



ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

FACT SHEET

MISSION . . .

Round House Theatre produces literary adaptations and contemporary works for the stage, conducts community-based education programs, and provides a home to diverse artists and arts organizations. Our work is expansive: we make art to explore big ideas, broaden minds, move hearts, exercise imaginations, and – ultimately – to build community through the shared experience of live theatre.

ABOUT THE THEATRE. . .

Round House Theatre is one of the leading professional theatre companies in the Washington, DC-metropolitan area. The Montgomery County-based company stages over 200 performances each season at its main stage theatre in Bethesda and its black box space in Silver Spring. Blake Robison joined the company in June 2005 as Producing Artistic Director, succeeding Jerry Whiddon, who held that position for more than 20 years.

The company began in the late 1970's as Street '70, a program of the Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Recreation. Round House remained part of that department until 1993 when it became a separate and independent professional theatre company and staged productions at a 200-seat theatre located on Bushey Drive in Silver Spring. The company moved into a new 400-seat theatre in Bethesda in 2002. The following year the company opened a 150-seat black box theatre in downtown Silver Spring. In 2004, Round House's new Education Center opened in Silver Spring.

Round House Theatre's productions have received 23 Helen Hayes Awards including "Outstanding Resident Production" for *The Drawer Boy* (2004), *Home* (2002), *The Glass Menagerie* (2001) and the "Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play" in 2003 for *Shakespeare, Moses, and Joe Papp*. The company's 2004 production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* received three Helen Hayes Awards, prompting *The Washington Post* to deem the show "a technical powerhouse." Most recently the company received thirteen 2006 Helen Hayes Award nominations in thirteen separate categories for its productions of *columbinus*, *Once on This Island*, *Camille*, and *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Martin Desjardins received the 2006 Helen Hayes Award for "Outstanding Sound Design" for his work on *columbinus*.

Round House Theatre is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. The theatre receives major support from Montgomery County, the Maryland State Arts Council (an agency funded by the State of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts), and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

A WORD ON APPRENTICESHIPS . . .

"Round House Theatre is committed to mentoring the next generation of theatre artists and administrators," says Director of Education & Outreach, Rachel Grossman. All apprenticeships are administered by the theatre's Education & Outreach Department, which assures that all apprentices are given substantive work assignments. Apprentices are regularly evaluated to make sure they are acquiring new skills and are growing as theatre professionals

In past years, graduates of the apprenticeship program have joined Round House full-time staff and found work at such local organizations as the Kennedy Center, Washington Opera, Studio Theatre, and Theatre J, as well as across the country at Alliance Theatre (Atlanta, GA), Center Stage (Baltimore, MD), South Coast Repertory (Costa Mesa, CA), and Signature Theatre Company (New York City) among many others.

While many theatres offer internship programs and other on-the-job learning opportunities, few offer sufficient pay and benefits to make them an option for many candidates. "The two things that really set this program apart are the responsibility that Round House gives it apprentices and the pay with health benefits," says Dorothy Fortenberry, a former apprentice. "I'm able to oversee several programs without living at home or going into debt."