

## THE SHAW FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2021 SEASON

- Tickets go on sale to Friends of The Shaw on November 7 and the public on December 5 -

**Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (October 14, 2020)** — The [Shaw Festival](#) plans to return to the stage in May with a reduced 2021 season. Many of the anticipated productions originally scheduled for 2020 will now appear as part of the 2021 playbill.

“This is an expression of faith. Of course, it is impossible to know what the situation will be next year. We may have to change our plans again; we will be ready to do so. But we have decided to be optimistic and plan for a season. This year has shown us how desperately we miss the experience of live theatre. It may well be more challenging to make theatre for a while, but it has never been easier to make the case for it.” said Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**. “Of course, safety must be the utmost priority – for our patrons and Company – and The Shaw will do everything possible to make sure everyone can come to our theatres and spaces with confidence.”

Being mindful of the evolving health situation and safety protocols, the Shaw Festival is prepared to perform to reduced-capacity audiences, with the hope of releasing additional seating when safe to do so and as permitted by the Government of Ontario and public health units. Due to current physical distancing requirements, seating locations for the 2021 season will not be confirmed at this time. Tickets will be sold by price zone and specific seating locations will be assigned at a later date in accordance with requirements.

“We look forward to next May, when we aim to launch our 2021 season, with hope and optimism. Now more than ever, it is even more important that The Shaw be a place where everyone feels welcome and where all people can gather and connect comfortably and safely,” described Executive Director **Tim Jennings**. “We have worked hard to lead in this area. The Festival has implemented a Duty of Care policy that will be strictly enforced to ensure the safety of our audiences, community and company members. We are excited to be the first theatre in Ontario to receive the Safe Travel Stamp from World Travel and Tourism Council and the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario.”

For the complete list of the Festival’s COVID-19 health and safety practices, please visit [shawfest.com/duty-of-care/](http://shawfest.com/duty-of-care/).

The 2021 season playbill features:

### **FESTIVAL THEATRE**

#### **GYPSY**

**A Musical Fable, Book by Arthur Laurents,  
Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Suggested by memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee**

Previews **May 7** ♦ Available for review beginning **May 27** ♦ Closes **October 10**

The story of Momma Rose, the ultimate stage mother, who pushes her daughters June and Louise into showbiz. Through sheer will, she shapes their stardom ... at any price. Both daughters find fame, but not the way Momma Rose had envisioned. Inspired by the memoirs

of famous striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee, **Gypsy** explores the human cost of blind ambition.

Age Recommendation: Age 12+

**GYPSY** is sponsored by **BMO Financial Group**.  
**GYPSY** is presented by arrangement with [Concord Theatricals](#) on behalf of **Tams-Witmark LLC**.

**THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE**  
By Bernard Shaw

Previews **June 11** ♦ Available for review beginning **July 17** ♦ Closes **October 9**

Dick Dudgeon, notorious freethinker and rascal, returns to his childhood home where he learns – to the horror of his disapproving family – that he's inherited the estate. As he settles in as the new head of the household, Dick's devilish attitude puts him on the wrong side of the local minister's wife. But is he a devil or an angel in disguise? Set in New England during the War of Independence, **The Devil's Disciple** is an action-filled comedy full of sparkling dialogue and sexual tension.

Age Recommendation: Age 12+

**THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE** is sponsored by **William & Nona Macdonald Heaslip Foundation** and the **Gabriel Pascal Memorial Fund**.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RAVEN'S CURSE**  
By R. Hamilton Wright  
Based on the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Previews **July 15** ♦ Available for review beginning **July 24** ♦ Closes **October 10**

Following the success of **The Hound of the Baskervilles** in 2018, the famous sleuth and his loyal friend Dr. Watson are back on the Festival Theatre stage in **Sherlock Holmes and The Raven's Curse**. Sherlock Holmes returns to his childhood home to investigate the mysterious death of his uncle. Can he uncover the truth before the Raven's Curse claims another victim?

Age Recommendation: Age 12+

**SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RAVEN'S CURSE** is sponsored by **CIBC** and **Hummel Properties Inc.**

**ROYAL GEORGE THEATRE**

**CHARLEY'S AUNT**  
By Brandon Thomas

Previews **May 1** ♦ Available for review beginning **May 27** ♦ Closes **October 10**

When their chaperone cancels, Jack and Charley must scramble to make sure their plans to woo Kitty and Amy aren't ruined. Their friend Lord Fancourt Babberley quickly finds himself disguised as rich Brazilian widow Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez and thrust into the role of chaperone. But Babberley's charming ways and slightly dodgy behaviour soon distract the girls from the adorations of their beaux.

Age Recommendation: Age 11+

**CHARLEY'S AUNT** is sponsored by **Mary E. Hill**.

***FLUSH***  
**One-Act**  
**Based on the novella by Virginia Woolf**  
**Adapted by Tim Carroll**

Previews **June 3** ♦ Available for review beginning **June 13** ♦ Closes **October 2**

Elizabeth Barrett's only companion is her cocker spaniel, Flush. Although she is one of England's most famous poets, her father has convinced her that she is an invalid who cannot leave her upstairs room. A fan letter from aspiring poet Robert Browning eventually leads to a meeting, and from there to one of the most romantic love stories of all time, told here from the perspective of woman's best friend, who goes from being a pampered lapdog to a dog-about-town in Italy.

Age Recommendation: Age 12+

*FLUSH* is sponsored by **James & Diane King**.

**JACKIE MAXWELL STUDIO THEATRE**

The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre is sponsored by **Paradigm Capital Inc.**

***DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS***  
**By Eugene O'Neill**

Previews **July 3** ♦ Available for review beginning **July 17** ♦ Closes **October 8**

Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece of erotic desire takes a Greek tragedy and sets it on an American Gothic farmstead. The hatred of Eben Cabot and his new stepmother for each other is only matched by their desire. Containing some of the most powerfully charged scenes in all of theatre, ***Desire Under the Elms*** is a poetic tale of forbidden love hurtling towards disaster.

Age Recommendation: Age 14+

***TROUBLE IN MIND***  
**By Alice Childress**

Previews **August 8** ♦ Available for review beginning **August 21** ♦ Closes **October 9**

Willetta Mayer is a black actress rehearsing a white play about black people being saved by white people. The compromises and petty humiliations of the rehearsal bring into focus the question: how much can she take for the art of theatre? Pioneering African-American playwright, Alice Childress's ***Trouble in Mind*** is a painfully funny, timely and truthful piece about race, privilege and power.

**Mature content**

Age Recommendation: Age 14+

***TROUBLE IN MIND*** is sponsored by **James F. Brown** and **TD Bank Group**.

## **FORT GEORGE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

### ***A SHORT HISTORY OF NIAGARA***

**Created and performed by Alexandra Montagnese and Mike Petersen  
Commissioned and presented by the Shaw Festival in partnership with Parks Canada**

Previews **July 29** ♦ Closes **August 13**

From the Maid of the Mist to Laura Secord to the founding of the Shaw Festival, ***A Short History of Niagara*** is thirty charming minutes of pure storytelling, the rich history of our region brought to life by wordless puppets.

*A SHORT HISTORY OF NIAGARA* is sponsored by the Humeniuk Foundation.

## **HOLIDAY SEASON**

### ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL***

**By Charles Dickens**

**Adapted and originally directed by Tim Carroll**

Previews **November 12** ♦ Available for review beginning **November 20** ♦ Closes **December 23**

The Shaw's charming production of the beloved classic ***A Christmas Carol*** returns to the Royal George Theatre to rekindle holiday memories and traditions.

Age Recommendation: Age 6+

*A CHRISTMAS CAROL* is sponsored by **Shaw Guild** and **Hodgson Russ LLP**.

### ***Irving Berlin's***

### ***HOLIDAY INN***

**Based on the film from Universal Pictures**

**Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin**

**Book by Gordon Greenberg and Chad Hodge**

Previews **November 14** ♦ Available for review beginning **November 20** ♦ Closes **December 23**

The cherished musical classic returns to the Festival Theatre. This toe-tapping delight follows Jim Hardy as he leaves showbiz behind for life on a farm, but soon discovers he isn't quite the farmer he hoped he'd be. Jim's outlook begins to change when he falls for Linda – a tap-dancing local schoolteacher who has never forgotten her stage dreams. Together with a group of his Broadway buddies, they transform his farmhouse into an inn featuring stunning performances that ring in every holiday with song, dance and celebration. But what happens when there's competition for Linda's affection? A fun-loving, tap-dancing, rib-tickling romantic comedy guaranteed to kick-start your holiday season.

Age Recommendation: Age 10+

*HOLIDAY INN* is sponsored by **Mary E. Hill**  
*HOLIDAY INN* is presented by arrangement with [Concord Theatricals](http://ConcordTheatricals.com).

Tickets for the 2021 season will be available through the Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW (7429) and online at [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com). The Shaw Festival's 2021 season goes on sale to Friends of The Shaw beginning November 7 and the public on December 5. Patrons wishing to get front-of-the-

line access to tickets can visit [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com) or call 1-800-657-1106 x 2556 to become Friends of The Shaw.

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### **About the Shaw Festival**

Inspired by the spirit of Bernard Shaw, the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw Festival is a place where people who are curious about the world gather to share the unique experience of live theatre and to create a deeper human connection with the artists, the beauty and abundance of Niagara and with each other. For more information, please visit [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com).

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