

NEWS RELEASE



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***ASF Announces Provocative Premieres this Spring:
NOBODY and THE FALL OF THE HOUSE
World Premieres that Take it to the Edge! Will You Go There With Us?***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Montgomery, Alabama (Tuesday, February 16, 2010) The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, one of the country's leading theatres in the creation of new stage works, will produce the world premieres of *Nobody* and *The Fall of the House* this spring. Produced in a series called Provocative Premieres, *Nobody* will run March 12-28 and *The Fall of the House* will run April 9-25. Both plays have been developed through ASF's prestigious Southern Writers' Project new play development program. The Provocative Premieres are suggestive, stimulating and extreme, promising to take audiences to the edge.

Tickets for *Nobody* and *The Fall of the House* range from \$20-\$36 per show and can be purchased at the ASF Box Office, by visiting on line at www.asf.net or by phone at **800.841.4273**. ASF is located at 1 Festival Drive in Montgomery's Blount Cultural Park.

Richard Aellen's new musical play *Nobody* is based on an uncomfortable and important piece of history—the minstrel show—highlighted by the tempestuous lives of Bert Williams and George Walker, who broke racial barriers by portraying racial stereotypes. The two down-on-their-luck African American vaudevillians can't catch a break until they do the unthinkable - don blackface. But with fame and fortune come personal and social turmoil that threaten their relationships and their lives. The score for *Nobody* features a number of William's and Walker's turn of the century vaudeville tunes.

The Fall of the House, written by Robert Ford, is a darkly sophisticated work that involves a mystic whose supernatural life intertwines with famed writer Edgar Allan Poe and that of a young African American female architect in the twentieth century. Through movement in time and place over the course of 150 years, surprising personal connections and answers to tragic events are revealed.

Nobody will be directed by Tim Rhoze, who directed ASF's 2009 spectacular world premiere hit *Bear Country*. Musical Direction will be by Brett Rominger. *The Fall of the House* will be directed by ASF's associate director and director of the Southern Writers' Project, Nancy Rominger. Rominger directed the debut of Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's *The Furniture of Home* at ASF last winter.

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James Bowen (Bert Williams) and Sean Blake (George Walker) will be featured in *Nobody*. Bowen and Blake performed in workshop readings of the play at the Southern Writers' Project Festival of New Plays.

Jonathan C. Kaplan, Erika LaVonn, Margaret Robinson, Angela K. Thomas and Gerritt Vandermeer will be performing roles in both world premieres.

Other recent ASF world premieres include *Gee's Bend* (also by Wilder) and Mark Saltzman's *Rocket City*. Both plays have been published by Samuel French, Inc., one of the world's biggest play publishing houses.

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount's gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.

This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Fact Sheet

Provocative Premieres

2009-2010 Season

Produced by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival

***Nobody* by Richard Aellen**

Dates: **Previews:** March 12 & 13, 2010

Opening: March 14, 2010

Regular Performances: March 18-28, 2010; Thurs. – Sat evening at 7:30; 2 PM matinees Sat. & Sun.

Prices: Preview performances only \$20! Adult tickets are \$36. To purchase, call the ASF Box Office at (334) 271-5353 or toll-free at 1-800-841-4273. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.asf.net.

Location: The Octagon Stage in the Carolyn Blount Theatre, home of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, located in the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park, on Woodmere Boulevard just off East Boulevard.

Production Staff:	<i>Director</i>	Tim Rhoze
	<i>Musical Director</i>	Brett Rominger
	<i>Scenic Designer</i>	Peter Hicks
	<i>Costume Designer</i>	Elizabeth Novak
	<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Tom Rodman
	<i>Sound Designer</i>	Richelle Thompson
	<i>Dramaturg</i>	Susan Willis
	<i>Stage Manager</i>	Jen Nelson Lane*
<i>Production Assistant</i>	Nathan Stamper	

Cast:	<i>Bert Williams</i>	James Bowen*
	<i>George Walker</i>	Sean Blake*
	<i>Lottie Williams, Doreen Overton</i>	Erika LaVonn*
	<i>Ada Overton Walker</i>	Angela K. Thomas*
	<i>Tambo, Haftner, Jules, Ziegfeld, Policeman Mike</i>	Gerritt Vandermeer*
	<i>Bones, Harry, Chief Bugaboo, Eugene, Policeman Jimmy, Danny, Lew Dockstader</i>	Jonathan C. Kaplan*
	<i>Eva Tanguay, Betty, Sandy</i>	Margaret Loesser Robinson*

Audience: **This production is recommended for mature audiences only, due to strong language and adult situations.**

Synopsis: A pair of down-on-their-luck African-American vaudevillians can't catch a break until they do the unthinkable - don blackface. This provocative new musical story is based on the tempestuous lives of Bert Williams and George Walker, who broke racial barriers by portraying racial stereotypes.

Setting: Vaudeville playhouses around the country, New York City; Early to mid twentieth century.

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***The Fall of the House* by Robert Ford**

- Dates:** **Previews:** April 9 & 10, 2010 **Opening:** April 11, 2010
- Regular Performances:** April 15 - 25, 2010; Thurs. – Sat evening at 7:30; 2 PM matinees Sat. & Sun.
- Prices:** Preview performances only \$20! Adult tickets are \$36. To purchase, call the ASF Box Office at (334) 271-5353 or toll-free at 1-800-841-4273. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.asf.net.
- Location:** The Octagon Stage in the Carolyn Blount Theatre, home of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, located in the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park, on Woodmere Boulevard just off East Boulevard.
- Production Staff:**
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| <i>Director</i> | Nancy Rominger |
| <i>Scenic Designer</i> | Peter Hicks |
| <i>Costume Designer</i> | Elizabeth Novak |
| <i>Lighting Designer</i> | Tom Rodman |
| <i>Sound Designer</i> | Richelle Thompson |
| <i>Dramaturg</i> | Susan Willis |
| <i>Stage Manager</i> | Jen Nelson Lane* |
| <i>Production Assistant</i> | Nathan Stamper |
- Cast:**
- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Munny</i> | Erika LaVonn* |
| <i>Eliza Poe</i> | Margaret Loesser Robinson* |
| <i>David Poe</i> | Jonathan C. Kaplan* |
| <i>Edgar Allan Poe</i> | Gerritt Vandermeer* |
| <i>Janice Berry</i> | Angela K. Thomas* |
| <i>Young Janice</i> | Jonathan C. Kaplan* |
| <i>Wilson</i> | Gerritt Vandermeer* |
| <i>Cage</i> | Jonathan C. Kaplan* |
| <i>Judge</i> | Margaret Loesser Robinson* |
| <i>Jack</i> | Jonathan C. Kaplan* |
| <i>Lucy</i> | Margaret Loesser Robinson* |
- Audience:** **This production is recommended for mature audiences only, due to strong language and adult situations.**
- Synopsis:** The spirit of Edgar Allan Poe haunts this mind-bending new play that brings together magic, betrayal, forbidden love, tragic accidents, secret documents and familial bonds that span 150 years.
- Setting:** Aboard a steamliner traveling from Richmond, Virginia to Boston, Massachusetts in the 1880s; an 1811 Garrett occupied by Eliza Poe; a modern day courtroom; the Shenandoah Mountains in modern day.

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