



AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2020 SEASON

Shakespeare, Stoppard, Austen Kick Off the Hill Season

SPRING GREEN, WIS: American Players Theatre (APT) is excited to announce its 41st summer season, which will run June 6 to October 4, 2020. In APT's flagship outdoor Hill Theatre, the season will start with **Tom Stoppard's comedy *Rough Crossing***, followed by **Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility***, in an adaptation by Jessica Swale; **William Shakespeare's great classic, *Julius Caesar***; **Jean Giraudoux's topical comedy *The Madwoman of Chaillot***; and ***Love's Labour's Lost***, an early **Shakespeare** comedy that hasn't been produced at APT in nearly two decades.

The 201-seat indoor Touchstone Theatre will host ***A Phoenix Too Frequent***, a 1946 comedy by **Christopher Fry**; ***The River Bride***, a romantic fairy tale by **Marisela Treviño Orta**; and ***The Brothers Size*** by the Academy Award-winning writer of ***Moonlight***, **Tarell Alvin McCraney**. The fall season in the Touchstone will feature **Marie Jones' Irish tragicomedy *Stones in His Pockets*** beginning in late October.

Artistic Director Brenda DeVita said, "This season is both very different for us and very much APT, as we have been succeeding in stretching just who we are able to be here in the middle of the woods. Of course, on the Hill we have two Shakespeares, and it's been many, many years since we've produced either of them, and we're so excited to have them back on stage again.

And we have another, really smart, hilarious Stoppard, that's going to have a fantastic cast to play with that gorgeous language and wit. And we have our second Jane Austen, in a fast-paced adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility*, that we love, and we are sure that our audience is going to love. Finally, we're doing *The Madwoman of Chaillot* by the French playwright Jean Giraudoux, which is a fantastical classic that's rarely produced these days, and we're thrilled that it is something APT is uniquely able to bring to life for our audiences."

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Brenda continued, “In the Touchstone, we have two contemporary plays, both of which were first read during recent seasons of our Winter Words play-reading series. The overwhelming response from our audiences have encouraged us to produce them. *The River Bride* is a beautiful love story, about sisters and parents, and also a mysterious man pulled out of the Amazon River. By Marisela Treviño Orta, who calls it ‘an unapologetic fairy tale.’ We’re so excited to see that come to life. And *The Brothers Size*, by Tarell Alvin McCraney, who wrote the Academy Award-winning movie, *Moonlight*. His voice is so distinct as a writer, and his poetry and the tension and the rhythms of that play are just exquisite. And we have an absurd little Christopher Fry comedy, about love and death and love again. It might not sound funny, but it is. Trust me. And in the fall, there’s a delightful Irish two-hander featuring two great actors, Nate Burger and Marcus Truschinski playing all 15 roles. So it’s a very full and wildly diverse season, and we are inviting our audience to come along for the ride – we can’t wait to get it started.”

The 2020 season schedule will be available in early January. Tickets will go on sale to returning patrons on March 9 at 7:00 am CST online at americanplayers.org, and at 10:00 am CST via the APT Box Office by phone at 608-588-2361. Tickets will go on sale to the general public April 20.

The 2020 Season, June 6 – October 4, 2020

ON THE HILL

Rough Crossing

By Tom Stoppard

From an original play by Ferenc Molnár

Directed by William Brown

Two established playwrights hoping to refresh their careers take their show on the road. Or rather, on the high seas, along with their two established stars. The plan is to ride the wake of a brilliant young musician – who happens to be engaged to one of the aforementioned stars - who will compose their new musical. But when the writers and composer stumble across a tryst between the actors, they’ll need to pull out all the stops to keep their young phenom from going overboard. A clever and hilarious comedy, rife with Tom Stoppard’s legendary wit. Featuring David Daniel, Brian Mani, and James Ridge.

Jane Austen’s

Sense and Sensibility

Adapted by Jessica Swale

Directed by Marti Lyons

When Henry Dashwood passes away, his estate, by law, goes to his eldest son, John, leaving Henry’s second wife and three daughters – young Margaret, tempestuous Marianne and reserved Elinor – with no home, and little income. Those are high stakes for women in the early 1800s, and the ladies are forced to rely on the kindness of the good-hearted (and gossipy) Middletons. Though times are hard, the sisters meet many new friends, and soon Marianne and Elinor find that, while love is easy enough to fall into, it can be a hard emotion to negotiate when your family and future are on the line. A charming romance from Jane Austen. Featuring Nate Burger, Sarah Day, Colleen Madden, Brian Mani.

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Julius Caesar

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Stephen Brown-Fried

Political power struggles become deadly in one of the great Shakespearean tragedies. When Cassius and Brutus see the vehement support around Emperor Julius Caesar, they worry that the people will crown this much-loved politician King of Rome, overthrowing the hard-won republic. As their plans to temper Caesar's power grow ever darker, allegiances and loyalty are put to the test. Thrilling and heartbreaking, it's been 14 seasons since we've seen its like on the Hill. Featuring Jim DeVita as Brutus and Gavin Lawrence as Marc Antony.

The Madwoman of Chaillot

By Jean Giraudoux

Adapted by Maurice Valency

Directed by Aaron Posner

Paris has been overrun with corrupt executives looking to capitalize on the oil they believe is beneath the city; a belief that has no basis in reality. When the plan comes to the attention of the eccentric Countess Aurelia, she fights her way out of her routine, and gathers her wits and a batty clan of townspeople and like-minded Madwomen. Together, they hatch a plan to save their beloved city by any means necessary. A funny and ruthless social satire. Featuring Tracy Michelle Arnold as Countess Aurelia. Also featuring Sarah Day, David Daniel, Jim DeVita and Colleen Madden.

Love's Labour's Lost

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Brenda DeVita

An early Shakespeare comedy returns to our stage for the first time in nearly two decades. The King of Navarre and his three companions, Berowne, Dumaine and Longaville, commit themselves to three years of hard study with no distractions. To firm up his resolve, the King declares that no woman will be allowed within a mile of the court. When a French Princess arrives with her attendants, Rosaline, Maria and Katherine, the men find reason to immediately regret their oath in this fun and satisfying summer Shakespeare. Featuring Marcus Truschinski as Berowne. Also featuring Kelsey Brennan, Nate Burger, Melisa Pereyra and James Ridge.

IN THE TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

The Brothers Size

By Tarell Alvin McCraney

Directed by Gavin Lawrence

In the Louisiana bayou, Ogun Size is the hardworking and steady brother to the younger Oshoosi. Ogun worries constantly about his brother, who's fresh out of jail, restless and aimless. When Elegba, Oshoosi's old prison-mate arrives with a gift, their relationship is thrown out of balance. Influenced by the rich culture of the Yoruba people of West Africa, this contemporary tale begins in ritual and evolves into a tough and tender drama of what it means to brother and be brothered. Combining flights of poetry, music and dance, *The Brothers Size* explores the tenuousness of freedom and the need to belong.

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The River Bride

By Marisela Treviño Orta

Directed by Robert Ramirez

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

A Phoenix Too Frequent

By Christopher Fry

Directed by Keira Fromm

In ancient Rome, Dynamene is prepared to die from grief over the death of her husband and has barricaded herself, fasting, in his tomb. She has brought her faithful servant along to die with her (an idea that said servant is not 100% on board with). But it's not long before Dynamene is distracted from her death wish by the arrival of a handsome soldier, Tegeus, providing a foil for her grief in this comedy about love and expectations.

Fall in the Touchstone

Stones in His Pockets

By Marie Jones

Directed by Tim Ocel

Two down-on-their-luck men in a down-on-its-luck Irish town are given what they hope is a chance at the good life. Jake and Charlie have been cast as extras in a Hollywood movie – a shaft of light through the clouds of their dreary rural existence. Like most sets, this one is rife with drama on stage and off – some hilarious and some heartbreaking – as the American cast and crew try to immerse themselves in Jake and Charlie's culture, and vice-versa. Nate Burger and Marcus Truschinski play all 15 characters in this unique and enthralling tragicomedy.

Winter Words

APT's off-season play-reading series will return in February of 2020. These play readings, held in the Touchstone Theatre February through April, explore plays that may be of interest for future APT seasons. Dates and titles will be announced in the coming weeks. Tickets will go on sale on in January.

Still to come in 2019

A Doll's House, Part 2

By Lucas Hnath

Directed by Brenda DeVita

With a knock at the door, Nora is launched back into a household she helped burn to the ground 15 years before. But even after all this time, family ties cinch tighter than expected, and she discovers that confronting people she hurt in the past takes courage. Also helpful: a good sense of humor and a strong sense of self. Fortunately, Nora ticks all those boxes. A provocative and surprisingly funny debate about the roles people choose to play, and those they feel forced into; a conversation with 140 years of momentum behind it. Featuring APT Core Company Actors Sarah Day, Jim DeVita, Colleen Madden and Melisa Pereyra

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Performances run through November 17. Tickets are on sale now, though some performances are currently sold out. Tickets and information at americanplayers.org or by calling 608-588-2361.

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, 1,089 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

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