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Link to high resolution images: http://www.hamnertheater.com/Quartet_Press

The Hamner Theater continues its fourth season with **Quartet**

Nellysford, VA, March 23, 2009 - The Hamner Theater announces the opening of the third play of its 2008-2009 season, **Quartet**, by Richard Washer, onstage Wednesday, April 1 through Friday, April 10. This lyrical new play by DC playwright Richard Washer portrays a reunion haunted by hints of unrequited love, as former members of a string quartet recall long-ago events, seen from each person's viewpoint in turn.

Quartet was developed at the first Earl Hamner Playwrights Conference, held at the Hamner Theater in 2006. Last August, **Quartet** was included in the Kennedy Center's 7th annual Page-to-Stage annual showcase for new plays, where a reviewer compared it to a piece of music, saying 'the play's rewards are considerable' (*Leslie Weisman, dctheatrescene*). Says playwright Washer, "The premise of the play, a reunion with a childhood friend, was based on an experience visiting a friend who lives in Nova Scotia. The music aspect was all made up." He continues, "There are many things in life we would like to know that we can never know, so many things we would like to say but we can't find the words or courage to say them."

Playwright, dramaturg, educator and director Richard Washer is a founding member of Washington, D.C.'s Charter Theatre, where he is company dramaturge. His plays have been produced in various venues in the D.C. area over the last twenty years, including New Works Theatre, Charter Theatre and the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts. He currently offers creative playwriting workshops at The Writer's Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He holds a BA in Music and Anthropology from the University of Virginia, and a MFA in Creative Writing from The American University.

The cast of **Quartet** features Jon Cobb, Jim Johnston, Kevin O'Donnell, Dinah Pehrson and Bill Williamson. Most cast members are making a return visit to the Hamner stage. Jon Cobb (Charles) is also known to Hamner Theater regulars as Poe, in Peter Coy's *Poe & All That Jazz*, Jim Johnston (Dieter), was previously seen in *A Shadow of Honor*, *The Homecoming*, *Uncle Vanya* and *You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running*, Dinah Pehrson (Nelly), was also in the Hamner's production of *Love Letters* (appearing with Doug Schneider), and Bill Williamson (Tubey) was most recently in *A House in the Country*. Kevin O'Donnell plays Hans, in his first appearance at the Hamner. **Quartet** is directed by Hamner Theater Co-Artistic Director, Peter Coy, and dramaturged by Hamner Theater Co-Artistic Director, Boomie Pedersen.

Performances of **Quartet** will take place at 7:30pm on Wed. - Sun, April 1 - 5 and Wed. - Fri., April 8 - 10. There will be a free Preview Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30pm. Opening Night performance, Wed., April 1, will be followed by a champagne reception. Talk-back sessions will be held after both Friday performances. All tickets are \$10, at the door, or by reservation at (434)361-1999. Learn more at www.thehamnertheater.com.

About the Hamner Theater: The Hamner Theater, a non-profit project of the Rockfish Valley Community Center, receives funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Donovan Foundation, the Perry Foundation and anonymous donors to support its mission of bringing professional theater to Nelson County.

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Summary:

What: **Quartet**, by Richard Washer

Where: Hamner Theater, 190 Rockfish School Lane, Nellysford, VA

Show Times: Wed. - Sun, April 1 - 5 and Wed - Fri., April 8 - 10 at 7:30pm

Preview: Tuesday, March 31, Free

Tickets: \$10

Reservations/Information: 434.361.1999 or www.hamnertheater.com