



AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE WELCOMES FOUR CORE COMPANY MEMBERS IN 2024 Casting Updates for the 45th Season Included

SPRING GREEN, WIS: American Players Theatre (APT) is excited to welcome four new members to their Core Company of actors in preparation for their 45th anniversary season, running from June 8 – November 10. **Actors Phoebe González, Josh Krause, Samantha Newcomb and Laura Rook** will join the 13 current members of APT's acclaimed Core Acting Company.

Artistic Director Brenda DeVita said, "Forming the Core Acting Company was a defining moment for APT – a commitment to what would be our soul, our brand and our aesthetic. And we are so thrilled to build on that foundation, and to welcome four incredible actors to the Core Company, just in time for APT's 45th season. That is not to say that these actors are new to APT. They have been working, and learning and growing right alongside us for some time. **Laura Rook**, who has been captivating our audiences for a number of years, and who directed with us for the first time last year, *Once Upon a Bridge*, and was just as incredible in that role as she has been on stage. **Josh Krause**, who joined APT as an apprentice in 2017, and has since become invaluable to the company, and his comedic chops are just incredible and ridiculous. **Phoebe González**, who came on board with a Shaw, *Heartbreak House*, and was able to command that dense language alongside a cast of veterans, and she just continues to grow through memorable role after memorable role. **Samantha Newcomb**, also began as an Apprentice Company Member in 2019, came back during the pandemic and just blew us away in *Oedipus*, and she has continued to do that time and again - most recently as Emily in *Our Town* last season. We are so grateful that these amazing artists have agreed to join us. Our future depends on talented actors who are committed to the work we do, to being leaders and learners.

We've found that joining the Core Company affects an artist's growth and ownership, and that translates into leadership in every space at APT. And so now we have four more people talented, brave and generous enough to confidently lead, to question, to decide with us what we need to pay more attention to. It makes the company stronger and deeper. The future becomes clear to us through these different perspectives and lenses. The work is better for it. We are thrilled for what's to come."

In additional casting information, Core Company actor **Kelsey Brennan** will be taking a summer sabbatical after an impressive season in 2023. Brennan was originally slated to perform the role of Beatrice in this summer's production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. In light of her leave, actor Jessica Ko will be taking on the role of Shakespeare's wittiest heroine opposite Core Company actor Marcus Truschinski's Benedick.

Tickets will go on sale to returning audience members on March 11, 2024. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on April 22. For more information visit americanplayers.org.

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

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*

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**

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 Trenviño 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

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**

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

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