



RICHMOND
PERFORMING
ARTS
ALLIANCE

600 E. Grace Street | Richmond, Virginia | 23219

MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release
March 16, 2022

**Richmond Performing Arts Alliance (RPA) announces its
3rd Annual Women Take the Stage Event**

- Proceeds benefit RPA's BrightLights Education Initiatives

RPA's Women's Leadership Council is excited to announce its **3rd Annual Women Take the Stage event to be hosted** on April 12, 2022 at 12 o'clock – featuring celebrity moderator **Daphne Maxwell Reid** (actress, photographic artist, and designer) and a dynamic lineup of panelists – including **Sadeqa Johnson** (award-winning author), **Maggie Small** (acclaimed ballerina, freelance writer, and studio operator), and **Scottie Thompson** (actress and activist). **Deanna Allbrittin** (evening anchor, ABC 8News) will serve as emcee for the event.

This empowering afternoon event with inspirational messages on "**Embracing the What-ifs**" will take place in the historic and beautiful Carpenter Theatre at Dominion Energy Center. Proceeds benefit the BrightLights Education Initiatives of RPA. This annual event also helps RPA extend its networks and make new connections in the community that further its commitment to diverse programming, arts education, and the preservation of historic venues.

WHAT: Women Take the Stage

Tickets at: <https://rpaalliance.com/WomenTakeTheStage>

Note: Livestream tickets will also be available for this event.

WHO: RPA's Women's Leadership Council (mission: enriching the lives of women in our community through the performing arts while increasing the visibility of and commitment to RPA); Members include: Natalie Garramone (Chair), Sally Bagley, Angela Cain, Suzanne Gardner, Stephanie Gilliard, Carli M. Nelson, Amy Nisenson, Andrea Perdomo, Felicia Perry, Martha Schley Smith, Jackie Stone, and Linda Warren. Event management by Grandeur & Grove Events.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 12 O'clock

WHERE: Carpenter Theatre Stage at Dominion Energy Center (Livestream access via Zoom)

SPONSORS*: Altria; ABC 8News (Media Sponsor); Quirk Hotel (Hotel Sponsor); Rosie's Gives Back; McGuireWoods; Patient First; City Parking Inc.; Four G's Charitable Trust; The Book Bar (In-kind Sponsor)

*Sponsors confirmed as of 3/16/2022

SOCIAL MEDIA: Follow us @RPAAlliance on Facebook and Instagram for all our latest posts.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES: Local panelists (as available) and RPAA board and staff available for interviews with advanced notice.

For inquiries contact Sara Greene, Associate Director of Development:

sgreene@rpaalliance.com

804-592-3378

PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITY: Photos and video can be provided by RPAA.

MORE ABOUT WOMEN TAKE THE STAGE:

In its inaugural year (2019), the SOLD OUT event featured celebrity guest keynote speaker, Amy Robach, co-anchor of ABC's "20/20" and reporter for "Good Morning America" (GMA) and ABC News, as well as a diverse panel of Richmond area women – including Kristen Cavallo (CEO of The Martin Agency), Shannon Siriano Greenwood (Co-Founder of Rebelle Con) and Pamela J. Royal, M.D. (Owner and President, Royal Dermatology).

In 2021, the virtual event featured guest speaker Christine Simmons, Chief Operating Officer of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars.org) as well as Richmond panelists – Eva DeVirgilis (Award-winning Playwright, Actress and Makeup Artist), Stephanie J. Gilliard, Esq. (Vice President, Legal Affairs/General Counsel - Virginia for Colonial Downs Group, LLC) and Lisa Ruggles (Senior Vice President of Analytics, Research and News for CoStar Group).

Richmond Performing Arts Alliance (formerly Richmond CenterStage Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to advance the performing arts in the Richmond region through programs and resources that SUPPORT the artists of today, NURTURE the artists of tomorrow, and provide spaces for the arts to THRIVE. RPAA venues include Dominion Energy Center, home to the historic Carpenter Theatre, Libby S. Gottwald Playhouse and Rhythm Hall, as well as Altria Theater – the largest performance venue between New York and Atlanta. Its arts education initiatives operate out of the Genworth BrightLights Education Center and reach students of all ages in the City of Richmond and surrounding counties.

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