



**News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre**

For Immediate Release

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**Virginia Rep Opens the Hanover Tavern Season with
Becoming Dr. Ruth by Mark St. Germain
Starring Eileen DeSandre as Dr. Ruth**

**Virginia Rep and the Weinstein Jewish Community Center Partner to
bring the real Dr. Ruth to Richmond**

Richmond, VA – Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the opening *Becoming Dr. Ruth* by Mark St. Germain on Friday, September 12 at Hanover Tavern, 13181 Hanover Courthouse Road. The show runs through Sunday, October 19. This one-woman biographical account tells the incredible life story of Dr. Ruth Westheimer and her journey from fleeing the Nazis on the Kindertransport and serving in Jerusalem as a sniper to becoming a pioneering radio and television sex therapist.

Virginia Rep will partner with the Weinstein Jewish Community Center to bring Dr. Ruth Westheimer to Richmond in September. Dr. Ruth will attend a performance on Saturday, September 20 at Hanover Tavern and will participate in a talkback after the show. On Sunday, September 21, she will speak at the Weinstein JCC at 2:00 p.m. The Sunday event is open to the public. Tickets are \$10 and \$8 for members. Details below.

Bruce Miller, Artistic Director for Virginia Rep and Director of *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, is thrilled to bring the show to the Hanover Tavern stage. "I saw the show at Barrington Stage Company and I was struck by the story and how it reflected the unique positive

spirit of Dr. Ruth. She has endured some remarkable life events, and I think the audience will find her both fascinating and inspiring. Eileen DeSandre is perfect for the role of Dr. Ruth.” Miller most recently directed *The Charitable Sisterhood of the Second Trinity Victory Church* at Hanover Tavern and *Tartuffe* at the November Theatre.

Virginia Rep is delighted to welcome Eileen DeSandre in her debut performance on the Richmond stage. A veteran resident actor with over 25 credits at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, DeSandre is the recipient of the Portland Drammy for Best Actress in a leading role for her portrayal of Miss Helen in *The Road to Mecca* at Profile Theatre. Her work has been seen on stages across the country including Rubicon Theatre, Oregon Bach Festival, Innovation Theatre Works, Milwaukee Rep, and Fulton Opera House. Eileen is thrilled to spend time with Dr. Ruth. “When I read the script of *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, I was fascinated by the extraordinary events of her life, the way Dr. Ruth has become *enriched* through her experiences and by her joy and willingness to share.”

Direction & Design

Direction	Bruce Miller
Lighting Design	Skyler Broughman
Costume Design	Marcia Miller-Hailey

Cast List

Dr. Ruth	Eileen DeSandre*
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* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.

***Becoming Dr. Ruth* Ticket Information**

Box Office 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Full Price Tickets: \$38

Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.

U-Tix for college and high school students \$10. Available day of show by phone or in person. Student ID required.

Dr. Ruth at the Weinstein Jewish Community Center

5403 Monument Avenue

Sunday, September 21

2:00 p.m.

Tickets \$10, \$8 for members

Call 545-8608 for tickets and details

Press Kits Available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to media.

username = press password = HiRes121

Evening performances at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday and select Wednesdays

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre, located in Richmond, VA, combines the talents and strengths of two nonprofit companies that shared facilities, resources, and management teams for over a decade. Now the heritages of Barksdale Theatre (founded in 1953) and Theatre IV (founded in 1975) live on in their new form, as Central Virginia's leading professional theater company. Virginia Rep presents national caliber productions of the great dramas, comedies, and musicals as well as classics, contemporary works, and world premieres, always seeking to demonstrate the unique power of theater to engage, enthrall, educate, and inspire. Productions are staged at four distinct venues: the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre and Theatre Gym at the downtown Virginia Rep Center, Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre of Virginia located at Willow Lawn, and at Hanover Tavern, home to Virginia Rep's Barksdale Season.

Sponsorship

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