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## AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2018 WINTER WORDS LINEUP

**Spring Green, Wis.** –American Players Theatre’s (APT’s) winter play reading series “Winter Words” kick off its fourth season in the Touchstone Theatre on January 29, 2018. The 2018 lineup features: *Beau Brummel* by Clyde Fitch, *The River Bride* by Marisela Treviño Orta, *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood and *Knives in Hens* by David Harrower. The parts will be read by APT company members including Kelsey Brennan, Sarah Day, Colleen Madden, Danny Martinez, Melisa Pereyra and Marcus Truschinski. Each performance will be followed by a Q&A with the audience.

APT Artistic Director Brenda DeVita says of the project: “For us, Winter Words is a way to explore new stories. The plays may or may not make it to our stage, but these readings are so valuable in weighing what works and what doesn’t. What feels like us, and what doesn’t. All the stories chosen explore our passion for poetic, classical texts. Some plays we explore are chosen explicitly to examine if they are still viable in today’s world, while others will push the boundaries of our definition of what is classical. Year after year, we are completely blown away by the interest in this series and our audience’s investment in our work. We are continually grateful for how smart and engaged they all are, and the discussions after the readings are invaluable to us. We can’t wait to get this new set of stories out there and see what shakes out.”

APT’s acting company has been taking part in informal play readings for many years. Sarah Ruhl’s *Eurydice*, which played in the Touchstone Theatre in 2016, was first considered during the 2015 Winter Words series. Maugham’s *Too Many Husbands* (2013) and *The Circle* (2011), and Sheridan’s *The Critic* (2011) are other examples of recent productions that have made their way to the APT stage via these reading sessions.

Winter Words performances will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Touchstone Theatre, and each reading will be followed by an audience discussion. Run times will vary. General Admission tickets will go on sale January 3 at 10:00 am, online only. Tickets will not be available by phone. Ticket price is \$20. Patrons can purchase online at [americanplayers.org/events/winter-words](http://americanplayers.org/events/winter-words). For assistance or additional information, the administrative phone number is 608-588-7401.

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**2018 Winter Words**

January 29

***Beau Brummel***

**By Clyde Fitch**

Directed by James Ridge

Based on the life of George Bryan "Beau" Brummell, who took the London social scene by storm when he befriended the prince regent George IV. Beau carries a superficial charm to all his relationships - romantic and otherwise. But his casual charisma masks something deeper; some of it vapid, some generous and some maybe not so much. A whirlwind of wit, romance and meticulous fashion that pays tribute to the man who inspired dandyism.

February 12

***The River Bride***

**By Marisela Treviño Orta**

Director TBA

Helena's feelings about her sister Belmira's wedding to Duarte are complicated, much like her relationships with both her sister and her fiancé. But Helena's thoughts are redirected when her father literally fishes a mysterious man out of the Amazonian river, sending everyone's plans into upheaval in this riveting fable about the complexities of love.

February 26

***The Penelopiad***

**By Margaret Atwood**

Directed by Ameenah Kaplan

The Odyssey from the viewpoint of Odysseus' wife. The lady in question, Penelope, reflects on her husband's exploits, as well as her own personal relationships and her time in Hades. Meanwhile a Chorus of 12 maids chimes in with their own take on events. A moving and darkly funny commentary on war and the women left behind.

(Contains adult themes).

March 19

***Knives in Hens***

**By David Harrower**

Directed by Brenda DeVita

A young woman tied to a man in a hardscrabble life. Until she's struck by a metaphor - or maybe the idea of metaphor - which sends her on a path to self-discovery. This path takes some turns, some beautiful and some ominous. But it's her increasing fascination with words that gives her power over her own story. A vital exploration of language, and its ability to release us from our tethers. (Contains adult themes).

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**2018 APT Tickets**

Tickets for the 2018 APT season will go on sale March 5, 2018 for returning buyers. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on April 16, 2018. Preseason discounts will be in place until June 8, 2018. More information at [americanplayers.org](http://americanplayers.org).

The season schedule will be available in early January.

For questions or assistance, please call 608-588-7401 and ask for the Box Office or email [boxoffice@americanplayers.org](mailto:boxoffice@americanplayers.org).

**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, 1140 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 information, including interviews and photos, please contact Jess Amend, [jamend@americanplayers.org](mailto:jamend@americanplayers.org), 608-588-9240.

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