inspired
Welcome to Villanova Theatre! (Or, if we are already friends, welcome back!)

For the past six decades, our mainstage season has been a vibrant laboratory in which our experiments in the art of theatre come to life, deepening our students’ understanding of the curriculum, and—we hope—delighting and enlightening our audiences along the way.

Our annual season selection process is an intricate one, seeking to balance several key factors in order to arrive at our mainstage offerings: a range of plays and musicals representing a variety of periods, genres, and styles, as well as a diversity of authorship; works that offer challenging roles for the developing actors we teach; subject matter that resonates with and illuminates other disciplines within the University; and, last but surely not least, the sheer pleasure of the art itself!

We’re thrilled to invite you to join us for the 2017-2018 season, beginning with the beloved musical *Godspell* by Stephen Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak. From here, we delve into the works of two of America’s most exciting contemporary playwrights. Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage’s richly-layered *Intimate Apparel* transports us back to the beginning of the previous century, while Anne Washburn’s wildly inventive *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play* hurtles us into the next. Finally, we return to the timeless playwright whose work has warranted reimagining on the stage for over four centuries, with William Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Our goal is to make these plays come alive, to honor the discipline we teach, while reinventing it each and every time. And, in the end, to stir your spirit, touch your heart, provoke your passion, and inspire your soul. Why aspire to anything less?

We hope you’ll join us for the journey ahead, and promise you an exciting ride!

Michael Hollinger
Artistic Director
From the musical genius behind the Broadway blockbusters *Wicked* and *Pippin* comes this exuberant take on the Gospel According to Matthew. An offbeat group of disciples helps Jesus bring his enduring parables to life through games, stories, and unforgettable songs by Grammy and Tony Award winner Stephen Schwartz.

Having touched the hearts of theatregoers throughout the world, this timeless tale of friendship, loyalty and love grapples with the eternal question: How can spirituality survive in a stubbornly material world? Rejoice and prepare ye for a legendary show that “never stops bopping, bouncing, bounding” (*The New York Times*).
GODSPELL
Travel back to 1900’s New York and meet Esther, a black seamstress with gifted hands and grand ambitions. By day, Esther sews intimate apparel for her clients — from socialites to prostitutes — while at night she dreams of opening her own beauty parlor, where black and white women receive the same royal treatment. Determined to fashion a future as breathtaking as her garments, Esther pursues her passions while searching for intimacy in her own life. Nottage, a “rare, vital, important theatrical voice,” spins a tale of desire and heartache, weaving together fragility with the perseverance of the human spirit (*The New York Times*).
The earth is barren, society has collapsed, and America as we know it has come to an end. Gathered around a fire in the woods, a group of dauntless survivors search for meaning in the face of their struggle and discover a shared love in retelling one of the great stories of their time: an episode of *The Simpsons*. In a darkly comedic mash-up of oral tradition and pop culture, Washburn’s wildly inventive new play asks us to consider life beyond smart phones, Wi-Fi, and social media. A rocking, rollicking musical mythology, *Mr. Burns* “will leave you dizzy with the scope and dazzle of its ideas” (*The New York Times*).

by Anne Washburn
Score by Michael Friedman
Lyrics by Anne Washburn
directed by Jill Harrison

“a breathtaking, brain-teasing evening”

*Washington Post*
MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY
Much Ado About Nothing
Mischief and merriment abound in Shakespeare’s beloved battle of the sexes. Don Pedro’s army may have succeeded in their skirmishes, but in Messina, an idyllic country estate, conflicts of the heart prove much more trying. As Young Claudio and Hero fall madly in love, and Benedick and Beatrice reignite their own combative courtship, we quickly see how love can bring out the best - and the worst - in all of us. In a whirl of masquerade balls and mistaken identities, *Much Ado About Nothing* offers intrigue, passion and adventure.

**Shakespeare’s timeless romantic comedy!**
about the theatre department

The Villanova University Department of Theatre offers a Master of Arts degree, a Master of Arts degree with a certificate in Nonprofit Management, and a graduate certificate in practical theatre. Classes are taught by our award-winning faculty who have distinguished themselves in the field of professional theatre: directing, writing, designing, acting, and producing.

Villanova’s program is the only theatre MA in the United States that places equal emphasis on scholarly and creative work. Students undergo a rigorous course of study that is a combination of scholarly, artistic, and practical approaches to theatre. The comprehensive MA provides crucial tools for the developing theatre practitioner, educator, or scholar.

Students matriculate into the program from a wide variety of undergraduate majors, spanning the humanities and the sciences. The result is a vibrant, diverse community of scholars with a passion for theatre as a common denominator. The experience and knowledge our students gain in class, on stage, and behind the scenes allow these well-rounded scholars to embark on careers as actors, directors, stage managers, playwrights, dramaturgs, administrators, teachers, and critics.

about villanova university

Since 1842, Villanova’s Augustinian Catholic tradition has been the cornerstone of an academic community where students learn to think critically, act compassionately, and succeed while serving others. There are over 10,000 undergraduate, graduate, and law students in the University’s six colleges—the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the College of Nursing, the College of Professional Studies and the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. As students grow intellectually, Villanova prepares them to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them.
subscribe

Four-show subscriptions cost as little as $64 each – that’s only $16 a show! Pick a subscription series that works best with your schedule. Try a special series, including low-priced Preview Series A, Opening Night Series B, and Speaker’s Night Series I. Subscribers may exchange their tickets, so you are never locked into a specific day or time. NEW Flex Pass Subscriptions offer the ultimate in choice! Get four tickets to use as you please throughout the season.

benefits

25% SAVINGS on single ticket prices. EXCLUSIVE EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES for subscribers only. PRIORITY SEATING before single ticket buyers and students. FREE COFFEE AND TEA at intermission.

details

Villanova Theatre is located one mile from Exit 13 of Route 476 (the Blue Route) at the intersection of Lancaster and Ithan Avenues on the Villanova University campus. The theatre is located in Vasey Hall, which faces Lancaster Avenue. SEPTA’s Paoli/Thorndale and Norristown 100 trains stop every 30 minutes on campus.

free parking

Parking is available in the Ithan Avenue Garage across the street, which can be accessed from both Ithan and Lancaster Avenues. Parking is also available in the St. Augustine Center lot at the Ithan Avenue entrance. Simply enter through the main gate and tell the guard you are here to attend a performance.

seating

All shows are presented in the 180-seat theatre in Vasey Hall. Seating is reserved. The theatre is wheelchair accessible. When ordering tickets, please inform the Box Office if you need assistance with wheelchair seating.

villanovatheatre.org
I WISH TO ORDER

____ # of Subscriptions @ $_______ each = $_____

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[ ] Please charge my:  [ ] Visa    [ ] MasterCard    [ ] Discover

Account #    Exp. Date
Signature

* Credit card payments will be processed through Vendini Ticketing Systems.

THANK YOU!

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Your support of the artistic endeavors of Villanova Theatre’s students & faculty is greatly appreciated. Donations of $25 or more are recognized in the playbill during the 2017-2018 season. Please consider supporting Villanova Theatre.

List name in program as (gifts of $25+): __________________________

All sales final. No refunds. Subscribers may exchange tickets for a performance up to 24 hours prior to curtain time, subject to availability.

SEATING CHOICE

The theatre seats 180 and all seating is reserved. You will be given the best available seats in the section you select. Seating requests are processed in the order they are received.

Flex* The ultimate in choice! Get four tickets to use as you please for any performance in the 17-18 season

Flex Passes can be used in any combination: all for one performance or spread out over the entire season.

- Preview
- Opening Night
- Speaker’s Night: Join us for a post-show discussion with guest speakers

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