



**Port City Playhouse's Fourth Production of Its 35<sup>th</sup> Season, *Six Degrees of Separation*, Opens on April 19**

Port City Playhouse, Alexandria's award-winning theatre company, is pleased to conclude its 2012-13 season with *Six Degrees of Separation* by John Guare. Performances are Friday-Saturday, April 19-20 & 26-27, May 3-4, and Tuesday, April 30, at 8:00 PM, with Saturday matinees on April 27 and May 4 at 2:00 PM. Port City Playhouse is located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, Virginia 22302 – just east of I-395 at the Shirlington exit. General admission tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 for seniors, military and students, and \$14 for groups of ten or more.

*Six Degrees of Separation* explores the existential premise that everyone in the world is connected to everyone else by a chain of no more than six acquaintances, that there are literally only six degrees of separation between all people. The plot was inspired by the real-life story of David Hampton, a con man who convinced numerous people in the 1980s that he was the son of actor Sidney Poitier. Director Mary Ayala-Bush has assembled a talented cast, with Chaz Pando as Paul, Dana Gattuso as Ouisa, Chuck Leonard as Flan, Tricia O'Neill-Politte as Kitty, Dell Pendergrast as Larkin, Cal Whitehurst as Geoffrey, Ron Field as Dr. Fine, Jon Poole as Woody, Jennifer McClean as Tess, Lonnie D. Simmons as Doug, Kyle McGruther as Trent, Shaina Goldschlag as Beth, Kathleen Alvania as Elizabeth, Marcus Andersen as Rick, Danny McKay as the Hustler, and Carl West as the Detective and Doorman.

Ayala-Bush said she was drawn to *Six Degrees of Separation* because it presents “a wonderful opportunity to explore the many aspects of all kinds of human relationships – between husband and wife, parents and children, siblings, friends and lovers, and casual acquaintances.”

“The play also offers revealing insights into how our actions have direct and indirect consequences on others, and into the complexities and inconsistencies of human nature – the conflict between material and spiritual values and between our desire to be truthful and our willingness to be deceitful to achieve our ambitions,” she added.

Since its founding in 1977, Port City Playhouse has regularly received awards from area theatre organizations for the artistic and technical excellence of its productions, earning the British Players prestigious 2005-06 Ruby Griffith Award for All Round Production Excellence for its production of *Hauptmann*. That record of excellence continues in the company's 35<sup>th</sup> season.

Port City Playhouse strives to present thought-provoking plays that are often outside the usual community theatre repertoire and yet, so relevant to our diverse community. Our doors are always open to new volunteers and members.