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**Broadway Legend André De Shields to Headline at the Alliance Theatre**

Oct. 28 – Nov. 15, 2009  
Opening / Media Night: Nov. 4, 2009

**ATLANTA** — Enter the exclusive backstage world of the theatre and experience the mix of inspiration and frustration found in the lives of two actors in David Mamet's ***A Life in the Theatre***. Well-known New York stage icon André De Shields shines in the role of Robert, an older, more experienced actor facing the arrival of a dangerous new talent in this blistering and darkly comic tale. Directed by renowned director and playwright Robert O'Hara (*Metamorphosis*), the play asks the question: How far would you go to make your career? Previews begin Oct. 28, 2009 on the Alliance Stage. Opening/media night is Nov. 4, 2009. Tickets are available at the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office by calling 404.733.5000 or online at [www.alliancetheatre.org](http://www.alliancetheatre.org).

In *A Life in the Theatre*, each night during a single season, two actors transform from drama to farce and their relationship from one of friend to enemy on stage and off. This emotionally charged play is guaranteed to keep audiences breathless as it moves from wickedly funny to tragically sublime as the two men's relationship runs its course.

Emmy Award-winning and Tony Award®-nominated actor André De Shields has garnered considerable critical acclaim during the past four decades for his show-stopping performances in the original Broadway productions of *The Full Monty*, *Play On!*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and *The Wiz* (in which he originated the role). Joining André De Shields is Ariel Shafir, who returns to the Alliance after his award-winning performance in the Alliance's hit comedy *The Underpants*.

The production features Clint Ramos, set and costume designer; the Alliance Theatre's Pete Shinn, lighting designer; and the Alliance Theatre's Clay Benning, sound designer.

## ***A life in the Theatre, 2-2-2***

**Performances are Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Oct. 28 – Nov. 15 on the Alliance Stage.** There will not be a 2:30 p.m. matinee performance on Saturday, Oct. 31. The matinee performance on Sunday, Nov. 1 begins at 3:30 p.m. The Sunday, Nov. 8 show at 2:30 p.m. will be Audio Described.

**Tickets are \$20 - \$45 and are available at the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office by calling 404.733.5000 or online at [www.alliancetheatre.org](http://www.alliancetheatre.org).** Discount rates for groups of 10 or more are available by calling 404.733.4690. Discount rates are also available for members of the military, seniors and students. The Alliance Theatre is located at the Woodruff Arts Center, corner of Peachtree and 15th Street, in Midtown Atlanta.

### ***A Life in the Theatre* is part of the Coca-Cola Series on the Alliance Stage.**

Additional Sponsors: *A life in the Theatre* is sponsored by Delta Air Lines – Official Airline of the Alliance Theatre; Marriott Residence Inn – Official Hotel of the Alliance Theatre; and The Home Depot – Set Construction Sponsor of the Alliance Theatre.

Production of *A life in the Theatre* is made possible with grants from the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, the Fulton County Arts Council, the Georgia Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For electronic images of this production (available after Oct. 28) please contact:

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Now in its 41st season, Atlanta's nationally acclaimed Alliance Theatre, **recipient of the 2007 Regional Theatre Tony Award®**, is the leading professional resident theatre of the Southeast, creating the powerful experience of shared theatre for diverse people on two stages for youth and adult audiences. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Susan V. Booth, the Alliance Theatre is a **national theatre with a local address**, reaching out annually to almost 200,000 patrons and members of the community. Known for its high artistic standards and national role in creating significant theatrical works, the Alliance launched three Tony Award-winning hits to Broadway: Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* and Alfred Uhry's *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. And, in a rare event for a regional theatre, it originated the national tour of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. The theatre has premiered 60 works including adaptations of Carson McCullers' *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* and Pearl Cleage's *Blues for an Alabama Sky*. Further evidence of the Alliance's commitment to new work is found in its nationally recognized Keneda Graduate Playwriting Competition, a cutting-edge program introducing student playwrights to professional networks while producing the world premiere of the winning student's work. The Alliance Theatre also offers extensive education and outreach programs such as the Institute for Educators and the Collision Project for high school students. The Alliance continuously brings Atlanta the finest talent and finest art—proving once again that the Alliance is where great theatre lives. 404.733.4650 or [www.alliancetheatre.org](http://www.alliancetheatre.org)

The Alliance Theatre is a division of the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta, Georgia, which also includes the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, High Museum of Art, Young Audiences and the 14th Street Playhouse.