

For Immediate Release
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SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY REVISES 2008-2009 SEASON LINEUP

An Italian Straw Hat To Be Replaced with Noël Coward's Design for Living

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Shakespeare Theatre Company Artistic Director Michael Kahn announced a revision to the Company's 2008-2009 season schedule that includes the replacement of John Strand's musical adaptation of Eugene Labiche's *An Italian Straw Hat* with Noël Coward's *Design for Living*. Kahn will direct *Design for Living* at the Company's Lansburgh Theatre from May 12 to June 28, 2009.

"New musicals often require extra time for development," explained Michael Kahn. "We felt that *An Italian Straw Hat* might be a more appropriate production for our 2009-2010 season. In its place, we will present our first production by Noël Coward, one of the greatest English playwrights of the last century."

Design for Living
by Noël Coward
directed by Michael Kahn
May 12 to June 28, 2009
Lansburgh Theatre

The master of 20th-century English comedy, Noël Coward continued the style of William Congreve and Oscar Wilde with this hilarious and sophisticated look at love, friendship and the joys and perils of fame. Filled with Coward's trademark sparkling wit, *Design for Living* follows three glamorous Bohemians—Otto, Leo and Gilda—as they fall in and out of love with each other. Moving restlessly from Paris to London to New York, the three both pursue and repel each other in an ever-more-maddening love triangle. Michael Kahn directs this provocative and surprisingly moving modern comedy classic.

Subscriptions to the Company's 2008-2009 season are now available. For more information, contact the Box Office at 202.547.1122, TTY at 202.638.3863 or Toll Free at 877.487.8849.

About the Shakespeare Theatre Company at the Harman Center for the Arts

The Shakespeare Theatre Company's innovative approach to Shakespeare and other classic playwrights has earned it the reputation as the nation's premier classical theatre company. By focusing on works with profound themes, complex characters and poetic language written by Shakespeare, his contemporaries and the playwrights he influenced, the Company's artistic mission is unique among theatre companies: to provide vital, groundbreaking, thought-provoking, vibrant and eminently accessible theatre in a uniquely American style. Artistic Director Michael Kahn has led the organization for 22 years, establishing the company as "the nation's foremost Shakespeare company" (*The Wall Street Journal*) and "the best classical theatre in the country, bar none" (*The Christian Science Monitor*).