



AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE'S 40TH SEASON KICKS OFF JUNE 8

Anniversary celebration on July 21 includes dedication of Art in the Woods exhibition

SPRING GREEN, WIS: American Players Theatre is preparing to launch its 40th season in the woods. The first performances – George Bernard Shaw's *The Man of Destiny* in the indoor Touchstone Theatre, and William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in the flagship, outdoor Hill Theatre - will be held on June 8. Also playing on the Hill: Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, August Wilson's *Fences* and Lauren Gunderson's *The Book of Will*. Other plays in the Touchstone Theatre: *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur* by Tennessee Williams, *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, in a version by Simon Stephens. This will be followed up by *A Doll's House, Part 2* by Lucas Hnath, running in the Touchstone from October 24 through November 17.

Tickets are on sale now, and available at a 20% discount when purchased by June 7 at americanplayers.org or by calling the APT Box Office at 608-588-2361.

40 Years of APT

APT was established in 1979, and held its first performance, William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, on July 18, 1980. Since then, APT has grown to national prominence, adding several administrative and rehearsal buildings, as well as the Touchstone Theatre in 2009, while expanding its company and its repertoire.

Artistic Director, Brenda DeVita said, "Forty years is really an accomplishment – and here we are. We've expanded the plays that we do. We've expanded the company. We have looked at ourselves and asked hard questions about what kind of work we want to do and who we want to be today. And I think this is something to celebrate – the way we've journeyed forward, and how we have evolved and how our audience has come along on that journey with us. 100,000 people a year come out to APT to experience these stories, and this community. The connection it creates between those people in the audience, I feel like that is something to honor."

40th Anniversary Celebration

APT will host its 40th Anniversary Party on July 21 from 1 – 4 pm. Activities include live music by APT company members and special guests; a silent auction featuring artifacts from the APT stage and artwork made by APT designers and artisans; food carts from Pizza Brutta, Dickey's Barbecue Pit and Kona Ice; and the official opening of Art in the Woods, a series of installations on the APT property.

Additionally, APT will hold "Speak the Speech: A Live APT Redux" in conjunction with the 40th anniversary party. From noon through the end of the anniversary party at 4 pm, people will be speaking the words of the last 40 years, culminating in some favorite passages read by APT's Core Acting Company. Anyone can sign up to take part in the Speak the Speech event by visiting APT's website and filling out the Google form. Readings must be five minutes or less, and selected from the canon of APT productions.

Tickets to the 40th Anniversary event are on sale now at americanplayers.org. The cost is \$12 per ticket.

Art in the Woods

This season marks the debut of "Art in the Woods," a series of art installations displayed throughout the APT property. These works will intertwine with APT's natural surroundings, while evoking conversation and adding something extra to our patron's visit to the theater. Artist selection is currently underway, and more information will be available in the coming weeks.

The 2019 Season, June 8 – October 6

ON THE HILL

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

Directed by John Langs

As Shakespearean comedies go, this is one of the greats; a fun and funny celebration that embraces the insanity of love. Runs June 8 – October 6.

She Stoops to Conquer by Oliver Goldsmith

Directed by Laura Gordon

A raucous British comedy in the hands of APT's actors is the equivalent of a full-length showstopper. It's frivolity at its very best. Runs June 14 – September 20.

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

Directed by James DeVita

Haunting and fluid; poetic and gritty, more a staged psychological journey than a play. With this cast, it will be nothing short of spectacular.

Runs June 21 – October 4.

August Wilson's Fences

Directed by Ron OJ Parson

A lyrical, heartbreaking love song sung in August Wilson's unparalleled poetry, about a family whose heart beats vast and deep. Runs August 2 – September 28.

The Book of Will by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Tim Ocel

This one feels custom made for APT – a theatrical, beat-the-clock race to save a legacy, offering some of Shakespeare’s greatest hits spoken by your favorite players. Runs August 9 – October 5.

IN THE TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

The Man of Destiny by George Bernard Shaw

Directed by James Bohnen

Young Napoleon matches wits with a mysterious lady and comes up short in this irresistible and rarely produced Shavian comedy. Runs June 8 – September 21.

A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Robynn Rodriguez

A story about women stepping beyond youth, and the friends they choose to take with them on that tricky path. Heartwarming, refreshing and funny. Runs June 14 – September 26.

A Doll’s House by Henrik Ibsen

In a version by Simon Stephens

Directed by Keira Fromm

A family drama turned life-or-death thriller, offering no clear villains. Or escape routes. A play that still haunts the zeitgeist. Runs August 10 –October 6.

Fall in the Touchstone:

A Doll’s House, Part 2 by Lucas Hnath

Directed by Brenda DeVita

Provocative and surprisingly funny, Nora returns after 15 years to discover what’s changed, and what hasn’t. A sequel with 140 years of momentum behind it. Runs October 24 – November 17.

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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. Located in Spring Green, Wis., on 110 acres of hilly woods and meadows above the Wisconsin River, APT’s 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 200-seat indoor Touchstone Theatre, offering a different type of play and experience

For more information, visit www.americanplayers.org

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