

For Immediate Release, September 28, 2010

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The Hamner Theater presents Imaginary Letters: Mozart Remembered

Nellysford, VA (Sept. 28, 2010) - The Hamner Theater announces the opening of Imaginary Letters: Mozart Remembered, adapted by Peter Coy from the book by Michael White, onstage for 6 performances, Fridays - Sundays, from October 8th to 17th.

Imaginary Letters: Mozart Remembered explores the influence Mozart's life had on his music, interweaving remembrances of Mozart told in letters written by his wife Constanzi, son Franz, cousin Anna and associates Salieri & Schikaneder. An original play adapted for the stage by Peter Coy from the book by Michael White, it was originally commissioned for the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival, where it received its world premiere in July, 2010. Juilliard Professor Michael White has drawn upon a lifetime of research, teaching, listening, and -- most of all -- admiring and loving Mozart and his music to paint this poignant & entertaining portrait of the great composer.

'When everyone you meet has some beautiful memory of your father, you start believing that you knew him, too.'

- Franz Mozart (Mozart's son), Imaginary Letters, Mozart Remembered.

Directed by Boomie Pedersen and featuring Jen Hoffman, Joel Jones and Bill LeSueur.

Performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, October 8 & 9 and 15 & 16 with two Sunday matinees on October 10 & 17 at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$10. Reservations are suggested, phone (434)361-1999.

Opening Night, Friday, October 8 will be followed by a free champagne reception. Saturday, October 9 will be followed by a special performance of the one-act play, Life Insurance, written & performed by Joel Jones. Admission to Life Insurance is included in the admission price for Imaginary Letters, Mozart Remembered, separate admission to Life Insurance only is \$5. Friday, October 15 will be followed by a free author reception & talkback with Michael White. Saturday, October 16 will be followed by free improv with HIT, the Hamner Improv Troupe. Visit [www.thehamnertheater.com](http://www.thehamnertheater.com) for more information.

About Michael White, author of Imaginary Letters: Mozart Remembered:

Michael White was born in Chicago and received his musical education at The Juilliard School, where he studied with Peter Mennin and Vincent Persichetti. He has composed music in virtually every medium, with an emphasis on vocal works. Since 1979 he has been a member of the graduate faculty at The Juilliard School, where for ten years he served as the chair of the Department of Literature and Materials of Music.

Although he also teaches such graduate courses as "Chamber Music" and "20th Century Opera", Michael White's area of expertise has always been the life and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. He has described this subject as "a true obsession", and as his "first and last love".

About Peter Coy:

Co-artistic director of the Hamner Theater, Peter Coy has worked in the theater for 35 years in New York, Washington, and elsewhere in the U.S. as a director, a producer, a playwright, and a stage manager. He has directed more than thirty productions, everything from Tennessee Williams to an opera/drama adaptation of

Sophocles to improvisational evenings to experimental musicals to Shakespeare and Brecht. He has written 22 full-length plays including: A HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY (Charter Theatre, Washington, DC. – recipient of 2000 Helen Hayes Award for The Outstanding New Play), POE AND ALL THAT JAZZ and BUILDING A BOAT (Charter Theater), THE WILDMAN (Theatre at Lime Kiln, Lexington, VA), AN ISLAND OF NO LAND AT ALL (Keegan Theatre, Washington, DC), BREAK IN (Windowpane Theater, NYC).

About Life Insurance & Joel Jones, [http://www.hamnertheater.com/Life\\_Insurance](http://www.hamnertheater.com/Life_Insurance) :

Three idiosyncratic characters — an insurance salesman, a volunteer firefighter, and a standardized test instructor — tell of a fatal motorcycle crash on a rural Virginia road. Rapidly switching between interwoven monologues, with vivid details and unexpected points of view, Life Insurance creates a tragicomic world of restless intensity and stubborn hopes.

Joel Jones is a writer and performer from Charlottesville, VA, now based in New York City. Joel has worked as a dramaturg, director, producer, set designer, guitarist, and playwright-in-residence for various theater groups, while also working as a limousine driver, short order cook, bartender and carpenter to keep from starving. His favorite job was teaching English in the Czech Republic. Joel's plays have been produced in Virginia, Boston, New York and once at a scientific research station in Antarctica.

About the Hamner Theater: The Hamner Theater, now presenting its sixth season, is a non-profit project of the Rockfish Valley Community Center in Nelson County, and receives funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and anonymous donors to support its mission of bringing professional theater to Nelson County. Learn more at [www.hamnertheater.com](http://www.hamnertheater.com).

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Summary:

What - Imaginary Letters: Mozart Remembered

Where - Hamner Theater, Nellysford

Runs Oct. 8 - 17, Fri. - Sun.

Show Times at the Hamner Theater - Fri. & Sat. at 7:30pm, Sun. at 2:00pm

Admission \$10

Information [www.hamnertheater.com](http://www.hamnertheater.com)

Box Office: Hamner Theater, 434 361 1999

Aftershows:

Life Insurance, written & performed by Joel Jones, Sat., Oct 9 (\$5, but included with admission to Imaginary Letters, Mozart Remembered)

Improv with Hamner Improv Troupe, Sat., Oct. 16 (Free)

Performances held:

Friday, October 8 at 7:30 p.m. Opening Reception -Free

Saturday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m. Followed by Life Insurance, written & performed by Joel Jones (\$5, but included with admission to 'Mozart')

Sunday, October 10 at 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinee

Friday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. Followed by Author Reception and Talkback with author Michael White - Free

Saturday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. Followed by Improv with HIT - Free

Sunday, October 17 at 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinee