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## AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For photos or interviews, please contact:

Patty Heaston, 608-588-9263, [pheaston@americanplayers.org](mailto:pheaston@americanplayers.org)

### Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and the World Premiere of Michael Hollinger's *The Virgin Queen Entertains Her Fool* Open Saturday

**SPRING GREEN, WIS: American Players Theatre (APT)** This Saturday marks the opening of two additional plays in APT's illustrious 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. In the 1,075-seat Hill Theatre, William Shakespeare's beloved comedy about sparring will-they-won't-they lovers, ***Much Ado About Nothing***, will hold its opening night this Saturday, June 22 at 8:00 PM. Directed by **Robert Ramirez** (*The River Bride*, 2022), and featuring **Jessica Ko as Beatrice and Core Company Actor Marcus Truschinski as Benedick**, this witty hit will play through September 29.

In his director's notes, **Ramirez** said of the play "I love this play. I love its unabashed romanticism, its witty wordplay and outright physical humor. I even love its sometimes-seeming implausibility. I also believe in its inherent messages; those of forgiveness, redemption, and most importantly, love. Love has the power to transform people and to equip them with the strength they need to endure whatever trials they face. And, ultimately, to forgive those responsible for our pain."

In the 201-seat Touchstone Theatre, APT welcomes **the world-premiere of Michael Hollinger's** **comi-tragedy *The Virgin Queen Entertains Her Fool*** at 2:00 PM on June 22. **Directed by award-winning playwright and director Aaron Posner** (Playwright, *Anton's Shorts*, 2023; Director, *The Rivals*, 2022), and featuring **Tracy Michelle Arnold, Jim DeVita, Josh Krause and Nancy Rodríguez**, this play has sold out many performances, and APT has added five performances to keep up with demand. Best availability is on Wednesday, September 11 and September 12 at 7:30 PM.

**Hollinger** said in his playwright's note, "One thing I noticed was how many queens have shown up in our popular culture in recent years: multiple portraits of both Elizabeths, Queen Anne in *The Favourite*, the musical *Six* and the badass queens in *Game of Thrones*. (I don't include the throng of Disney princesses, as these are young enough to still believe they "can have it all," and haven't yet had to deal with the actual burdens of statecraft.) When I started, we had also just gone through the 2016 Presidential campaign – the first time a major U.S. party had nominated a female candidate. So I guess I was primed to work on a play exploring, among other things, the particular trials and sacrifices of women in power."

Tickets to all nine plays in APT's 2024 season are on sale now, along with engagement and food events, and tickets to the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on July 21. **Visit [americanplayers.org](http://americanplayers.org) or call 608-588-2361 for tickets and information.**

## Production Photos

Production photos are now available. Photo credits are included with individual files. Photos by Liz Lauren.

### **Much Ado About Nothing Gallery:**

[americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/muchado2024](http://americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/muchado2024)

Password: nothing (case sensitive)

### **The Virgin Queen Entertains Her Fool Gallery:**

<https://www.zenfolio.com/zf/transfer/americanplayerstheatre/p754850118?customize=3>

Password: fool (case sensitive)

## On Stage This Week

These plays join Jean Anouilh's *Ring Round the Moon*, adapted by Christopher Fry, which opened June 15 in the Hill Theater. The first performance of Marisela Treviño Orta's *Wolf at the Door*

Tickets for the full season are now on sale. Find more information at [americanplayers.org](http://americanplayers.org), or call the APT Box Office at 608-588-2361.

## The 2024 Plays

### In the Hill Theatre

#### Ring Round the Moon

By Jean Anouilh

Adapted by Christopher Fry

Directed by Laura Gordon

Lavish, musical and ever-so-clever, APT's company handles high comedy with aplomb.

Come see them in all their charmed and charming glory. *June 8 – September 20*

#### Much Ado About Nothing

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Robert Ramirez

Fun and funny, with the warmth and depth of a sultry Mediterranean sunset – the perfect fit for a summer evening. *June 14 – September 29*

August Wilson's

#### Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

Directed by Gavin Dillon Lawrence

A powerhouse play with powerhouse performances ringing out with August Wilson's captivating poetry. Do not miss it.

*June 21 – September 7\**

#### Dancing at Lughnasa

By Brian Friel

Directed by Brenda DeVita

### In the Touchstone Theatre

*The World Premiere of*

#### The Virgin Queen Entertains Her Fool

By Michael Hollinger

Directed by Aaron Posner

A witty, twisty thriller to keep you on the edge of your seat (and rolling in the aisles), be among the very first to see it for yourself.

*June 14 – September 19\**

#### Wolf at the Door

By Marisela Treviño Orta

Directed by Melisa Pereyra

A rich fable of liberation rife with drama and ritual, featuring poetry as lush and velvety as a moonstruck night. *June 25 – September 18\**

#### Constellations

By Nick Payne

Directed by Vanessa Stalling

A kaleidoscopic look at love, and the everyday decisions that echo endlessly through time. *August 10 – September 28\**

#### Nat Turner in Jerusalem

By Nathan Alan Davis

Directed by Tyrone Phillips

Immersive, poetic and devastating, with a cast who can carry the weight of this family and send it floating like a kite on a chilled Celtic breeze. *August 22 – September 27*

Join us in the fall for a lyrical meditation on the confluence of righteous violence, freedom and belief, shining light on a forgotten figure instrumental in the flight to end slavery in America. *October 17- November 10\**

**King Lear**

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Tim Ocel

A parable about wisdom that comes not with age, but with empathy; a deeply relevant classic best seen under the sheltering stars.

*August 9 – September 28\**

**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 outdoor amphitheater is built within a natural hollow atop an oak-wooded hill. Under the dome of sky, 1,075 comfortably cushioned seats encircle three sides of the stage. In 2009, APT opened the 201-seat indoor Touchstone Theatre, offering a different type of play and experience.

For more information, visit [www.americanplayers.org](http://www.americanplayers.org)

**Photo Galleries**

**Please note: Passwords are case sensitive**

**General Theater and Grounds Photos**

[americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/apt](http://americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/apt)

password: apt

**Ring Round the Moon**

[americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/ringroundthemoon2024](http://americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/ringroundthemoon2024)

password: moon

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