



AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE TICKETS ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC APRIL 24
2023 Season offers classics from Shakespeare, Chekhov, and thrilling contemporary works

SPRING GREEN, WIS: Tickets for American Players Theatre's (APT's) 44th season will go on sale to the general public on April 24. The 2023 summer season runs June 10 – October 8, with the autumn performance of David Auburn's Pulitzer-Prizewinner, *Proof* running October 26 – November 19 in the Touchstone Theatre.

The 1,075-seat, outdoor Hill Theatre will open with one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, on June 10. The second Shakespearean classic will be *Romeo & Juliet* featuring Shakespeare's words performed in spoken English, with some lines in American Sign Language. Also playing on the Hill, David Ives' farce *The Liar*; Thornton Wilder's great American Classic *Our Town*; and *Anton's Shorts* – five short, one-act comedies by Anton Chekhov, adapted by award-winning playwright Aaron Posner.

The 201-seat, indoor Touchstone Theatre offers four productions never seen before on APT's stages: *The Royale* by Marco Ramirez; *Once Upon a Bridge* by Sonya Kelly; *Mala* by Melinda Lopez; and *Proof* by David Auburn.

Public ticket sales start on April 24 - online at americanplayers.org 24/7, or by calling the Box Office at 608-588-2361 from 10:00 AM CT – 5:00 PM CT. Tickets and information at americanplayers.org.

Artistic Director, Brenda DeVita said of the upcoming season: "We are so thrilled to be able to continue to offer these large-cast, gorgeously appointed productions this summer. And more importantly to welcome the audience back to our theaters again to our home in the woods! This season is really a love letter to them. The plays this year are about community, and taking care of one another, and how vital it is to have that connection to another human being, or group of human beings - and even better under the stars."

"We're incredibly excited to bring back two great, beloved Shakespeares – *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, a delightful comedy, and *Romeo & Juliet*, which will feature actors who are deaf playing Romeo and Friar Laurence, signing in ASL. We have a great American Classic – *Our Town* – which hasn't been on our stage in 30 years. And two comedies that feel both foundational and brand new, *The Liar* and *Anton's Shorts*. And in the Touchstone, we have four gorgeous, poetic, contemporary plays that are new to us, as we continue our journey into exploring the new classics, and how they connect and intersect with our foundation and our future."

The 2023 Plays

In the Hill Theatre

The Merry Wives of Windsor

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Terri McMahon

When the infamous Sir John Falstaff arrives in Windsor, he immediately decides his path to riches lies in finding a wealthy woman to woo. So he sets about writing identical love letters to two married ladies about town – Mistresses Ford and Page. Though the letters fail to have the intended effect, the ladies find them an excellent inlet to toy with Falstaff, resulting in a funny and energetic exploration of marriage, miscommunication and forgiveness, featuring charming characters and shenanigans to spare.

The Liar

By David Ives

Adapted from *Le Menteur* by Pierre Corneille

Directed by Keira Fromm

Ridiculous situations abound in this warm and hilarious adaptation of Corneille's famous farce. Charming Dorante is a shameless liar, and he's just arrived in Paris with good times on his mind. He very quickly falls in love with a local lady, Clarice, who he has mistaken for her best friend, Lucrece. Further complicating matters is that, unbeknownst to Dorante, Clarice is already engaged - to his childhood friend, Alcippe. Throw in a servant who cannot tell a lie, and a father who is anxious to marry off his wayward son, and you've got the type of uproarious comedies that APT does best.

Romeo & Juliet

By William Shakespeare

Directed by John Langs

In this gorgeous new production, American Sign Language entwines with Shakespeare's sweeping poetry. The story is one you likely know - the feuding Montague and Capulet clans come crashing together when the star-crossed Romeo and Juliet fall utterly in love, even though, in this case, they speak different languages. As characters speak their truths with their whole hearts, a chorus of actors speaks along with the signing in this lush, full-hearted imagining of one of the greatest tragedies ever written.

Our Town

By Thornton Wilder

Directed by Tim Ocel

Wilder's Pulitzer-Prize winning classic returns to the Hill Theatre for the first time since 1992. That little town of Grover's Corners contains multitudes. Centered around George and Emily, a young couple in love, the story of their lives together evolves as the acts carry on, intertwined with the story of the town itself, the narrative stewarded by an all-knowing stage manager. A timeless tale that gently reminds us about the importance of appreciating the life we have, and the people with whom we share it.

Anton's Shorts

Brief Plays & Vaudevilles by the Young Anton Chekhov

Freely adapted by Aaron Posner

Directed by Jake Penner

Sometimes, Russian comedy isn't so much comedy in the traditional sense. That said, Anton Chekhov had a phase in his youth where everything seemed very funny indeed – even when the topics are serious ones: the complexities of love and life; of marriage and moving on.

Adapted by award-winning playwright and regular stage director at APT, Aaron Posner, who weaves the pieces together with an original work of fiction featuring Chekhov himself.

In the Touchstone Theatre

Once Upon a Bridge

By Sonya Kelly

Directed by Laura Rook

Based on a true story, three lives intersect for an instant, and are changed forever. A young woman starting out in a new city is bumped – or is she pushed? – or did she fall? – into the path of an oncoming bus, her life spared by bare inches. One man hustles off, while another risks his job to stay. Structured as a series of flowing monologues, these strangers tell a tale of the distance between our hopes and realities; our perceived futures and unchangeable past; between ourselves and the people around us. A poetic and hopeful meditation about choices, consequences and picking up the pieces when they fall.

The Royale

By Marco Ramirez

Directed by Tyrone Phillips

In the early 1900s, Jay Jackson, known in boxing circles as “The Sport,” is primed to become the first Black heavyweight champion of the world. It’s an opportunity to open doors for himself, and all the potential prize fighters who come after him - most immediately, his young could-be protégé, Fish. But what is the price of bringing those barriers down? And who is reaping the rewards of his sacrifice? What do his accomplishments mean to those who come after, and what do they mean to the safety of his family in an intolerant time? A graceful, theatrical play about boxing, without a single punch thrown.

Mala

By Melinda Lopez

Directed by Rosa Joshi

Mala is doing her very best to be a dutiful child without losing her cool (or her mind), while caring for her stubborn, aging mother. Her story offers a heartfelt exploration of the maddening, devastating and darkly hilarious events that surround caring for a parent heading toward the end of life. As Mala shares her own experiences, and the experiences of her friends in similar situations, she bounds between comedy and deeply poignant emotion, creating an event custom-made for anyone who's struggled to be perfectly patient with someone they love. A tour-de-force featuring the extraordinary talents of Nancy Rodriguez.

Opening in October

Proof

By David Auburn

Directed by Brenda DeVita

Catherine has lived alone with her father, who had once been a world-renowned mathematician, in order to care for him during a period of mental decline. But the nature of their conversations is starting to cause her to fear that she may share more with her father than a love of numbers. Complicating this is one of her father’s former students, Hal, combing through his journals for something of value, while anxiously wondering if his own best days are behind him at 28. And Catherine’s sister, Claire, who only wants the best for Catherine, though her motives may not be entirely unselfish. A poignant and surprisingly funny look at what we’re willing to sacrifice for those we love – and what we’re not. *Contains adult themes and language.*

For more information, visit www.americanplayers.org/news/press-room

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