As we wave farewell to Vasey.
Dear friends,

All of us at Villanova Theatre are excited to share our 2019-2020 season with you—our last in Vasey Theatre before we move into the new Villanova Performing Arts Center at the corner of Lancaster and Ithan Avenues!

Knowing this season will be our farewell wave to Vasey, a space we’ve occupied and enlivened for over half a century, we have strived to curate a mainstage lineup that will both cast a fond eye backward as well as an expectant eye forward to our new home and all of the exciting art we hope to create there.

We’ll launch our season with *Orlando* by Sarah Ruhl—a dazzling adaptation of Virginia Woolf’s wry, gender-bending novel from one of America’s most inventive and captivating playwrights.

Honoring Villanova Theatre’s rich tradition of mounting Shakespeare’s plays, we’ll then bring to life *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*—arguably his greatest comedy, as well as a timeless ode to lovers, dreamers and theatremakers everywhere.

Finally, no musical looks at pasts and futures more poignantly and tunefully than Sondheim and Furth’s *Merrily We Roll Along*—a whirlwind story that moves backwards in time to track three idealistic artists whose lives pull them in unexpected directions.

While the logistical demands of our move to the Performing Arts Center in 2020 will allow us to perform only three mainstage productions instead of our usual four, we’re planning some enticing sneak-peek events in late spring that will give our subscribers early access to our new, state-of-the-art facility.

Audiences will experience the new building during our expanded New Works Reading featuring an exciting new play by a visiting playwright. We’ll also host an Alumni Cabaret, reuniting the voices and faces that have graced the Vasey stage over the past half century.

We sincerely hope you’ll join us for our final season this side of Lancaster Avenue, and we look forward to crossing the street with you next year!

Michael Hollinger
Artistic Director
Virginia Woolf’s
Orlando
Virginia Woolf’s *Orlando*

Adapted by **Sarah Ruhl**  
Directed by **James Ijames**

In Sarah Ruhl’s captivating adaptation of Virginia Woolf’s masterpiece, the spirited, freethinking nobleman Orlando embarks on “an epic adventure that transcends time, place and gender” (*New York Times*). After awakening from a seven-day slumber, Orlando finds himself transformed into a woman and must navigate society, artistry 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.

“**DELICIOUSLY FROLICSOME**”

(*New York Times*)

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**2pm**
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Edward Sobel

Beware the forest outside Athens, where mischief reigns and faeries tease and torment. Shakespeare’s comedy of passion and power throws two mismatched couples into the fray of a lovers’ quarrel between the faerie king and queen—and soon they’re all entangled in enchantments. Add to the mix the devious Puck and a hapless troupe of amateur actors, and mayhem abounds. This magical tale, boldly reimagined for our time, reveals the dangers of unbridled desire and the healing potential of the imagination.

“THE MOST MAGICAL OF ALL SHAKESPEARE’S PLAYS”

(The Wall Street Journal)
A M I D
S U M M E R
N I G H T’ S
D R E A M
Merrily We Roll Along
Sondheim’s witty and wistful fable about friendship, compromise and the price of success follows three idealistic artists whose lives pull them in unexpected directions. Featuring beloved songs like “Not a Day Goes By,” “Good Thing Going” and “Our Time,” this groundbreaking musical starts at the end and ends at the beginning, following the aspirations, trials and tribulations of this starry-eyed trio. As our last mainstage production in Vasey Theatre, Merrily We Roll Along invites audiences to look back on over five decades of fond memories while also dreaming ahead to the many marvels yet to come.

TUE 3/17, WED 3/18, THU 3/19, FRI 3/20, SAT 3/21, SUN 3/22 2pm


3/17 - 3/29
Villanova’s new performing arts center, slated to open January 2020, will provide a hub for creativity, engagement and exploration for the University’s arts community. In addition to enhancing educational opportunities in the arts, the new Center will transform the campus’s cultural landscape.

The Performing Arts Center will feature state-of-the-art performance spaces and studios, classrooms to support education and artistic innovation, and common areas for collaboration by members of the University community. Serving as home to the Villanova Theatre program, as well as other music and dance activities, it will provide a destination where students, faculty, parents, alumni and friends of Villanova can share their passion for the arts.

The Center’s two main performance spaces include a 400-seat proscenium-style theatre with tailored acoustics, state-of-the-art theatrical lighting and modern technology. This space also will accommodate cultural events such as concert series, University-wide lectures and major event screenings. The other performance venue will be a 200-seat courtyard theatre that includes technologically advanced lighting and sound equipment. In addition, the Performing Arts Center will have rehearsal space, performance labs, classrooms, a dance studio, costume and scenery shops, a box office and multiple venues for special events.

“For many years, even before I became president, I have been vocal about my desire to create a permanent home for the arts at Villanova,” said the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, Villanova’s President who served as chair of the University’s Department of Theatre from 1992 to 2006. “The Performing Arts Center will be that place. It will be a place of discovery, where knowledge is disseminated and applied, and it will be a destination that reflects the quality of our students, faculty and staff, the caliber of our productions and the talent of our performers and artists.”

For details on how you can support this remarkable project, please contact University Advancement at campaign@villanova.edu | 800.486.5244.
VILLAN OVA’S
NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
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.

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 through their scholarship and professional work in the theatre, through acting, design, directing, dramaturgy, playwriting 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.
SUBSCRIBE

- Three-show subscriptions cost as little as $48 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, Wine Down Wednesday Series H 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 three 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.

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.

FREE PARKING

- Parking is 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.
- Handicapped accessible parking is available on Dougherty Drive in front of Vasey Hall.

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.
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

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$75

* 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.

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

Name ____________________________

Series Preference ____________________________

Section Preference ____________________________

I wish to order

____ number of Subscriptions $____ each = $____

____ number of Senior Discounts (65+) @ $1.50 each = $____

____ number of handling charges @ +$1.50 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 ____________________________

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 2019-2020 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.