

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

# ***ASF***

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## ***ASF's Rocket City Blasts Off to Birmingham!***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MONTGOMERY, AL (Friday, May 1, 2008) The Alabama Shakespeare Festival will once again bring an intriguing Alabama tale to Birmingham. *Rocket City*, a Southern Writers' Project World Premiere set in Huntsville, Alabama in the early days of the space program, will have a limited engagement at the Alys Stephens Center May 22 – 25 playing in the Sirote Theatre.

In *Rocket City*, Hamilton Pike, Jr., a brash Army major moves famed German rocket scientist Wernher Von Braun and his team to Huntsville, Alabama as the U.S. enters the Cold War. Sparks fly when Amy Lubin, the young Jewish fiancée of a local war hero, becomes aware of Von Braun's Nazi past and attempts to lead a public outcry against the weapons project.

This fascinating production was written by Emmy Award winning playwright Mark Saltzman. Saltzman's credits include being a writer for Jim Henson's Muppets, *Sesame Street* songs and sketches, *The Adventures of Milo and Otis*, *The Red Sneakers* (directed by and starring Gregory Hines); co-writer for *A, My Name is Alice*; and writer-producer of the Disney Channel TV show "Johnny and the Sprites."

"Bringing *Gee's Bend* to Birmingham was a great opportunity to connect directly with our Birmingham patrons and we are so pleased to share *Rocket City*, another exciting Alabama story, with that audience," said ASF Director of Marketing and Communications Alicia Johnson-Reed.

*Rocket City* will be presented in Birmingham May 22 and 23 at 7:30pm, May 24 at 2pm and 7:30pm and May 25 at 2pm at the Sirote Theatre in the Alys Stephens Center, 1200 10th Avenue South, Birmingham. Tickets are \$38 - \$42. To purchase tickets or for more information call the Alys Stephens Center box office at (205) 975-ARTS or the ASF box office at 1-800-841-4ASF.

*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.*

*The Birmingham tour of this show is generously sponsored by The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and the Hugh Kaul Foundation with support from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.*

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