



**News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre**

For Immediate Release

Date: March 22, 2018

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**Virginia Rep's Hanover Tavern Announces the Extension of
*Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End***

**A One-Woman Play starring Catherine Shaffner
Direction by John Moon**

Richmond, VA – Due to extraordinary popular demand, Virginia Rep is pleased to announce the second extension of the one-woman play, ***Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End***, starring Catherine Shaffner as the humorist/housewife, Erma Bombeck. Before the show opened, the play (originally slated to close on April 8th) was extended one week to close on to April 15th. The hilariously entertaining show, directed by John Moon, has been met with such popular and critical acclaim, an additional two week extension has been announced. *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* by Allison and Margaret Engel is onstage now through **April 29th** at the Hanover Tavern, 13181 Hanover Courthouse Road, Hanover, Virginia 23069.

Director **John Moon** has a longtime presence both on and off the Virginia Rep stage, as both actor (*Mary Poppins, Da*) and director (*Buffalo Soldier, This Wonderful Life*). Moon received a Masters in Directing at Columbia University and went on to serve as Associate Artistic Director for both TheatreVirginia and Theatre IV. One of John's passions has always been developing new plays, and he has worked in theatres across the country bringing new works to the stage. He has also been involved in developing plays by young playwrights and teaching classes in the playwriting process.

Moon has partnered with comical powerhouse **Catherine Shaffner**, fresh off the recent successful run of the hysterical hit *Miracle on South Division* on the Tavern stage, to bring the force that is Erma Bombeck to life onstage. Shaffner responded to the task the same way Bombeck's readers did, identifying with her and reveling in her relatability.

“The pressures that were on her, and the way she made the best of her situation, those are all things I have a very firm grasp of,” Shaffner said. Shaffner’s other onstage credits include *Boy in the Bathroom* (Adirondack Theatre Festival), *‘night Mother* (RTCC Award for Best Actress in a Play, Firehouse Theatre) and Virginia Rep’s productions of *Charitable Sisterhood* and *Steel Magnolias*.

The same design team that brought the Nowak’s Buffalo living room to life in *Miracle on South Division Street* reunites to recreate Bombeck’s home on the Tavern stage. Set Design is by **Terrie Powers** (*Da, Dancing Lessons*), Lighting Design is by **BJ Wilkinson** (*Mary Poppins, Da*) and Costume Design is by **Marcia Miller Hailey** (*Charitable Sisterhood Christmas, Charitable Sisterhood*).

Ticket Information

Box Office: 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Full Price Tickets: \$42

Discounted Group Rates available.

Press Kits will be available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to media.

username = press

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Direction & Design

Direction	John Moon
Lighting Design	BJ Wilkinson
Costume Design	Marcia Miller Hailey
Set Design	Terrie Powers
Stage Management	Izzy Kainz/Joe Pabst
Sound Design	Derek Dumais
Props Master	Josh Blum
Props Assistant	Anna Baldwin

Cast List

Erma Bombeck	Catherine Shaffner
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About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is the regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With a budget of \$5 million, four unique venues, an educational touring arm, and an annual audience over 530,000, Virginia Rep is one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. Virginia Rep stages four seasons annually: the Signature Season at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, Theatre Gym Season

in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company, Virginia Rep's Children's Season at Willow Lawn, and the Hanover Tavern Season.

Corporate Sponsors

Virginia Rep is grateful for support from Federal Realty and the Shops at Willow Lawn, *Richmond Family Magazine*, The Shubert Foundation, The Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.