

villanova

THEATRE

2018-2019





stir
your
spirit
to
touch
your
heart



why do we do what we do?

Keep making theatre, that is, when technology tantalizingly offers an endless stream of digital viewing options, delivered in seconds and consumable at our leisure?

Because—in an age of instant entertainment, we still believe there is something thrilling and profound about coming together in a darkened room to share stories in the company of others—watching, weeping and laughing together. We also believe in training the next generation of theatre makers and scholars so they can master the principles of our ancient art, plumb its depths, push its boundaries and tell the stories we'll need to share in the years and decades to come.

To that end, we invite you into our “laboratory”—a mainstage season in which our students, faculty, staff and guest artists practice the alchemy of the theatre, turning words and notes on a page into **vibrant, live experiences that stir the spirit, engage the mind, delight the senses and satisfy the soul**. Our goal, every time we fill the stage, is to give you something you can't download or stream – not at any price.

This quartet of plays may well be **our most audience-friendly season in years**, beginning with *The Book Club Play*, a **sly, inventive comedy** that places a quirky group of book lovers under the unblinking lens

of a Danish documentarian. This is followed by *She Loves Me*, a **musical confection to warm the heart**, just as the weather begins to chill.

The new year brings us *Youth*, a **bold, imaginative new play** by Villanova's own James Ijames, whose lively and lyrical work is beginning to sweep the country. And the cherry on top is Oscar Wilde's comic masterpiece, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a **hilarious battle of arch words and starched collars**.

It's all live, all the time, with no commercials or pop-up ads. And it all happens right here, at Villanova Theatre.

Come join us – we'd love to save you a seat!

Michael
Michael Hollinger
Artistic Director



SEP

TUE 18 25

WED 19 26

THU 20 27

FRI 21 28

SAT 22 29

SUN 23 30
2pm 2pm

all shows at 8pm unless
otherwise indicated



by **Karen Zacarías**
directed by **James Ijames**

Bookworms unite! Join Ana's book club, a letter-perfect world for lovers of literature. This smart hit comedy about books and the people who love them takes a turn for the hilarious as Ana's beloved club is infiltrated by a documentary film crew. Add a provocative new member and some startling titles, and these six friends are bound for bedlam. Ana's literary haven quickly transforms into "*Lord of the Flies* with wine and dip" in this side-splitting celebration of bibliophiles everywhere.

"smart,
light and
pants-
peeingly
funny"

— chicagocritic.com

NOV

TUE 06 13

WED 07 14

THU 08 15

FRI 09 16

SAT 10 17

SUN 11 18

2pm 2pm

all shows at 8pm unless
otherwise indicated

SHE L♥VES ME

book by **Joe Masteroff**

lyrics by **Sheldon Harnick**

music by **Jerry Bock**

based on a play by **Miklos Laszlo**


directed by **Matthew Decker**

In an elegant Budapest parfumerie, two combative clerks, Amalia and Georg, are constantly butting heads on the job. After both respond to a "lonely hearts" advertisement in the newspaper, these unwitting pen pals become the most unlikely of lovebirds. Will their hearts still sing once their true identities are revealed? Widely considered the most charming musical ever written, this delightful confection promises to bring out the hopeless romantic in all of us with its heartfelt story, colorful characters and witty, melodic score.

"pure
delight"

— The Wall Street Journal





youth

by **James Ijames**
directed by **Edward Sobel**

A community is disrupted when a mysterious young man joins a church youth group in this extraordinary new play by “U.S. theatre’s next major voice” (*Broad Street Review*). Wyatt, a self-proclaimed non-believer, arrives and miracles start to occur. Youth pastor Dave and his flock of young congregants must grapple with the meaning behind these remarkable events, even as they wrestle with their own issues of identity, sexuality and faith. Barrymore, Whiting and Terrence McNally Award-winning playwright James Ijames weaves together magical realism and rousing, gospel-inflected songs in this heartfelt exploration of what it means to live and love in a world where anything is possible.

FEB

TUE 05 12

WED 06 13

THU 07 14

FRI 08 15

SAT 09 16

SUN 10 17
2pm 2pm

all shows at
8pm unless
otherwise
indicated

A new play
by Villanova
professor
James Ijames!

villanovatheatre.org

APR

TUE	02	09
WED	03	10
THU	04	11
FRI	05	12
SAT	06	13
SUN	07	14
	2pm	2pm

all shows at 8pm unless
otherwise indicated

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING *Ernest*

by **Oscar Wilde**
directed by
Valerie Joyce

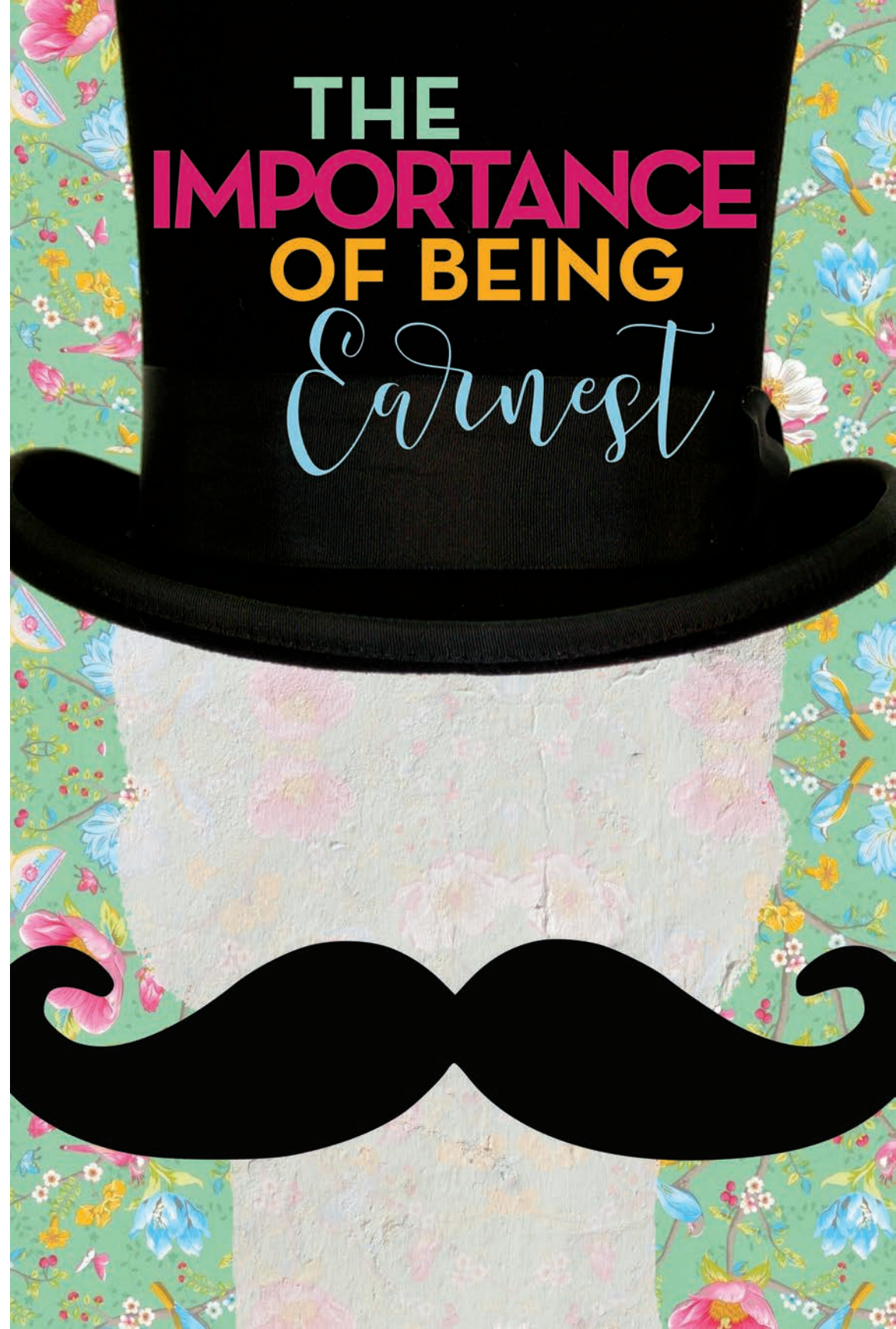
In Oscar Wilde's most enduringly popular play, a pair of wily bachelors masquerade as respectable gentlemen to court the attentions of two well-dowered ladies. Gallant Jack and irreverent Algernon invent "Ernest" alter-egos to win the hearts of Cecily and Gwendolyn, each of whom conveniently claims she'll only marry a man by that name. When all four arrive at Jack's country home on the same weekend, the men struggle to keep up with their stories and their plans go hilariously awry. With its witty wordplay, caustic commentary and blistering banter, *Ernest* is a riotously funny farce for the ages.

"witty,
charming
and elegant"

— *New York Times*

villanovatheatre.org

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING *Ernest*



Villanova's program is the only Theatre MA in the United States that places equal emphasis on scholarly and creative work.

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theatre**
2018-19



about villanova university

Since 1842, Villanova University's Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition has been the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. There are more than 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 M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, the College of Professional Studies and the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. Ranked among the nation's top universities, Villanova supports its students' intellectual growth and prepares them to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them. For more, visit www.villanova.edu.

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.



villanova theatre

2018–2019

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 or 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.

location

- 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.

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.

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.

order form

Charge by phone: **610.519.7474**
or online: **villanovatheatre.org**

Mail order form and payment to:

Villanova Theatre
800 Lancaster Avenue, Vasey Hall 5,
Villanova, PA 19085

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

Series	Day	Time	BOOK CLUB PLAY	SHE LOVES ME	YOUTH	EARNEST	Full Price	SUBSCRIBER PRICE
A	Tue	8pm	SEP 18	NOV 6	FEB 5	APR 2	\$84	\$64
B	Wed	8pm	SEP 19	NOV 7	FEB 6	APR 3	\$92	\$72
C	Thu	8pm	SEP 20	NOV 8	FEB 7	APR 4	\$92	\$72
D	Fri	8pm	SEP 21	NOV 9	FEB 8	APR 5	\$100	\$80
E	Sat	8pm	SEP 22	NOV 10	FEB 9	APR 6	\$100	\$80
F	Sun	2pm	SEP 23	NOV 11	FEB 10	APR 7	\$100	\$80
G	Tue	8pm	SEP 25	NOV 13	FEB 12	APR 9	\$92	\$72
H	Wed	8pm	SEP 26	NOV 14	FEB 13	APR 10	\$92	\$72
I	Thu	8pm	SEP 27	NOV 15	FEB 14	APR 11	\$92	\$72
J	Fri	8pm	SEP 28	NOV 16	FEB 15	APR 12	\$100	\$80
K	Sat	8pm	SEP 29	NOV 17	FEB 16	APR 13	\$100	\$80
L	Sun	2pm	SEP 30	NOV 18	FEB 17	APR 14	\$100	\$80

Flex* The ultimate in choice!

Get four tickets to use as you please for any performance in the 18–19 season

\$100 \$85

☀ Preview

🔴 Opening Night

✳ Speaker's Night: Join us for a post-show discussion with guest speakers

Name _____

Series Preference _____

Section Preference _____

i wish to order

_____ # of Subscriptions @
_____ # of Senior Discounts (65+) @
_____ # of handling charges @

\$_____ each = \$_____
-\$2.00 each = \$_____
+\$2.00 each = \$_____
Please accept my tax-deductible donation of \$_____
Total enclosed \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

payment

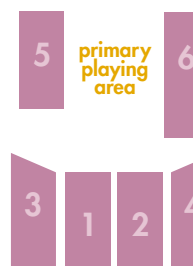
☐ I've enclosed my check payable to *Villanova Theatre*

☐ Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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



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.

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 2018-2019 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.

Department of Theatre
800 Lancaster Avenue
Vasey Hall 5
Villanova, PA 19085



Photos: Paola Nogueras/Graphic Design: Caren Goldstein

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