

## ***PlayMakers: The Prologue Series schedule for 2011-12***

The Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library sponsors this series with the Playmakers Repertory Company. All programs are Saturdays from 12 noon to 1 pm. A shuttle leaves from the program site to go to the theater between 12:45 and 1:00 and returns from the theater to the point of origin after the performance.

Except for the October date, the locations for the Friends programs are TBD. Check the Friends web site—<http://friendschpl.org>.

### **Saturday October 1, 2011: In the Next Room (or the vibrator play) – Flyleaf Books**

A 2010 Tony Award nominee for Best Play and Pulitzer Prize finalist. In the late 1800s doctors invented a new medical device to treat patients afflicted with “female hysteria.” A charming and insightful story of desire, frustration, and sympathy and understanding between the sexes. With the sensibility of a play by George Bernard Shaw or Oscar Wilde as seen through the lyrical lens of one of our finest modern playwrights.

"Breathtakingly inventive...a modern masterpiece" – *Los Angeles Times*; "Spirited and stimulating" – *The New York Times*

### **Saturday, November 5: The Parchman Hour**

In the fiery first months of America's civil rights movement, waves of young people, mostly college students, rode buses into the heart of the Deep South. Many were brutally attacked, arrested, and imprisoned in Mississippi's notorious Parchman Farm Penitentiary, where they invented an ingenious pastime to help them endure, a live variety show inspired by programs then popular on radio and television. Jokes, stories, singing and Bible readings sprang from every cell. This nightly event became known as The Parchman Hour. With characters such as Stokely Carmichael, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, The Parchman Hour honors an important piece of history. We are proud to give this inspiring new play its professional premiere.

"A...necessary reminder, not only of the starkest realities of the segregated South, but of the astounding resilience of those who chose to stand against it" - *The Independent Weekly*

### **Saturday, December 10: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?**

If love is a battlefield then these are two of the struggle's consummate contenders in this knock-down, drag-out love story from the savagely wicked pen of an American master. Winner of the Tony Award for Best Play, and so sizzling that the Pulitzer Prize committee chose Virginia Woolf to receive its award for drama, then back-tracked and didn't give an award that year! Join George and Martha and their guests for a gin-soaked evening of fun and games and one dazzlingly nasty fight to the finish.

"Abundant alarming humor that finds the gut-wrenching factor in belly laughs" - *The New York Times*

"Entirely engrossing...relentlessly intense" - *Variety*

**Saturday, February 11: The Making of a King: Henry IV by William Shakespeare**  
(The play on this date is Henry IV.) An epic coming-of-age tale that follows the education of young Prince Hal from his unpromising start in bawdy houses and taverns under the tutelage of the larger-than-life Sir John Falstaff to his rise as one of England's greatest monarchs, King Henry the Fifth. Travel from palaces to battlefields, from civil war in Britain to battles in the "vast fields of France" on another of PlayMakers' great journeys.

Michael Winters, well known from TV's *Gilmore Girls* and last seen at PlayMakers as King Lear in 2004, will play Falstaff.

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**Saturday, April 14: Noises Off**

In this uproarious comedy, a fifth rate theatre troupe on a bottom tier provincial tour shows us both sides of comedic calamity. A hilarious fiasco of flubbed lines and missed cues ensues onstage, compounded by romantic turmoil offstage. By the time the curtain rings down, both the set and the ingénue will be stripped to their knickers and you'll be helpless with laughter.

"A triumph of slapstick choreography"..."doors slam and trousers drop with dizzying abandon" - *Time Magazine*

**PlayMakers reps for Prologues**

PlayMakers Repertory Company, the professional theater in residence in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences, has named Jeffrey Meanza to serve as associate artistic director. He will work closely with producing artistic director Joseph Haj as the theater company expands its artistic programming and community outreach with the dramaturg, Jaiyun Zhuang, and the crafts artisan, Rachel Pollock.