



AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APT ANNOUNCES TWO MAJOR GIFTS FOR PROGRAMMING AND ENDOWMENT

SPRING GREEN, WI: American Players Theatre is thrilled to announce that it has received two major gifts to benefit its artistic programming and the theater's endowment. The generous gifts come from Forrest Hartmann of Baraboo and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation of Madison.

Forrest Hartmann, a longtime APT supporter from Baraboo, made a substantial six-figure gift to create a play-development program designed to create works for the Touchstone Theatre, APT's indoor, 200-seat theater. Artistic Director Brenda DeVita and her team will use the proceeds to commission adaptations and new works based on classic stories, and to support workshops, readings and productions.

"This is the gift that dreams are made on," said DeVita. "Mr. Hartmann heard me speak at an event, when I shared my vision of adapting large-cast classical works for the Touchstone in the 21st Century, and he wants to help APT do just that in whatever form and whatever timeline it takes. This gift was a direct result of that honest conversation and Mr. Hartmann's desire to fortify APT's future."

In December, APT received the largest single endowment gift in its history, with a \$1 million gift from the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation to the APT Foundation. The gift, given in honor of Brenda and Jim DeVita and their dedication to APT over 25 years, more than doubled the size of APT's supporting foundation, which was established in 2013.

APT Foundation President Terry Haller said "At APT, Brenda and Jim DeVita have taught us to aspire to achieve nothing less than work which meets the highest artistic standards in the world. This magnificent \$1 million, from one of America's great philanthropists, ensures that we will be able to more closely approach that lofty goal. A strong and vibrant APT will inspire and enlighten our children – and our children's children – with the wondrous magic of classical theater in an incomparable setting."

Carrie Van Hallgren, APT's Managing Director expressed her gratitude for these landmark gifts. "These remarkable gifts will enable us to continue to grow and adapt to the changing demands of our art, our artists and our audiences. And because they come from patrons who have been attending APT since its inception, they inspire us to look forward with confidence and plan for future generations of APT audiences. We are honored to have their trust."

The 2018 Season June 9 – November 18

ON THE HILL

As You Like It

By William Shakespeare

Born Yesterday

By Garson Kanin

The Recruiting Officer

By George Farquhar

Heartbreak House

By George Bernard Shaw

Adapted by Aaron Posner

Measure for Measure

By William Shakespeare

IN THE TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

Blood Knot

By Athol Fugard

Exit the King

By Eugène Ionesco

Translated by Neil Armfield &

Geoffrey Rush

Our Country's Good

By Timberlake Wertenbaker

Adapted from the novel

“The Playmaker”

by Thomas Keneally

Opening in November

Engaging Shaw

By John Morogielo

With excerpts from Bernard Shaw

About the Theater

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. APT 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. For photos or interviews, please contact: **Jess Amend, 608-588-9240, jamend@americanplayers.org**