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**HERITAGE THEATRE FESTIVAL TO GO OUT WITH A BANG
WITH SEASON-ENDING RED, WHITE AND TUNA**

*Two-Man, 23 Character Show Captures Wacky
Weekend in Tiny Town of Tuna, Texas*

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – July 15, 2009 – Heritage Theatre Festival is inviting audiences to spend an unforgettable weekend with the zany townsfolk of Tuna, Texas in the wildly and wonderfully irreverent comedy *Red, White and Tuna*.

The latest installment in Joe Sears, Jaston Williams' and Ed Howard's internationally-acclaimed "Tuna" series, *Red, White and Tuna* relies on two talented actors to bring to life an entire town of "extreme" characters (23 in all), in a rapid-fire, joke-a-minute evening of pure, down-home fun.

Red, White and Tuna, directed by Heritage producing artistic director Robert Chapel, comes to the Helms Theatre starting on July 21st. The show will continue through July 25 and return from July 27-31 and on August 1 and August 4-8. There will be a post-show talk-back with cast members on August 4. Tickets for the show are \$22 for adults, \$19 for seniors (60+) and U.Va. faculty and staff and \$14 for students. Tickets are now available at the Heritage Box Office, online at www.uvahtf.org or by calling 434-924-3376.

A lot has happened since Heritage audiences first met its twisted townspeople in the show *Greater Tuna* back in the late 1980's. Yet, as they will learn from the very first scene on, some things never change, and Tuna is one of them. This time around the citizens are atwitter about the upcoming high school reunion, not to mention the modest Fourth of July festivities (what with Vernon making off with all the fireworks and all...).

In *Red, White and Tuna*, actors Evan Bridenstine and John Paul Scheidler leap from persona to persona, bringing to life a vast array of characters including trigger happy Didi Snavelly, would-be reunion queen rivals Pearl Burrus and Vera Carp (who bans books in her spare time, or at least whenever the town minister finishes doing time!)...and many more.

The show's rapid fire humor has one defining characteristic. It spares no one. "The show is totally irreverent, and it makes fun of everyone in our society without playing favorites and in a way that is not at all mean-spirited," said Chapel.

Chapel is closing the season he began with the acclaimed production of *Oliver!*, (which featured a cast of 44) and for him, they could not be more different. “It has been so much fun to work with two very fine actors in a tremendously collaborative environment. Both came in having really done their homework. I’ve come up with a lot of ideas and they have come up with just as many themselves and included them in the context of the show. These two shows have been completely different directing experiences for me, and I’ve loved them both this summer.”

Meanwhile, on the Culbreth Theatre stage, the manic musical fun of *Little Shop of Horrors* opens on July 23 and continues its run through August 8. *On Golden Pond* opens in the Culbreth July 16 and plays July 17-18, 29, August 1, 3 and 6. *Moonlight and Magnolias* continues its run at the Culbreth Theatre on July 28, 31 and August 5.

Reduced season subscription packages are now on sale and include tickets to the remaining four shows -- *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *On Golden Pond*, *Red, White and Tuna* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Prices are \$76 for adults, \$64 for seniors (60+) and U.Va. faculty & staff and \$48 for students. Reduced subscriptions are available at the Heritage Box Office.

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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