



AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

Welcome to American Players Theatre.

Whether destination, tradition or full-blown ritual, APT has become a summer staple for over 100,000 patrons each year. Those who flock here tell us the #1 draw is the superior quality of the work on stage. But there's something about APT, something they can't find elsewhere. The Hill, the trees, the stars, the connection to nature, the magic of the surrounding towns and the celebratory nature of it all combine to make APT the quintessential classic theater adventure.

APT is located on 110 wooded acres near the village of Spring Green, Wisconsin. From June through October, we produce eight plays in rotating repertory – five “Up the Hill” at our flagship 1148-seat outdoor theater and three in the intimate indoor Touchstone Theatre.

The Spring Green area that the theater calls home is also a beautiful surprise. Geologically anomalous (thanks to a glacial near-miss) and culturally diverse, the area is at once tranquil and progressive, charming and vital. Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin is just down the road, as are a host of beguiling small towns and natural beauty in countless forms.

We hope the following information will acquaint you with this wonderful theater in the woods. Please contact us for additional information, electronic images or to set up artist interviews.

Sincerely,

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Contents:

Introduction	Page 1
2014 Season Press Release	Page 2-5
A Brief History of APT	Page 6
About Spring Green	Page 7-11



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AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE ANNOUNCES ITS 2014 SEASON

SPRING GREEN, WIS: American Players Theatre (APT) is excited to announce its 35th season, which will run June 7 to November 9, 2014. APT's flagship outdoor amphitheater Up the Hill will feature William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Romeo and Juliet*, along with: Oscar Wilde's comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest*; *The Doctor's Dilemma* by George Bernard Shaw; and Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*, the first Chekhov to be produced at APT in more than a decade.

In the indoor Touchstone Theatre, APT is thrilled to produce its very first David Mamet play, *American Buffalo*. The Touchstone will also host Joan Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking* featuring Sarah Day; Tom Stoppard's *Travesties*, a literate comedy sharing characters (and actors) with *The Importance of Being Earnest*; and *Alcestis*, Euripides' Greek classic as translated by former British Poet Laureate Ted Hughes.

Tickets are on sale now, online at www.americanplayers.org or by phone at 608-588-2361.

Brenda DeVita Named APT Artistic Director

On January 1, 2014, Brenda DeVita was named APT Artistic Director. Ms. DeVita has been transitioning into the position since it was announced that she would succeed Producing Artistic Director David Frank upon his retirement. While Mr. Frank will remain Producing Artistic Director until his retirement at the end of this year, APT's Board of Directors made Ms. DeVita's appointment official to reflect her evolving responsibilities and efforts.

According to Mr. Frank, "Brenda DeVita has been fulfilling ninety percent of a typical artistic director's job for several years and the results, including the recent lavish praise for APT's work from the regional and national press, speak for themselves. We are so proud to have her as APT's Artistic Director."

After working closely with Ms. DeVita on season planning and casting for the past two years, APT Company Manager and Artistic Associate Carey Cannon has been appointed Artistic Director. A national search for a Managing Director to work alongside the Artistic Director is currently underway.

The 2014 Season

June 7 – November 9, 2014

UP THE HILL

American Buffalo – June 7 to November 8, 2014 (Touchstone Theatre)

By David Mamet | Directed by Kenneth Albers

Opening night: June 14 at 3 p.m.

An astounding play from the master of American drama, three men struggle with poverty, friendship and trust while contemplating a robbery. Don, Teach and Bobby discuss their plans to commit the crime in Don's flailing pawnshop; their every word (and silence) meaning more than what it seems. American Buffalo digs into the minds and conversations of the desperate, turning their words into a kind of profane poetry.

The Importance of Being Earnest – June 7 to September 27, 2014 (Up the Hill)

By Oscar Wilde | Directed by William Brown

Opening night: June 14 at 8 p.m.

Mistaken identity leads to love in this enduring comedy from the wizard of wit. Responsible, mild-mannered Jack Worthing is harboring a couple of secrets. First, he is in love with his friend Algernon's cousin, Gwendolen. And second, they both think his name is Ernest. In fact, Ernest is Jack's imaginary alter ego – a troubled younger brother he created so that he could do whatever he liked in London and no one would ever think to judge him. But when Algernon catches on to the scheme, he decides to be Ernest himself in order to woo Jack's lovely young ward, Cecily. Confusion and hilarity reign, as the ladies try to disentangle the stories of their respective Ernests and jump the seemingly impossible hurdles to marry the Ernest they respectively love.

Much Ado About Nothing – June 13 to October 5, 2014 (Up the Hill)

By William Shakespeare | Directed by David Frank

Opening night: June 21 at 8 p.m.

Masquerades reveal as much as the hide in this hilarious comedy. Leonato's house is a happy one, complete with beautiful daughter Hero and clever niece Beatrice, as well as Beatrice's aging father Antonio. But when Leonato's friends return from war, the household is turned on its ear by the instant attraction between Hero and Claudio, and the constant bickering (and, clearly, also attraction) between Beatrice and Benedick. But there's a snake in the midst of all this affection, and Don John plots to destroy everyone's happiness before some of our couples are even aware that they are indeed a couple.

The Year of Magical Thinking – June 24 to October 4, 2014 (Touchstone Theatre)

By Joan Didion | Directed by Brenda DeVita

Opening night: June 28 at 3 p.m.

Based on the book by decorated literary journalist Joan Didion, The Year of Magical Thinking recounts the twelve months following the unexpected death of her husband, and concurrent hospitalization of her only daughter. Featuring APT Core Company member Sarah Day, this beautifully told chronicle of memory and grief is heart breaking, hopeful and absolutely riveting.

APT 2014 Season Press Release

Romeo and Juliet – June 20 to October 4, 2014 (Up the Hill)

By William Shakespeare | Directed by James DeVita

Opening night: June 28 at 8 p.m.

The feud between the Montague and Capulet families comes to a head with tragic consequences in Romeo and Juliet, one of Shakespeare's most renowned plays. Romeo and his friends decide to crash a Capulet ball. There he meets Juliet and the two instantly fall in love. But when her hot-blooded cousin Tybalt finds out there were Montagues at the family party, he becomes furious in a way that can only end in bloodshed, setting in motion a chain of events that will leave a trail of blood, broken hearts and, of course, poetry.

The Seagull – August 1 to September 20, 2014 (Up the Hill)

By Anton Chekhov | Directed by John Langs

Opening night: August 9 at 8 p.m.

It's tough to live up to your parents' expectations, and tougher when your mom is a famous – and very critical – actress. Such is the plight of Arkadina's son Konstantin as he tries to make his mark as a playwright, while holding on to Nina, the woman he loves. Artistic temperaments abound as Arkadina, her lover (the famous author, Trigorin) and the rest of the charismatic cast fall in and out of love and the limelight in this darkly funny Russian comedy.

Travesties – August 10 to October 3, 2014 (Touchstone Theatre)

By Tom Stoppard | Directed by William Brown

Opening night: August 16 at 3 p.m.

Travesties is the funny, clever and generally mind-blowing proof of Tom Stoppard's genius. Henry Carr weaves a tale of the famous people he knew in his youth – from Dadaist Tristan Tzara, to writer James Joyce to Soviet revolutionary Vladimir Lenin – his past is a veritable who's who of artistic and political history. But as the years have passed, Carr's memories of his former cohorts have become muddled with his long-ago portrayal of Algernon in The Importance of Being Earnest, making the play and its characters an inalienable part of his reality.

The Doctor's Dilemma – August 8 to October 3, 2014 (Up the Hill)

By George Bernard Shaw | Directed by Aaron Posner

Opening night: August 16 at 8 p.m.

A funny and thought-provoking social commentary from George Bernard Shaw. Dr. Ridgeon has developed a cure for tuberculosis. He's at the very top of his game – and his patient load – when the charming Jennifer Dubedat comes to him pleading for the life of her husband, the talent-rich (and penny-poor) artist, Louis. But the good doctor and his friends find that, talented though he may be, Louis may have some character traits that could be deemed irredeemable when one life is weighed against another, and against Dr. Ridgeon's feelings for the dying man's wife.

Alcestis – October 10 to November 9, 2014 (Touchstone Theatre)

By Euripides | Directed by David Frank | Translated by Ted Hughes

Opening night: October 12 at 6 p.m.

Apollo has sweet-talked the Fates into giving King Admetus a life extension. But dealing with gods can be backhanded business, and the fine print demands a sacrifice. Now time's up, and there's but one volunteer: Admetus' beloved Queen. But just when you start to think those Greeks had completely lost their sense of humor, enter Heracles, riding a wave of grand ego, drunken ribaldry and, of all things, a flaming vulture. But he may be just the guy to confront that one thing feared by gods and humans alike: the unknown.

APT 2014 Season Press Release

About the Theatre

APT is a professional repertory theater devoted to the great and future classics. It was founded in 1979 and continues to be one of the most popular outdoor classical theaters in the nation.

The Theatre is located in Spring Green, Wis., on 110 acres of hilly woods and meadows above the Wisconsin River. The APT amphitheater is built within a natural hollow atop an oak-wooded hill. Under the dome of sky, 1148 comfortably cushioned seats encircle three sides of the stage. In 2009, APT opened the indoor Touchstone Theatre, offering a different type of play and experience

For more information, visit www.americanplayers.org

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A Brief History of American Players Theatre

In 1978, a small group gathered on the Lockwood farm near Spring Green, Wisconsin. One person walked to the base of a steep hill and began to read; his voice reached those above with uncanny clarity. After looking at 43 sites, this was the one. The founders, Randall Duk Kim, Anne Occhiogrosso and Charles Bright, had found the spot that was to become American Players Theatre. The mission was to perform the classics, especially the works of Shakespeare, outside, under the sun, moon and stars. On July 18, 1980, American Players Theatre staged its first production: William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

If building a theater in a remote community is a challenge, building and sustaining an audience is even more daunting. But word spread quickly about this very special venue and the quality of American Players Theatre's work. By its second season, the stage was home to a mix of five Shakespearian comedies, histories and tragedies. In 1985, as the young theater broadened its scope to include other writers, it was singled out as one of the companies that should be considered for a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater. Since then, the company has performed a steady mix of the greatest works ever written for the stage, including at least three Shakespeare plays each season, plus works by such luminaries as Ibsen, Shaw, Wilde, O'Neill, Williams, Sophocles and Wilder.

Through the years, the facility has undergone a continuous series of upgrades, with comfortable new accommodations for audience, staff and artists. In 1990, the company began touring the state of Wisconsin following its summer season. David Frank was named Artistic Director in 1991 and under his leadership, American Players Theatre announced the assemblage of a core company of actors who shared an ongoing commitment to the theater's mission. The amphitheater was fully renovated in 2000, including the instillation of more than 1,100 new seats. In 2001, the 22,000 square foot Bravo Center was built for the creation and storage of costumes, scenery and properties. APT's latest accomplishment is the 200-seat, indoor Touchstone Theatre, which opened in July of 2009. The Touchstone provides the opportunity to extend the season, educate a new generation of actors and expand play offerings to serve a wider audience.

Today, American Players Theatre has earned a national reputation for presenting theater of the highest quality. The accolades have come from regional and national press, many of whom consider the theater a shining example of what an outdoor theater can be. Now under the artistic leadership of Producing Artistic Director David Frank and Artistic Director Brenda DeVita, the quality of the productions garners an enthusiastic and growing audience of over 110,000 people from throughout the country.

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THE SURPRISE OF SPRING GREEN: WHERE ART AND NATURE COLLIDE

Spring Green, WI and the surrounding Wisconsin River Valley area packs a wallop for visitors who are looking to combine art and nature. The tiny village of just over 1600 people is located in Southwest Wisconsin, just 40 miles from Madison, a 2.5-hour drive from Milwaukee, 3.5-hour drive from Chicago, and 5 hours from the Twin Cities. From world-class theater to internationally acclaimed architecture, from specialty shopping and antiques to outdoor activities that take advantage of the rolling and verdant terrain, Spring Green is well worth a visit.

World-Class Architecture

Taliesin (5607 County Rd. C, Spring Green, WI) was Frank Lloyd Wright's home, workshop and architectural laboratory for 48 years (1911-1959). Nestled on the brow of a hill near Spring Green, it commands a sweeping view of the valley settled by Wright's Welsh ancestors in the mid- 1800s.

Architects, historians and architecture critics alike have praised Taliesin as a masterwork and a triumph of design. Robert Campbell, Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic, called it the "greatest single building in America." The *New York Times* described it as a "stunning collage of Wright's ideas magnificently composed." In 1976 Taliesin was designated a National Historic Landmark, the highest honor bestowed on historic properties by the federal government.

Walk in Frank Lloyd Wright's path and explore the beauty, serenity and historic and architectural scope of Taliesin, Wright's home and studio. Built in 1911, Taliesin (Welsh for "Shining Brow") was designed with three wings that included a living quarter, as well as an office and farm buildings and was used by Wright as a way to further explore his ideas for organic architecture. A variety of tours of the Taliesin Estate are available from May 1 through October 31. Reservations are recommended; call 877-588-7900 or email tours@taliesinpreservation.org.

The Surprise of Spring Green

A House Like No Other

One of the area's most unique architectural marvels is **The House on the Rock** (5754 Hwy. 23, Spring Green, WI, 608-935-3639). Begun in the 1940s, the House on the Rock features an extraordinary complex of rooms, streets, buildings and gardens covering more than 200 acres. Originally built as a weekend retreat, House on the Rock is a trip through the wild and fantastic imagination of designer Alex Jordan. Tours of the full property are available March 16 – November 4, with limited tours available year-round. More information at www.thehouseontherock.com.

More Art

Over 200 artists from across the country gather in downtown Spring Green to share their unique creations during the **Annual Spring Green Arts and Crafts Fair**. Held June 28 - 29, 2014, on Jefferson Street in downtown Spring Green. For more information, visit www.springgreenartfair.com.

In autumn, experience the annual **Fall Art Tour**. Held October 17 – 19, 2014, the Fall Art Tour is a self-guided driving tour through artists' studios located in and around Spring Green, Baraboo, Dodgeville and Mineral Point, WI. Artist studios include those of painters, sculptors, potters, weavers, jewelers, woodworkers, mixed-media artists and more. For more information call 608-356-7805 or visit www.fallarttour.com.

The **Wisconsin Artists Showcase** (143 S. Washington Street, Spring Green, WI, 608-588-7049) is located in a restored cheese warehouse that showcases fine arts, prints and handmade paper by Jura Silverman. Framing and art consulting services are available. Custom orders welcomed. 608-588-7049.

Outdoor Adventure

The area around Spring Green features a wide array of outdoor activities including championship golf links, miles of biking and hiking trails, swimming, fishing, canoeing, camping, wildlife watching and more.

Golf

Rated 4 ½ stars by *Golf Digest* magazine, the 27-hole championship course at **The House on the Rock Resort** (utilizes the regions rolling hills to create a memorable and challenging course with carefully spaced tee times. 800-822-7774. www.thehouseontherock.com

Hiking

Governor Dodge State Park (4175 Hwy 23 North, Dodgeville, WI, 608-935-2315), Located just 10 minutes from Spring Green, this is one of the state's largest state parks, with 5,270 scenic acres of steep hills, bluffs and deep valleys, plus two lakes and a waterfall.

Tower Hill State Park (5808 County Hwy. C, Spring Green, WI, 608-588-2116) features campsites, hiking trails, a canoe landing, picnic areas and a fully staffed park providing visitors with a complete natural recreation experience and a fascinating glimpse of Wisconsin history.

The Surprise of Spring Green

For those that like their recreation on the wild side, **Avoca Prairie** (located in the Avoca Unit of the Riverway, seven miles west of the Lone Rock Bridge on Hwy. 133) is the largest tallgrass prairie east of the Mississippi. The prairie plant and animal species found here are those that built the soil that made mid-America the world's breadbasket. Wisconsin's pre-settlement prairie once covered two million acres. Today a little more than 2,000 scattered acres (one-tenth of one percent) survive.

Ferry Bluff (located off of Highway 60, four miles southwest of Sauk City) provides a spectacular and historical view of the river and surrounding topography. To the north and east you can see the Baraboo Hills, containing some of the oldest rock in North America. On a clear day you can spot the highest point in southern Wisconsin, Blue Mound, thirteen miles to the south.

Canoeing

The Lower Wisconsin is a river for people who like outdoor activity at a leisurely pace. River currents range from 3 to 5 miles per hour upstream, to only 1 to 2 mph near Muscoda. Along its entire 92.3 miles there are no rapids or falls (or portages), making it ideal for recreation canoeists. Two thirds of river users are found on the 25-mile stretch between Prairie du Sac and Spring Green. A number of local places rent canoes, including **Wisconsin Riverside Resort** (S13220 Shifflet Road, Spring Green, 608-588-2826).

Fishing

Both the main channel as well as the backwaters of the Wisconsin River support large numbers of game fish and pan fish. In the main channel there are walleye, sauger, channel and flathead catfish, smallmouth bass and northern pike, among others. In the sloughs, bayous and floodplain lakes one can fish bluegill, bullhead, crappie, largemouth bass and northern pike. Be aware of special river regulations, including size limits and protected species. Good fishing can also be had on area streams and lakes. (Appropriate hunting and fishing licenses required. For more information visit the Wisconsin DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/>).

Wildlife Watching

The Riverway is home to more than 45 species of mammals and nearly 300 bird species, including 23 different waterfowl. River otters, beaver, mink, muskrat, raccoon and many other mammals thrive here, sharing the lush bottomlands with bald eagles, herons, sandhill cranes, pileated woodpeckers, woodcock and osprey.

Biking

The country roads surrounding Spring Green offer bicycling pleasures and challenges for riders of all abilities. So pack a lunch, pick a direction and enjoy the scenery. For bicycle touring information, visit www.cyclesouthwestwisconsin.com.

The Surprise of Spring Green

Shopping Galore

In addition to all of life's necessities, Spring Green's shopping scene offers a host of eclectic opportunities:

Located in the South Albany Street Courtyard, **43/90 North Earth** is southwest Wisconsin's largest source for gifts that nourish the soul. Enjoy soft music and peaceful shopping while pampering yourself with the Goddess Collection of jewelry and flowing garments. 608-588-3313. www.northeast.com.

Arcadia Books & Kitchen is a new local favorite found at 102 East Jefferson Street. The bookstore you wish was in every town, Arcadia offers helpful staff, aisles of books and a lovely café offering wine, beer and meals to accompany your adventures in reading. 608-588-7638, www.readinutopia.com

Convivio specializes in table tools and trimmings, linens, art, books, wine, coffee and little miracles. 608-588-2351. www.convivioshop.com

Located in a converted turn of the century schoolhouse, **No Rules Gallery** features the work of 30 artists. Here you will find contemporary and antique jewelry, handmade tiles, pottery and stained glass, handcrafted rings, pins and necklaces, as well as fine American-made jewelry, glass, pottery, tiles and more. Located in the same space, **Bird of Paradise Tea and Chocolate** offers specialty teas, teapots and artisan chocolates. 608-588-7509. www.norulesjewelry.com

A top 10 quilt shop in the USA and Canada, **The Country Sampler** features reproduction quilt fabrics as well as cross-stitch, folk art and period furnishings. 608-588-2510. www.sqcountry sampler.com.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center has a unique gift store featuring books on Frank Lloyd Wright and related architects. Includes Wright design inspired clothing, jewelry, china and gifts. Open daily April - mid-December for holiday shopping. 608-588-7900. www.taliesinpreservation.com

Dining Delights

No one goes hungry in Spring Green, Wisconsin!

Freddy Valentine's Public House is a unique restaurant and pub in downtown Spring Green. Located in a historical bank, Freddy's offers a made-fresh-daily menu, made with local ingredients and highlighting classic English dishes along with an eclectic mix of sandwiches, entrees and daily specials, including vegetarian and gluten free options. 608-588-0220, <http://www.freddyvalentines.com/>

The Spring Green General Store features home-style ethnic cooking and gourmet groceries in a converted cheese warehouse. Serving breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday, weekend brunch and lunch. The store also specializes in women's clothing, jewelry and gifts. 608-588-7070. www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

The Surprise of Spring Green

Visit **Bob's BBQ Emporium** for Southern-style hardwood smoked barbeque – cooked real slow. 608-588-8287.

Driftless Depot Market & Café is a food lover's destination. Organic local and international gourmet delights. Espresso, wine, gelato, and all the fixings for a great picnic basket. 608-628-1001. www.driftlessdepot.com

At the **Kitchen at Arcadia Books**, find locally sourced, freshly prepared food, plus coffee and espresso, beer and wine. 608-588-3923. www.readinutopia.com/kitchen

Culver's is the best in fast food! Enjoy freshly made Butter Burgers, dinners, salads and frozen custard treats. 608-588-2305. www.culvers.com

The Shed offers comfortable, casual dining, specializing in sandwiches, homemade pizzas, soups and award-winning pie. The bar has a nice selection of wine, cocktails and tap beer. 608-588-9049. www.shedspringgreen.com

Riverview Terrace Café is located in the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center and serves informal lunches in an unforgettable setting May-October. The Café also offers a year-round seasonal gourmet dinner menu. 608-588-7937. www.taliesinpreservation.com

For information about more Spring Green area businesses and attractions, visit www.springgreen.com.

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