

NEWSFLASH

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The latest on the establishment of The American National Theatre

<http://www.americannationaltheatre.org>

In Memoriam



August Wilson

Playwright

(1945-2005)

August Wilson blessed us in May when he became the first recipient of The American National Theatre Arthur Miller Founders' Award. As a still fledgling organization, we were blessed by his appearance, certainly. But his speech that evening was its own blessing -- an incantation, really, entreating all those present to "storm the battlements." This he did in the gentlest and most eloquent way, addressing the audience that night as though a college of his peers. In fact, Mr. Wilson had few peers since he first set out on the re-discovery of the twentieth century through his momentous 10-play cycle. By doing so, he set a distinctive mark for dramatic excellence that may never be equaled, while at the same time reminding America (and the world) that the realization of its artistic promise and, indeed, its greatness as

a nation depends on the opportunities provided for all its
people.

Mr. Wilson surely seized his own opportunities and in doing
so blessed America with great drama, great life, and great art.

"Welcome to The American National Theatre Founders' Celebration"

Film Premieres at www.americannationaltheatre.org... Director Charles Schultz has assembled a 12-minute highlight film of The ANT Founders' Celebration, held at New York's Dodger Stages in May. The film features a tour of the event; excerpts from each of the new monologues and songs performed by a brilliant cast for the Voices of America program; remarks by James Naughton, Tovah Feldshuh, Phyicia Rashad, and ANT President Sean Cullen; and the late August Wilson's stirring acceptance of The American National Theatre Founders' Arthur Miller Founders' Award.

ANT Tackles Next Round of Budgeting and Business Planning with Robert Chelimsky, Former Managing Director of Virginia Stage Company... The ANT has entered into a consulting agreement with Robert Chelimsky, former Managing Director of Virginia Stage Company and Co-Founder of the Smoky Mountain Shakespeare Festival, to assist the organization in updating its budget and re-drawing its business plan. The ANT expects to have both completed by mid-December.

ANT Continues to Draw High-Powered Support with Latest Award-Winning Class of Founders' Committee Members... Throwing their support behind last May's Founders' Celebration and the run-up to the Festival and inaugural season, The ANT is thrilled to add to its Founders' Committee these leading lights and spirits of the American theatre: the actresses Tovah Feldshuh, Elizabeth Franz, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Julianna Margulies, and Faith Prince; the actors Kevin Bacon, Stephen Bogardus, Ben Gazzara, and Zeljko Ivanek; the director Daniel Sullivan, and the producer Marty Richards. They join actresses Blair Brown, Kathleen Chalfant, and Donna Murphy; actors Victor Garber and Hugh Jackman; director and producer Harold Prince; and retired talent agent Monty Silver.

Advisory Panels Fortified by Cross-Section of Top Women and Men of the American Theatre... They come from Manhattan, Brooklyn, Chautauqua, Minneapolis, and Wilmington. They're playwrights, actors, directors, designers, stage managers, artistic directors, master teachers, and administrators. With great pride, The ANT welcomes this outstanding group to its administrative and artistic advisory panels:

Gregory Abels, Director and Master Teacher of Acting (New York, NY)

Jackie Antaramian, Actress (New York, NY)

Robert Ari, Actor (New York, NY)

Patrick Fagan, Business and Marketing Director, The Chautauqua Theater Company (Chautauqua, NY)

Alex Gersten-Vassilaros, Playwright, Actress (New York, NY)

Peter Francis James, Actor, Teacher (New York, NY)

Sabra Jones McAteer, Founder and Artistic Director, the Mirror Repertory Company (New York, NY)

Marion McClinton, Director (Minneapolis, MN)

Jenn Rae Moore, Stage Manager (New York, NY)

Keith Powell, Artistic Director, Contemporary Stage Company (Wilmington, DE)

Michael Sims, Scenic and Costume Designer (New York, NY)

Charles Michael Geyer Brings Wealth of Experience, Savvy, and Commitment to ANT Board... The Board of Directors of The American National Theatre warmly welcomes Charles Michael Geyer to its ranks. Charles, a passionate advocate for The ANT, served as an associate during last May's Founders' Celebration. He is a New York City native and a graduate of Yale University. He has worked at numerous prestigious theaters around the country, including the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, MA; Arena Stage in Washington, DC, Trinity Repertory in Providence, RI and the historic Barter Theater in Abingdon, VA. He is a founding director of the CenterStage Repertory in Scarsdale, NY for which he has staged numerous new and established works. He has directed for the Verismo Opera Association; directed the New York premiere of Ray Bradbury's own musical adaptation of ***Fahrenheit 451***; and wrote the score and lyrics and co-authored the book for ***Lulu: Broadway to Berlin***, an acclaimed West-Coast musical on the life of silent-screen siren Louise Brooks. Charles has appeared on Broadway in Larry Gelbart's comedy ***Mastergate***; in Lincoln Center's ***Abe Lincoln in Illinois*** opposite Sam Waterston; and in the National Actors Theater production of Shaw's ***Saint Joan***; and Off-Broadway in three leading roles in the long-running thriller ***Perfect Crime***. He attended Harvard's Institute for Advanced

Theater Training under Robert Brustein and is an alumnus of Frederic Vogel's Commercial Theatre Institute.

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TO THEATRE-LOVERS AROUND THE WORLD

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