



AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

For immediate release: June 8, 2010

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APT's 31st Season is Officially Underway

First five plays open in June, including two Shakespeares.

SPRING GREEN, WIS: American Players Theatre's (APT) first performance of William Shakespeare's popular coming of age comedy *As You Like It* directed by Tim Ocel, had its first performance on Saturday, June 5. *As You Like It* is one of the two Shakespeare plays that will open at APT in June, the other being *All's Well That Ends Well* directed by John Langs. *All's Well That Ends Well* is a complex comedy that takes a closer look at love, commitment and the choices we make. The third play opening this month – *Another Part of the Forest* directed by William Brown - is the first Lillian Hellman play ever produced at APT, and a prequel to her well-known work *The Little Foxes*.

The season Up the Hill runs from Saturday, June 5 through Sunday, October 3. In August, APT will offer W. Somerset Maugham's *The Circle* directed by James Bohnen and George Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara* directed by APT's Producing Artistic Director David Frank.

The Touchstone Theatre's season runs from June 22 – October 17, and will offer Athol Fugard's autobiographical *Exits and Entrances* directed by Kate Buckley, in addition to *Waiting for Godot* and *The Syringa Tree*. With only 200 seats, opening nights and special performances at the Touchstone are expected to sell out quickly, so patrons are encouraged to make their plans early.

APT is offering 20% off every single play ticket, and 30% off fall tickets (for performances after August 26, 2010) when ordered along with their summer tickets. Patrons must order tickets by June 4, 2010 in order to receive the discounts. Tickets are available 24/7 at www.americanplayers.org, or by calling the box office weekdays between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 608-588-2361.

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As You Like It

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Tim Ocel

June 5 through October 3, 2010

Press Opening: June 12, 2010

As You Like It tells the tale of characters living in disguise and in exile in the Forest of Arden. Hilarity ensues, as identities and labels are mistaken and twisted. Being a girl doesn't exclude being a boy. Being an existentialist doesn't exclude looking for something to believe in. But being human? Well, yes, that counts for everything. *As You Like It* is the rare crowd-pleaser that refuses to short-change the Big Questions: Who am I? Where am I headed? And what in the world am I doing in this forest?

As You Like It, one of Shakespeare's earlier comedies about youth, love and forgiveness was last produced at APT in 2001. The 2010 production, set in the 1930s, brings a new artistic crew to APT including Director Tim Ocel, Scenic Designer Andrew Boyce and Costume Designer B. Modern, all of whom have worked extensively in New York and California. They are accompanied by returning APT Sound Designer Josh Schmidt, and Lighting Designer Michael A. Peterson.

According to Director Tim Ocel, "It's [like an] an Altman movie, this play. Every actor has a story that they have to handle, that they have to shoulder on their own – and finally in the last scene we all come together as a community. But the single most significant event for me is when Rosalind meets her father in the forest she doesn't tell him who she is. She could but she doesn't. What's that about? She could have gone Daddy, it's me. And Daddy would have taken care of her. And this is a father who's been banished and who left a daughter who he thinks is still in that city. Doesn't know what's going on... and she selfishly keeps that reconciliation from him in that moment. So it's not only an act of independence, it's an act of selfishness. That's a young woman trying to find her way. This play to me is about coming into your maturity."

Featuring Paul Bentzen as Adam, Hillary Clemens as Rosalind, David Daniel as Touchstone, Brian Mani as Dukes Senior and Frederick, James Ridge as Jaques, Matt Schwader as Orlando and Tiffany Scott as Celia.

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All's Well That Ends Well

By William Shakespeare

Directed by John Langs

June 11 through October 1, 2010

Press Opening: June 19, 2010

Fiercely determined to get what she wants (in this case, the almost equally enigmatic Bertram), Helena has quite the bag of tricks, entrapment not least among them. This play deals in the complex currency of life and love. If that's problematic, so too then is it funny, beautiful, even outrageous. Or, as Shakespeare himself puts it, "The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together."

All's Well That Ends Well was also last produced at APT in 2001. This is comedy, sometimes considered one of Shakespeare's "problem plays" due to the elements of drama and comedy contained within, Director John Langs has his own take on the idea of problem play. "It's a problem play because there's this girl who likes this guy a lot. A LOT. And this guy's not such a great guy to her. And yet she does crazy things to be with this guy. And I started to take note of the events of this play. And I fell in love with her ...first of all, she owns her life. She says I love this man and he is out of my station. I will never get him, but I love him. She organizes a trick where the king of France puts her hand in his hand and says he's yours. She gets rejected in front of everyone. She fakes her own death. She travels into a war-torn country. She tricks this guy into sleeping with her and getting her pregnant. And then she comes home and stands in front of everybody and says I gotcha. And I thought, Wow, that's fantastic."

The 2010 production's artistic crew consists of long-time APT costume designer Robert Morgan and first season Sound Designer Sarah Pickett. The set boasts a red stage designed by Takeshi Kata, which Langs calls "a platform for a fairy tale...an adventure story."

Featuring Tracy Michelle Arnold as Countess of Rossillion, Sarah Day as the Widow, Jim DeVita as Parolles, Matt Schwader as Bertram and Jonathan Smoots as the King.

Another Part of the Forest

By Lillian Hellman

Directed by William Brown

June 18 through September 18, 2010

Press Opening June 26, 2010

It's the American South in the wake of the Civil War, where charm belies ill will and where the predatory Hubbards (here in a prequel to *The Little Foxes*) have made a fortune converting national catastrophe into personal wealth.

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But that story is only a backdrop to the family battle that plays out among them. In its own playful, thrilling, and darkly comic way, *Another Part of the Forest* gives generously to its audience; after all, characters equally worthy of love and horror, going after each other with gladiatorial rage, surgical precision — and, somehow, charm — can't help but keep us on the edge of our seats.

APT's first offering from Lillian Hellman, *Another Part of the Forest* is directed by William Brown, the director behind APT's hugely popular productions of *The Night of the Iguana* (2007), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2008), *The Comedy of Errors* (2009) and *Hay Fever* (2009). He is working again with his amazing creative team, consisting of Rachel Anne Healy's costume design, Kevin Depinet's scenic design and sound design and original music by Andrew Hansen. Director William Brown says of the design: "What we created with the design team, I think it's very seductive. It's sort of your idyllic idea of the old south, including a tree. A very large tree. That's covered in Spanish moss, and I find it very seductive."

Brown goes on to describe how Hellman's unique view of the South contributes to the draw of this darkly comic play. "She (Hellman) was raised in both the south...an old southern family...and a family in New York. So she went back and forth and had this sort of interesting take on the south from being a part-time resident. I come from an old southern family, though I wasn't raised in the south, so I can kind of connect to that. She didn't think her characters were particularly good or bad, but she had a really strong sense of good and evil, which I also like. Both *Little Foxes* and *Another Part of the Forest* have a great deal of good and evil. Yet the characters are so charming. I find them irresistible. And funny...even when they're doing the most horrible things to each other."

Featuring Paul Bentzen as Colonel Isham, David Daniel as John Bagtry, Marcus Truschinski as Ben Hubbard, Jonathan Smoots as Marcus Hubbard, Tracy Michelle Arnold as Laurette, Susan Shunk as Birdie Bagtry, Sarah Day as Lavinia Hubbard and Tiffany Scott as Regina Hubbard.

Opening in the Touchstone Theatre in June

Waiting for Godot

By Samuel Beckett

Directed by Kenneth Albers

June 22 through October 17, 2010

Press Opening June 25, 2010

Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett's story about waiting without surety that what you're seeking will ever appear – has been called the greatest American play of the 20th Century. As if to illustrate, *Godot* has sold out more than half of its performances in the Touchstone Theatre before the 2010 season has even begun. Director Kenneth Albers,

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who helmed last year's *The Philanderer* and gave a powerhouse performance as James Tyrone in APT's 2009 production of *A Long Day's Journey Into Night*, has this to say about the production:

"How does one define art? ... Does it have to be beautiful? A London theater critic attempting to define art noted that he found the engine of a silver pierce arrow rolls Royce more art than any play ever written. Perhaps that is true, but I would counter that the silver pierce arrow engine of a Rolls Royce is an object without metaphor. And without metaphor, there is no art. And without metaphor, there would certainly be no *Waiting for Godot*."

"Samuel Beckett was born in 1906. Both my parents were born in 1906. My brother was born in 1934. I was born in 1944. The first atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Three years later, Beckett completed *Waiting for Godot*. Unlike Mr. Beckett and my brother and my parents, I have no memory of a time when the annihilation of the human species was not a distinct possibility...Some things can't be solved without waiting...without the passing of an unspecified length of time. Didi and Gogo (Vladimir and Estragon in *Waiting for Godot*) must wait. Wait for what? For the moon to set. For the sun to rise. For the boy to come. For the sake of that day when Godot arrives. Because, and this is the single most important thing to remember about this extraordinary work of art – Godot *will come*."

Featuring Jim DeVita as Estragon, Brian Mani as Pozzo and James Ridge as Vladimir.

The Syringa Tree

By Pamela Gien

Directed by C. Michael Wright

June 23 through October 16, 2010

Press Opening June 29, 2010

Pamela Gien's *The Syringa Tree* had a very successful run in Milwaukee five years ago. That particular production was also directed by C. Michael Wright, and featured Colleen Madden in all 24 roles. Director C. Michael Wright has this to say about revisiting this play in APT's Touchstone Theatre: "I love this piece. And this is the perfect space for it. I'm excited about this space, because of the rounded communal feeling. The high ceilings. It's perfect for *The Syringa Tree*."

Wright continues: "I consider *Syringa Tree* to be a loving tribute to the primal, powerful and joyous art of storytelling. It has a rich complex layered script. It spans a number of decades. It goes from one continent to another. It embraces many cultures. But one extremely versatile actress plays all the roles using little more than her voice, her body and her extremely rich imagination. She plays a variety of characters: male and female; old and young; white and black. All in the blink of an eye...Our protagonist, Elizabeth, is a privileged young white girl living in the confusing world of apartheid.

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And she loves her land, so it's very important that the costume represent her character first. Number one because of her love for the land, she's barefoot for the whole play. And the dress is almost like dancewear, it has to be extremely flexible. The play is full of layers, and the costume reflects that...And Colleen Madden rocks."

Featuring Colleen Madden in all 24 roles.

2010 Ticket Prices

	Very Fine	Prime	Premier
Tues., Wed., Thurs. evening	\$39.00	\$46.00	\$52.00
Saturday matinee & Sunday shows	\$42.00	\$49.00	\$55.00
Friday evening	\$45.00	\$52.00	\$57.00
Saturday evening	\$51.00	\$58.00	\$64.00
Fall morning shows	\$39.00	\$46.00	\$52.00

For tickets, call the box office at (608) 588-2361 or order online at www.playinthewoods.org.

Electronic images available; call 608-588-7402 x 140 or email Jessica Amend at jamend@americanplayers.org.

For recent press releases, visit <http://americanplayers.org/experience-apt/news-reviews/>

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June 2010

Production/Events		
Ticket Prices Range from \$32 - \$62		
www.americanplayers.org		
Saturday, June 5 th	<i>As You Like It</i> * Preview Performance	8:00 p.m.
Thursday June 10 th	<i>As You Like It</i> * Preview Performance	7:30 p.m.
	Skippeth-Out-of-Work-Early Event	6:00 p.m.
Friday June 11 th	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> *Preview Performance	8:00 p.m.
Saturday June 12 th	<i>As You Like It</i> ** Opening Night	8:00 p.m.
Thursday June 17 th	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> * Preview Performance	7:30 p.m.
	Skippeth-Out-of-Work-Early Event	6:00 p.m.
Friday June 18 th	<i>Another Part of the Forest</i> * Preview Performance	8:00 p.m.
Saturday June 19 th	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> ** Opening Night	8:00 p.m.
Sunday June 20 th	<i>As You Like it</i>	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday June 22 nd	<i>Another Part of the Forest</i> * Preview Performance	7:30 p.m.
	Waiting for Godot * Preview Performance	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday June 23 rd	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> -Post Show Discussion	7:30 p.m.
	The Syringa Tree * Preview Performance	7:30 p.m.
Thursday June 24 th	<i>Another Part of the Forest</i> * Preview Performance	7:30 p.m.
	Waiting for Godot * Preview Performance	7:30 p.m.
	Skippeth-Out-of-Work-Early Event	6:00 p.m.
Friday June 25 th	Waiting for Godot ** Opening Night	8:00 p.m.
Saturday June 26 th	The Syringa Tree * Preview Performance	3:00 p.m.
	<i>Another Part of the Forest</i> ** Opening Night	8:00 p.m.
Sunday June 27 th	<i>As You Like It</i>	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday June 29 th	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> -Post Show Discussion	7:30 p.m.
	The Syringa Tree ** Opening Night	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday June 30 th	<i>Another Part of the Forest</i> - Post Show Discussion	7:30 p.m.
	Waiting for Godot	7:30 p.m.

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