons in film and theater history will make his way to the Culbreth Theatre when the Heritage Theatre Festival season continues with *On Golden Pond*, opening on July 16th.

The bittersweet and beloved tale of Norman and Ethel Thayer's retreat to their family cabin in the woods of Maine won Henry Fonda an Academy Award and has won generations of fans with its touching and often humorous look at the twilight years and the struggles and triumphs of family life.

On Golden Pond will be presented from July 16-18 and on August 1, 3 and 6. There will be a special post-show "Talk Back" with cast members on August 3rd. 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 or by calling 434-924-3376.

Soon after the Thayers go through their annual routine of opening their rustic retreat for another in a fast fading series of summer sojourns, the calm of nature is broken by the arrival of daughter Chelsea, who arrives with her boyfriend and his teenage son in tow. Her complicated relationship with Norman (played by longtime Heritage favorite Martin Beekman), quickly brings the tension to a boil as Ethel tries in vain to once again play the role of peacemaker and help the two find some understanding across the generations. When Chelsea and her beau decide to leave their young son behind while they enjoy a brief getaway on their own, Norman and the boy are forced into a relationship that begins awkwardly and ends beautifully – with surprisingly healing results for all.

The 2009 Heritage Theatre Festival season continues at the Helms Theatre on July 21 with the Texas laughs of *Red, White & Tuna* and the plant-eats-man mania of *Little Shop of Horrors* (opening July 23 at the Culbreth Theatre).

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 or call the box office at 34-924-3376.

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

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