Dear colleague,

As we prepare to embark on our 2019-2020 season this fall, I wanted to personally encourage you to consider including a Villanova Theatre “field trip” in your course syllabi during the coming academic year.

After 60 years of making dynamic art on this campus, I suspect most faculty are already aware of our vibrant, thought-provoking productions of classic and contemporary plays and musicals. While many appreciate these shows for their sheer entertainment value, not all may recognize the added value of using live performance as a means to enhance and deepen the curriculum for students.

Our three-show season is carefully chosen to touch upon themes and subjects that resonate with course content and spark lively conversation in the classroom. Professors who bring students to the theatre routinely note how these experiences engage and energize their classes, creating new opportunities for teaching and learning.

Each production features an interactive lobby display and accessible research materials designed to place each work in its historical context and link it to contemporary issues and ideas. Our education dramaturgs create classroom guides and offer free classroom visits and workshops designed to orient faculty and students to the world of each play and effectively mine its educational content. Our Speaker’s Night talkbacks (following the second Thursday performance of each show) feature experts from Villanova’s award-winning faculty as well as scholars and artists from elsewhere in the region and beyond.

On Tuesday nights, admission is free for all Villanova students; all other performances are only $8 – half the price of a first-run movie! Villanova professors get discounts, too: only $11 for single tickets, or $30 for a three-show subscription.

For more information, or to book tickets for your group, contact Audience Services Manager Eileen Ciccarone at eciccaro@villanova.edu. I hope to see you at the theatre!

Sincerely,

Michael Hollinger, Professor of Theatre
Artistic Director, Villanova Theatre

“Villanova Theatre puts on thought-provoking plays that not only connect to ideas and issues relevant to the overarching themes of life and love, but does so in ways that make our students reflect on the meaning of their own lives and the power of the imagination.”

- Noël Dolan, Director, Academic Learning Communities, Augustine & Culture Seminar Program
VILLANOVA THEATRE’S 2019-2020 SEASON

“Villanova Theatre provides examples of staged performance that spark students’ critical thinking skills, allow for discussion of rich, concrete examples, and encourage students to attend live theatre more often.” - Shauna MacDonald, Dept. of Communication; Co-Director, Gender & Women's Studies

ORLANDO directed by James Ijames

From the novel by Virginia Woolf
Adapted by Sarah Ruhl

In this captivating adaptation of Virginia Woolf’s masterpiece, Sarah Ruhl brings to life the frolicsome and freethinking nobleman Orlando on an epic adventure that transcends time, place, and gender. After awakening from a seven-day slumber, Orlando finds himself transformed into a woman and must navigate artistry, society, and desire from an entirely new perspective. This fantastical, gender-bending, period-hopping parable explores what it means to live in our own skin and in our own time.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM directed by Edward Sobel

By William Shakespeare

Love is in the air in the forest outside Athens — and mischief is close on its heels! Shakespeare’s dreamy comedy about the transformative power of love throws two blossoming couples into the crossfire of a quarrel between the forest’s faerie king and queen, and the hapless quartet becomes entangled in enchantments. Add to the mix the impish Puck, and a troupe of bumbling actors, and merriment prevails. This magical tale of misadventure and mistaken identity is a timeless ode to lovers and dreamers everywhere.

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG directed by Valerie Joyce

Book by George Furth
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Sondheim’s wistful and witty fable about friendship, compromise and the price of success follows three close friends whose lives pull them in unexpected directions. This iconic, inventive musical follows a songwriting team through their trials and tribulations, but starts at the end and ends at the beginning. Featuring beloved songs like “Not a Day Goes By,” “Good Thing Going” and “Our Time,” Merrily We Roll Along offers Villanova Theatre audiences a chance to look back on times gone by, and look forward to a bright new tomorrow.