



3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive ~ Arlington, VA 22206 ~ [www.DominionStage.org](http://www.DominionStage.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Further information:

Dave Moretti at (703) 683-0502 or [Marketing@DominionStage.org](mailto:Marketing@DominionStage.org)

April 16, 2008

Page 1 of 1

### **Dominion Stage presents *The House of Blue Leaves***

ARLINGTON, VA. Dominion Stage wraps up their 58<sup>th</sup> Season with *The House of Blue Leaves*. Written by John Guare, author of *Six Degrees of Separation*, and directed by Matthew Randall, the play is a stinging, insightful comedy that was both heralded and criticized when it first debuted in the early 1970's. The story focuses on one man's desire for success as a big-time songwriter, which clashes with his demanding, middle-class family life. Some reviewers did not know what to make of the play's mix of black comedy, farce, realistic drama, and social commentary. The critics that praised *The House of Blue Leaves* appreciated Guare's treatment of ideas. They also lauded the manner in which he depicted the dark underside of the American dream, especially his emphasis on the destructive nature of the media on people's dreams and personal lives. Several critics noted the skillful manner in which Guare portrayed the quest for personal success as defined by a shallow value system.

The setting is New York City, October, 1965. The Pope is scheduled to speak at the United Nations to appeal for peace in Vietnam. Artie, a downtrodden songwriter, shares a seedy Queens apartment with his increasingly deranged wife, Bananas. His downstairs neighbor and mistress, Bunny, refuses to cook for him until they marry. By the time the Pope arrives in town, Artie has his hands (and apartment) full with the two women in his life, his mentally-unbalanced son, three nuns, a hearing-impaired starlet, a Hollywood director, and an exploding elevator. In the ensuing chaos, dreams are dashed, relationships are torn asunder, and a shattered Artie exacts revenge on the one person he holds responsible for all his problems. Did we mention it's a comedy?!

*The House of Blue Leaves* will run weekends from May 23 through June 8, with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. All performances will be held at the Gunston Arts Center - Theater One, located at 2700 S. Lang Street in Arlington. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$15 for seniors and juniors. Seating is General Admission; Tickets are available online for pre-purchase at [www.DominionStage.org](http://www.DominionStage.org). Reservations can be made online or by calling (703) 683-0502.

#####