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January 17, 2011

WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER NOW OFFERS PROFESSIONAL THEATRE

ART to Kickoff the Inaugural Season of Workhouse Theatre

The Lorton Arts Foundation is pleased to announce the inaugural season of its own *Workhouse Theatre*. Based in the Workhouse Arts Center's newly renovated building W-3, it is one of only three professional theater companies in Northern Virginia. *Workhouse Theatre* will launch its season with the play *ART* from January 20-February 26, 2012.

ART, a play that raises questions about art and friendship, concerns three long-time friends, Serge, Marc and Yvan. Serge buys a large, expensive and completely white painting. Marc is horrified, and their relationship suffers considerably as a result of their differing opinions about what constitutes "art".

It's no mistake that *ART* was chosen as the inaugural show for Workhouse Theatre. The play presents the perfect opportunity to highlight the diverse offering of arts that lies within the Workhouse community. Workhouse studio artist and seasoned professional scenic designer, Joe St. Germain (studio 1013) even offered technical guidance on the production. Director Joseph Wallen further explains why *ART* was selected:

"ART always seemed to be absolutely the right choice to produce for our inaugural season of performances at the Workhouse. Not only does the subject matter give a nod to our origins as a visual arts center, but it also opens the discussion about the nature of art, beauty and worth. Of course, the story runs much deeper, but the value and interpretation of the 'infamous white-on-white painting' serves as a catalyst for three close friends to examine their relationships (good and bad) over the course of a particularly stormy evening. The characters and story are well-constructed and engaging, and we are very lucky to have three talented actors bringing this trio to life. The play simultaneously asks the questions 'What is it about a particular piece of art that intrigues you?' and 'What is it about a particular person that makes them a friend?' "

Friday and Saturday evening performances are at 8pm; Sunday matinee performances take place at 2pm (note: there are no performances on January 21 or February 18). Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors, students and military.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The press is invited to a special showing of *Art* on Friday, February 3 at 8:00pm. A press reception with the cast will be held after the show.

For more information on this and other great winter events at the Workhouse visit www.WorkhouseArts.org or call (703)584-2900!

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The Workhouse Arts Center, a program of the Lorton Arts Foundation, aims to enrich the lives of all within its reach by creating a vibrant cultural community that fosters a diverse offering of arts, education, social, and entertainment experiences. Set on 55 acres of land in the former D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory, the Workhouse provides a home for more than 100 of the region's finest professional and emerging artists, classes and arts education programs for people of all ages and artistic abilities, cooperative studios, performance and theatre venues, dedicated gallery and exhibition space, and event facilities. For more information, visit www.WorkhouseArts.org.