

By Elise Forier Edie
Directed by Raja Benz

ONSTAGE AND ON DEMAND

JULY 28 - AUGUST 15, 2021

RICHMOND TRIANGLE PLAYERS
AT THE ROBERT B. MOSS THEATRE
1300 ALTAMONT AVENUE







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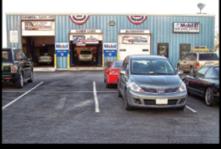
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RICHMOND TRIANGLE PLAYERS

We are proud to be the longestoperating professional theatre in the entire mid- Atlantic community that has continuously produced works relevant to the LGBTQ experience – in fact, we are now in our 29th season, despite the temporary closure caused by an unparalleled pandemic!

We are proud that the works we have produced have made a

positive impact on our community, and have helped shape Richmond's conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion. And we are especially proud that in this time of need, RTP's patrons made it clear through their extraordinary support how much they

love the theatre we create.

We are now regarded as one of the major cultural entities in Central
Virginia, and have received international recognition for our work, in addition to commendations from the Virginia Legislature, recognition as a 2019

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Maker by the Valentine
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Region Collaborative, and as an OUTstanding Virginian at the 2018 statewide Equality Virginia dinner.

Whether it's your first or fiftieth time at Richmond Triangle Players, thank you for joining us! We hope you will be with us for many years to come.

CONTACT US

BY EMAIL:

Box Office, resv@rtriangle.org
Philip Crosby, Executive Director crosby@rtriangle.org
Lucian Restivo, Artistic Director lrestivo@rtriangle.org
George M. Smith III, Community Engagement Manager gmsmith@rtriangle.org
Erinn Perry, Volunteer Coordinator volunteers@rtriangle.org

TRIANGLE PLAYERS

BY MAIL: Richmond Triangle Players PO Box 6905 Richmond, VA 23230 **RTP HOTLINE:** 804-346-8113

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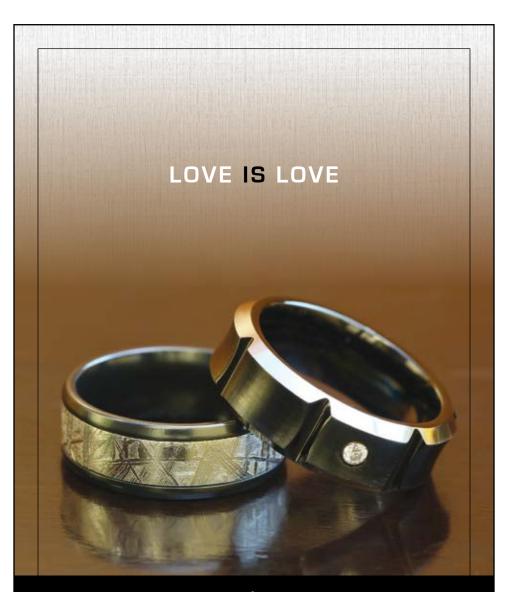
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RICHMOND TRIANGLE PLAYERS MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

Earlier this season, the Board realized it was time to update RTP's mission and values statement to make it more relevant to the times we live in, while honoring the almost three decades of history this organization has achieved. We are proud to share our work with you.

Richmond Triangle Players offers entertaining, thought-provoking, and inspiring theatre that explores identity, culture, and family across sexual orientation and gender spectrums, celebrating and giving voice to the variety and complexity of LGBTQ+ experiences.

We uplift hearts, open minds, and advance our community's conversation about diversity, equity, and inclusion by telling stories with emotion, humor, and authenticity.

Our vision is that everyone arrives in our space feeling safe and welcomed and leaves feeling fulfilled and affirmed, perhaps even challenged and changed.

A nonprofit, professional theatre company founded in 1993, RTP takes pride in being the leading performing arts company in the region that produces high quality transformational programming rooted in queer experiences and supports the development of queer artistry.





RICHMOND TRIANGLE PLAYERS

performing at the **ROBERT B. MOSS THEATRE Philip Crosby**, Executive Director; **Lucian Restivo**, Artistic Director; presents

The Pink Unicorn

by Elise Forier Edie

Scenic Design Dasia Gregg and Michael Riley	Costume Design Claire Bronchick	Lighting Design Austin Harber
Sound Design Candace Hudert	Properties Design and Technical Direction Lucian Restivo	Dialect Design Louise Casini Hollis
Hair and Make Up Design Luke Newsome	Assistant Director Katherine Moore	Production Stage Manager Dwight Merritt

Director **Raja Benz**

The Cast

The play is performed in one act, without an intermission.

The Pink Unicorn is presented by arrangement with the author.

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Special Thanks to: Bill Harrison, Ivan Trittipoe, Diversity Thrift and Diversity Richmond; Amanda Carter, Rick Lyons, Lunch/Supper; Michael Maddix, Don Warren and Jeff Wells

Richmond Triangle Players' 2021-22 Season is made possible in part through support from:

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, CultureWorks Grant Program, the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation Resilience Fund, the Shubert Foundation, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



THE COMPANY

Marie Lucas (Trisha Lee, she/her/hers) is marking her homecoming to the Richmond stage with this production of The Pink Unicorn, after spending the past decade acting, writing and directing in Chicago, Illinois. After earning her BFA in Performance Theatre from Virginia Commonwealth University, she moved to the Windy City where she has been credited under her maiden name, Marie Weigle, with several theatre companies and collectives. A collective member with The Agency Theatre Collective, she appeared as Stella in Blonde Poison and Dee, in International Falls as well as writing and appearing in many devised works such as Check Your Privilege for The Agency's Basement Series. Favorite Chicago roles include Bianca in Taming of the Shrew with The Arc Theatre and Bonnie in Bonnie and Clyde with Titus Ship Production Company. A founding member of Alluvium Group, she co-directed, wrote and produced I am No Bird, an original work about the Bronte sisters. Her film roles include Angie in the feature film Scent and various roles with Giunta Creative. She would like to thank the RVA theatre community, especially RTP and the entire Pink Unicorn team, for the warm welcome, Amber, for her unending encouragement, and to Cody for being her sun, moon, stars and world.

THE AUTHOR

Elise Forier Edie (she/her/hers) is an author of fantasy novels, stories and popular plays. Her most recent publications include "All through the Night" in the Ellen Datlow and Lisa Morton edited anthology, "Haunted Nights", and "Lucy in the Sky," in The Enchanted Conversation. Her paranormal romance novella,"The Devil in Midwinter" was released in 2014 by World Weaver Press. Elise is a member of the Horror Writers Association (HWA), The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and the Authors Guild. She has taught writing and arts classes at Central Washington University, Northland Pioneer College, West Los Angeles College and the Arizona Commission on the Arts. She is a proud graduate of the Odyssey Writing Workshop. Elise lives in southern California with her actor/writer husband, Keith Edie, and their two dogs, Krypto and Jubilee. When she is not writing, she likes to make quilts and soup, but rarely at the same time.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Raja Benz (Director, she/her/siyá) is a trans, Filipina-American theatre maker, intimacy educator, and cultural theorist from Chicago currently based in Richmond. Raja is an Assistant Faculty Member with Theatrical Intimacy



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Education (theatricalintimacyed.com), as well as an Adjunct Faculty member and Graduate Student in the Theatre Performance Pedagogy program at Virginia Commonwealth University. Additionally, Raja is pursuing a post-baccalaureate certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. Raja's work centers on queer and trans intimacies and their capacity to serve as specifically anti-capitalist critiques of power and supremacy. Raja's thesis, "QT-PIES: Queer & Trans Intimacy— Emergent Strategies" outlines a particularly queer methodology for teaching performance in the 21st century. Raja holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from Northern Illinois University as well as a certificate in Acting from the Moscow Art Theatre School.

Claire Bronchick (Costume Design, they/them) is a Los Angeles-born theatre artist. They studied at L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris, France and obtained their BA in Theatre and French at Sarah Lawrence College in May 2020. Claire has performed at the Hollywood Fringe Festival and recently played Philoclea in Head over Heels, in addition to puppet designing for a new play Lil' Amanda Show. clairebronchick.com

Dasia Gregg (Scenic and Projection Design, she/her/hers) is excited to be working her second production with the wonderful Richmond Triangle Players! She is based in Richmond, VA, graduating from TheatreVCU in 2018 with a BFA in Theatre and concentration in Scenic Design, and is currently residing as Asst. Scenic Charge at the Virginia Repertory Theatre. Recent credits include Scenic Designer for RTP's 4000 Days, as well as The Revolutionists and Scenic/Projection Designer for Level 4 (both at TheatreLAB), and Associate Projection Designer for LIVE ART: FAMILY (SPARC). Very excited to be working back in the theatre once again!

Austin Harber (Lighting Designer, he/him/his) is in his final semester of VCU! He will finally obtain a fancy paper, solidifying him as a Bachelor of Fine Arts. So wish him luck as he enters into a new chapter of his life and history. Previous shows for RTP include *Times Square Angel* and *This Bitter Earth*. Austin would also like to thank his family and friends for supporting him. Special thanks to Chase Piazza. Please enjoy the show!

Louise Casini Hollis (Dialect Coach, she/her/hers) holds an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy with an emphasis in Voice from VCU and a MALS in Performance Studies from The University of Memphis.



100 East Franklin Street, Downtown RVA 1.804.783.7000 | www.lindenrowinn.com Candace Hudert (Sound Designer, any pronouns) is a Richmond native and graduate from Sarah Lawrence College with concentrations in directing and public policy. Additionally, he studied at the National Theatre Institute and Accademia dell'Arte. As a theatrical jack-of-all, she is eager to expand this play's world through its soundscape. Her most recent work was as a fellow with the international artist activist group EMERGENYC, and kick starting his own ttrpg, Cryptid (Mis)Communication, a joyously confounding outdoor game. Upcoming work includes a theatrical-gaming collaboration: "Ranked Choice Dating." In the past, they have worked with RTP as a part of the inaugural *Spectrum* cohort. He is thrilled to be working with everyone on the creative team to bring this touching story to life. Find her online at whatnamesvo.carrd.co

Dwight Merritt (Production Stage Manager, he/him/his) is happy to be working a show after the entire shut down of life we all just came out of. Happy to be here at RTP and doing *The Pink Unicorn* with all these amazing and beautiful humans. HaveSoul.

Katherine Moore (Assistant Director, she/her/hers) is very excited to get back into directing, with her first production at Richmond Triangle Players. Her directing credits include productions of *Extremities* at both John Tyler Community and Elon University. She also received her BFA in Acting while at Elon. She currently works at Safe Harbor, a local nonprofit that supports survivors of sexual and domestic violence and human trafficking. She wants to thank her husband, Alex, and her mom, dad, and brother for their continued support of her passions.

Luke Newsome (Hair and Make-Up Design, he/him/his) is always happy to help out RTP in any way that he can! Previous RTP design credits: *Molly House* (costume/hair/makeup designer) and *Lazarus Syndrome* (props designer). Performance credits include *The Rocky Horror Show, It Shoulda Been You*, and *Time Square Angel*, among many more! Luke is also a drag queen in the RVA nightlife scene, Wette Midler! She can be found on Instagram, @wettemidler. Enjoy the show!

Michael Riley (Co-Set Designer, he/him/his) is incredibly excited to be a part of Richmond Triangle Players first show this season. He has been working for the organization as a bartender for the last two years and is very thankful to have their first creative role with RTP this season. He



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holds a BA in Theater and Dance, a concentration in technical design and a studio art minor from James Madison University. Michael would like to give thanks and praise to all of the cast and crew for allowing him to cocreate on this beautiful project and a very special thanks to Lucian and Raja for this inspiring opportunity.

RTP MANAGEMENT

Philip Crosby (Executive Director, he/him/his) is in his second decade leading Richmond Triangle Players. He has over thirty-five years of experience leading nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, including as a professional marketer, publicist, fundraiser and strategist for Cleveland's Great Lakes Theater Festival, Boston Shakespeare Festival, TheatreVirginia, and Richmond Ballet. During his career, he has had the great good fortune to work with some of the most celebrated names in theatre, film and dance, including Tom Hanks, Olympia Dukakis, Hal Holbrook, Alfred Drake, George Abbott, Ruby Dee, Graciela Daniele, Gerald Freedman, Bart Cook and Maria Calegari. He joined the Board of RTP in 2001, and became the company's first full-time Managing Director in 2009. In concert with RTP's Board, artists, staff, patrons and volunteers, he has helped transform this company from a small fringe theater into one of Richmond's most vital arts institutions and the cultural anchor of the revitalized Scott's Addition neighborhood. He holds a BS in Speech from Northwestern University. He was appointed by former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe to serve on the Commonwealth's first LGBT Tourism Task Force, has served on several advisory panels for the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and has been a member of Richmond Region Tourism's OutRVA Campaign since its inception. He is the current president of the RVA Theatre Alliance and serves on the board of the Scott's Addition Business Association. None of this would be possible without the love and support of his husband, David Ballas.

Lucian Restivo (Artistic Director, he/him/his) is a theatre professional in the Richmond area. Most recent directing credits include 4000 Days, Seven Homeless Mammoths... (2019 RTCC nomination for Best Play), The Laramie Project (2019 RTCC winner for Best Director - Play and Best Play), and The View UpStairs with RTP; Murder Ballad with 5th Wall Theatre. He has also assisted Justin Amellio in directing bare: a pop opera (2013 RTCC winner for Best Musical), and The Boy from Oz with RTP. Favorite

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RTP MANAGEMENT (Continued)

sound design credits include *Act of God, Buyer and Cellar,* and *Corpus Christi* with RTP; *Dry Land* (2017 RTCC nomination for Achievement in Sound Design) and *Grand Concourse* (2017 RTCC winner for Best Play) with TheatreLAB. Favorite acting credits include *Almost, Maine* and *The Little Lion* (Joel) with Swift Creek Mill Theatre; *The Lyons* (Curtis) with 5th Wall Theatre; *Dog Sees God* (Beethoven) at the Firehouse Theatre Project; *bare: a pop opera* (Lucas), *Psycho Beach Party* (Yo-Yo), *Corpus Christi* (2017 RTCC nomination for Best Play and Best Ensemble Acting), *The Normal Heart* (2017 RTCC nomination for Best Play) with RTP. He was a part of the Top 40 Under 40 Class of 2017. He has toured internationally with Missoula Children's Theatre and nationally with VA Rep. He has also worked with Ford's Theatre and The Studio Theatre in Washington, DC. He is a proud dog dad to Leo and drag husband to Wette Midler. VCU '11.

RICHMOND TRIANGLE PLAYERS MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

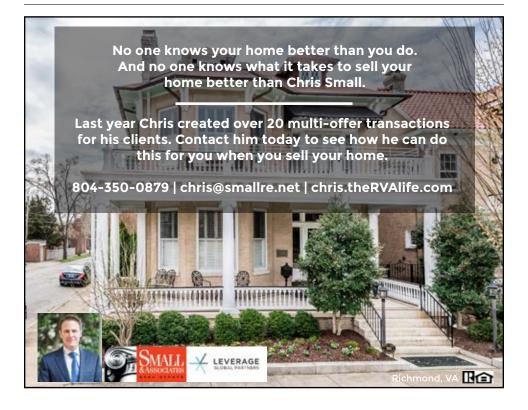
Executive Director Philip Crosby
Artistic Director Lucian Restivo
Community Engagement Manager George M. Smith III
Accountant Terry Sherman, CPA*
Graphic Design and Photography John MacLellan*
Literary Manager Dexter Ramey*
Artistic Associates Matthew Akers*, Kikau Alvaro*, Justin Amellio*
Bar ManagerSavita Sinha*
Volunteer Coordinator Erinn Perry*

*part-time, contracted or volunteer positions

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RICHMOND TRIANGLE PLAYERS

acknowledges that the Robert B. Moss Theatre is located on the unceded land of the Powhatan Confederacy. We also would like to acknowledge that the greater Richmond, Virginia area is located on the unceded land of the Monacan Nation. We acknowledge both the Powhatan Confederacy and the Monacan Nation as the original caretakers of this land and we pay our respects to the elders of the past, present, and future.

We also would like to acknowledge that as our industry continues to experience the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, patrons are using the internet and other technologies that are not readily accessible in every present day indigenous community.

We pledge to do the work necessary to build relationships with the surrounding indigenous communities to fulfill our mission of being an inclusive space for all identities.





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RICHMOND TRIANGLE PLAYERS

Community Change Agent and Neighborhood Cultural Anchor

WHO WE ARE

For almost 30 years, Richmond Triangle Players has been transforming our community's conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion through the production of LGBTQ-themed works.

A nonprofit, professional theatre company organized in 1993, RTP is the only professional theatre company in the Richmond area – and the longest continually operating one in the entire Mid-Atlantic region – which expressly and regularly serves the LGBTQ community. While other local theatres occasionally produce plays with LGBTQ content, only Triangle Players has made an ongoing commitment to LGBTQ artists, issues, audiences and community support.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

In 2009, RTP vacated the crumbling building in which its theater had been housed and transformed an old radiator shop in a then-unknown neighborhood, into the warm, welcoming and exciting performance venue you are sitting in today.

Since then, RTP has won acclaim from its growing and diverse audiences,

*Continued on page 26**





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as well as from the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle, with over 100 "Best" nominations, and awards for Best Play and Best Musical multiple times each. The readers of *STYLE Weekly* have twice voted Richmond Triangle Players as Richmond's Best Local Theatre Company, in addition to naming RTP in its "Top Three" every year.

In 2018, Richmond Triangle Players was honored at the statewide Equality Virginia dinner as one of that year's "OUTstanding Virginians," and in 2019 was privileged to be named a "Richmond History Maker," by the Valentine Museum and Capital Region Collaborative.

Additional plaudits have come from the national publication *Playbill.com*, which named RTP as one of the 15 most important theaters of its kind in the nation, as well as in an editorial from the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* which said, in part: "RTP has been consistently willing to explore tough

Continued on page 29





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issues involving people who are gay in America and the challenges — and triumphs — they experience ... Their dramatic success here has opened doors and opened minds the old-fashioned way — through laughter, tears, and telling truth."

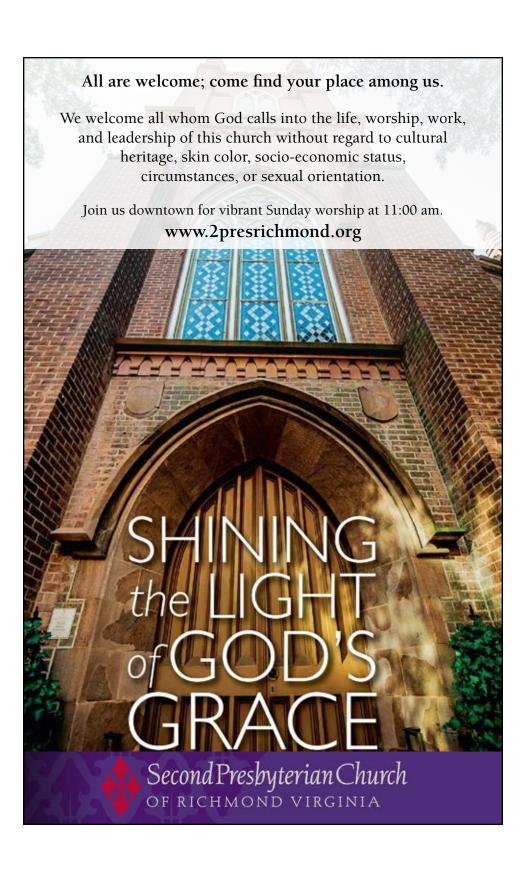
RTP is also the cultural anchor of Scott's Addition, one of the most vibrant new neighborhoods in Richmond to live, play or work, hosting over 160 events to the delight of over 10,000 enthusiastic patrons annually.

Most important, in June 2018, Triangle Players was proud to announce the completion of its 25th Anniversary Campaign, which enabled the company to purchase its building free and clear, complete exterior renovations including a signature marquee canopy, refresh its lobby and

Continued on page 32









bar area, add a staff position, upgrade its lighting and sound equipment, undergird its Annual Fund, and establish both an Operating Reserve Fund and an endowed fund for the development of New Works.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The world is certainly a different place since the days of our humble beginnings – performing for small audiences on a makeshift stage in the attic of a now-defunct afterhours club. Yet while RTP – and our community – has made so may strides in today's America, there still are many challenges ahead.

Our equality teeters on the vital intersection of the LGBTQ+ community and the RVA community in a time in our nation's history where much progress has been made – yet so many obstacles remain. In our community – now coping with the effects of a global pandemic, and with no further patience to idly accept systemic racism built into its very fabric – RTP's singular voice in the community is needed now more than ever.

GET CLOSER TO US

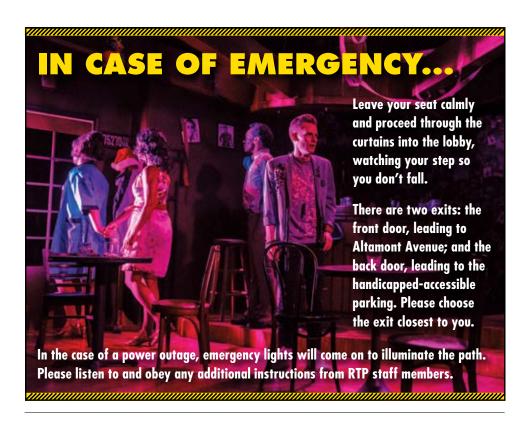
Your gift to our Annual Fund not only guarantees we can keep our unique voice strong, but will enable you to get closer to the artists and pull back the curtain on our process through a series of exclusive events, so that you feel a closer part of the RTP family.

Please pledge your support for RTP today. Simply go to www.rtriangle.org to make a secure donation with your credit or debit card... you can even set up recurring payments! It couldn't be faster, easier – or more important.

Thanks for going all out with us!







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SUPPORT THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK

As a part of our landmark 25th Anniversary Campaign, RTP founder John Knapp and his husband Tim Gillham graciously endowed a new fund to support the creation and development of original LGBTQ work, especially musical theater work. RTP audiences will start seeing the fruits of that investment this season, as we kick off the inaugural So.Queer Playwrights Festival (see our web site for more information).

Additional gifts to support *The John Knapp and Tim Gillham Fund* are welcomed and encouraged. For more information, contact RTP Executive Director Philip Crosby at *crosby@rtriangle.org*

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR RTP

Did you know it is possible to support Richmond Triangle Players through your will or IRA?

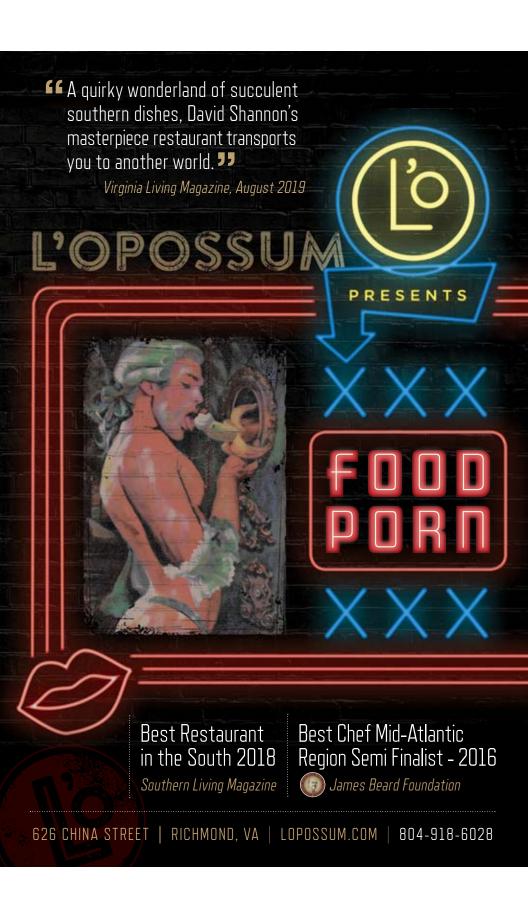
Please help us sustain the work that we do by including Richmond Triangle Players in your estate planning. Your generosity will enable theatergoers to enjoy shows at RTP well into the future and will help us continue to offer in-depth education programs that directly benefit area youth. If you choose to include RTP in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you personally for making such a vital and important commitment.

Making RTP a beneficiary of your retirement plan is both tax efficient and as easy as changing the beneficiary form with your IRA administrator and designating RTP as a primary, contingent or partial beneficiary. Alternatively you can make a bequest through your will, codicil or trust. Here is an example:

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Richmond Triangle Players' Legacy Society honors individuals that have chosen to arrange a planned gift with a value of \$5,000 or above. Benefits are life-long and begin as soon as you notify us of your gift and send a copy of the documentation that mentions RTP.

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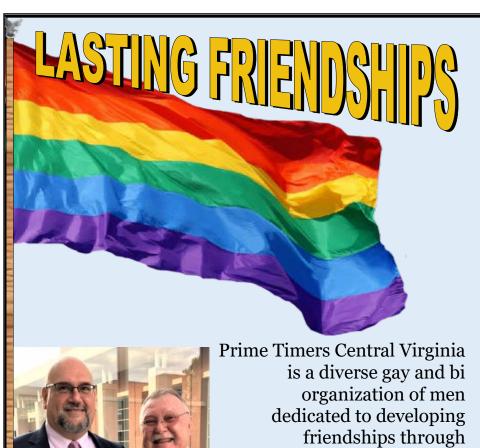
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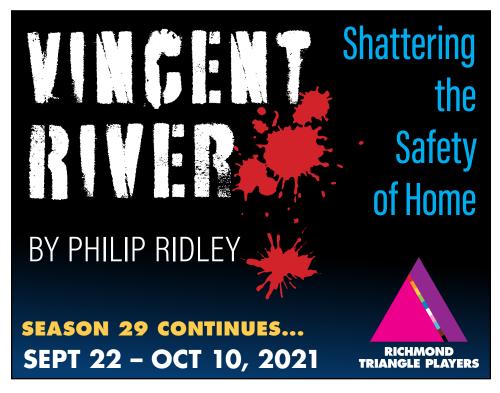
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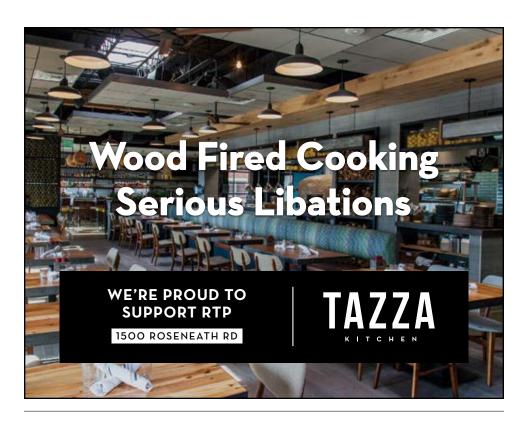
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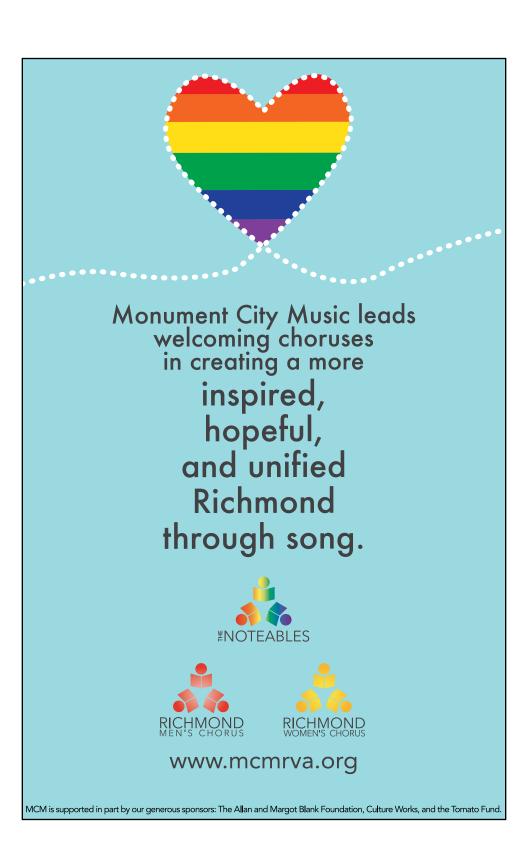
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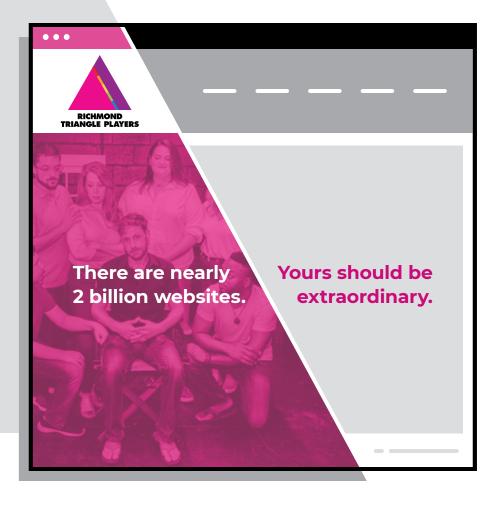
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INCREASING TRANSGENDER VISIBILITY

We empower & uplift transgender Virginians through valuable programming & resources such as the annual TIES conference.





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We encourage small & large businesses to embrace diversity in the workplace & commit to the inclusion of LGBT employees & customers.



Productions will run until Virginia is a safe, welcome, & equal place for LGBT individuals & their families to live, work, & play.

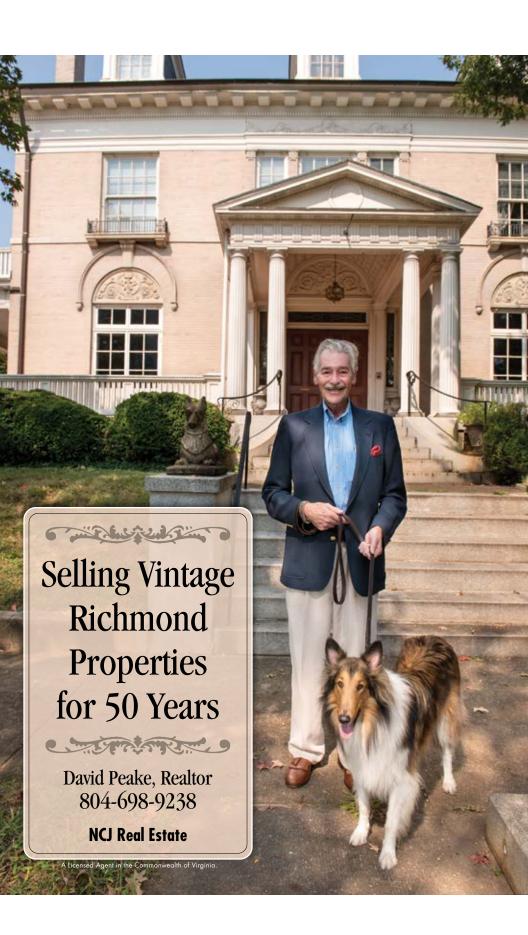
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