

Let's *play*.

*Playing* opens your imagination, refreshes your soul, expands your mind, and catapults you into a new world where anything is possible. *Playing* – to *play*, to put on a *play* – is what we do in the theatre. Sometimes *play* can be serious. *Playing* is the best way to learn. But always *play* means fun. We all need to *play* more often in our lives.

Barter's 2010 season is all about *play*. Whether you are six or one hundred and six, bubble with the excitement of youth as you are transported to a crazy world down the rabbit hole in *Alice in Wonderland*; remember that the "sun will come out tomorrow" through the joyful musical *Annie*; journey to the moon with the world premiere about the men who got us there and their wonderfully *playful* process in *The Blue-Sky Boys*; uncover the clues with Holmes and Watson when the game's afoot in *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily*; and uplift your spirits with *It's a Wonderful Life* or the antics of those funny folks from Tuna, Texas in *A Tuna Christmas*.

Along our journey, we *play* with fantastic music and stories in *The Full Monty* and *Chaps!*, and we bring friends along in the world premiere of Richard Alfieri's powerful *Revolutions* and the unforgettable *Tuesdays With Morrie*.

We *play* with others through Virginia's statewide celebration - **Minds Wide Open: Women in the Arts** - as Barter features one of Virginia's most famous female artists in *Always...Patsy Cline*. This celebration takes us to a world of insights, compassion and fortitude through a young woman's courageous story in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. We celebrate Sarah Ruhl, one of the best female playwrights today, with *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. The southern musical *Violet* celebrates the courage and adventures of a young woman as she discovers the true meaning of healing and self. Barter continues this celebration in the Fall with the mystery *The Woman in Black* and closes by celebrating Barter's own talented playwright-in-residence, Catherine Bush, with her premiere adaptation of Clyde Edgerton's novel *Where Trouble Sleeps*.

At Barter, we love to *play*.

So join us; *Play* at Barter Theatre where we will take you to new worlds, refresh your soul, expand your mind, entertain your senses and help you to escape to another world.