

# SHAW 20 FESTIVAL 26

## SHAW FESTIVAL REVEALS PLAYBILL FOR 2026

- Celebration of wit, mystery, music, magic and shared human connection starts April 2 -

**Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (August 27, 2025)** — The [Shaw Festival](#) is proud to announce its highly anticipated 64th season today, set to begin in April 2026. Continuing the Festival's tradition of excellence and innovation, Artistic Director **Tim Carroll** introduced a vibrant lineup featuring a provocative Shavian drama, a haunting portrait of jealousy and genius, a mind-bending mystery, beloved musicals, ludicrous farces, family classics and the workshop presentation of a daring new play. In 2026, audiences will experience a compelling diversity of shows honouring the Festival's rich tradition, bold creativity and inspired inventiveness.

"This season celebrates theatre itself – illusion, disguise, performance – and all the ways that we delight, mislead, amaze and seduce each other. Life is a theatre, and theatre is life," said Tim Carroll. "We can't wait to share the unique thrill of live performance with our amazing audience."

Kicking off next season is Anthony Shaffer's acclaimed thriller ***Sleuth***, drawing audiences into a world of deception and mind games. Next, the legendary Broadway musical ***Funny Girl*** takes the stage, followed by the sidesplitting Whitehall farce ***One for the Pot*** – both at the Festival Theatre.

"With the closure of our beloved Royal George Theatre at the end of December, The Shaw will return to where it all began in 1962 – the Niagara District Court House – affectionately known as the Court House Theatre," stated **Tim Jennings**, The Shaw's executive director. "***Sleuth*** will be the first show in the newly reconstructed Court House Theatre, which, in addition to the delightful comedy ***Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense***, will also feature ***A New Work in Progress – A Special Workshop Presentation of a new play*** by contemporary American theatre's critically acclaimed playwright **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**."

The Shaw Festival's 2026 season begins April 2 and runs until December 23.

### FESTIVAL THEATRE

#### FUNNY GIRL

Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Bob Merrill

Book by Isobel Lennart from an original story by Miss Lennart

Produced for the Broadway stage by Ray Stark

New York production supervised by Jerome Robbins

Original production directed by Garson Kanin

Directed by Eda Holmes

Previews: **April 24**

Available for review begins: **May 21**

Closes: **October 3**

This touching musical comedy explores Broadway star Fanny Brice's unlikely rise to stardom

and her turbulent love life with gambler and entrepreneur Nicky Arnstein. Featuring one of the most powerful musical scores of all time, ***Funny Girl*** showcases unforgettable songs like "Don't Rain on My Parade", "I'm the Greatest Star" and "People". A celebration of a woman who dared to defy norms and succeed on her own terms.

**FUNNY GIRL** is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

## **ONE FOR THE POT**

**By Ray Cooney and Tony Hilton**

**Directed by Chris Abraham**

Previews: **May 27**

Available for review begins: **July 9**

Closes: **October 11**

Billy Hickory Wood is set to inherit a proper pot of cash. A wealthy businessman has decided to give £10,000 to the family of his former partner and young Billy is the sole living relation. Chaos ensues with the arrival of several previously unknown Hickory Woods relations looking to stake their claim. The team that brought 2024's ***One Man, Two Guvvners*** to the Festival stage reunites to tackle this quintessential over-the-top British farce.

**ONE FOR THE POT** is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

## **AMADEUS**

**By Peter Shaffer**

**Directed by Tim Carroll**

Previews: **July 8**

Available for review begins: **August 8**

Closes: **October 4**

Antonio Salieri is a pious, conscientious man – and the greatest composer in the court of the Austrian Emperor Joseph II. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is a young, foul-mouthed show-off eager to make a name for himself. Salieri can hear what no one else can: that this ridiculous oaf is perhaps the greatest musical genius ever to have lived. Consumed with jealousy and envy, he sets out to destroy Amadeus and exact vengeance on God. A dark and dramatic exploration of talent, obsession and legacy.

**AMADEUS** is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

## **COURT HOUSE THEATRE**

### **SLEUTH**

**By Anthony Shaffer**

**Directed by Peter Fernandes**

Previews: **April 2**

Available for review begins: **May 2**

Closes: **October 11**

When celebrated mystery writer Andrew Wyke invites his wife's lover to his home in the English countryside, all is not as it seems. What unfolds is a fiendishly high stakes game of revenge and power. Widely regarded as one of the most ingenious and entertaining psychological thrillers in modern theatre, this production is guaranteed to be an edge-of-your-seat experience right to its heart-stopping conclusion.

SLEUTH is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

## **Jeeves and Wooster in PERFECT NONSENSE**

**A play from the works of P.G. Wodehouse  
By Robert Goodale and David Goodale**

**Directed by Brendan McMurtry-Howlett**

Previews: **May 7**

Available for review begins: **May 21**

Closes: **October 11**

Bertie Wooster is a young aristocrat who is forever getting himself into frightful scrapes. Thank goodness he has a butler – the legendarily unruffled Jeeves – to come to his rescue, usually without his even noticing. A celebration of theatrical virtuosity and pure silliness based on ***The Code of the Woosters***, the 1938 novel by **P.G. Wodehouse**.

**JEEVES AND WOOSTER IN PERFECT NONSENSE** has been licensed by arrangement with The Agency (London) Ltd, and Independent Talent Group Limited.

## **A NEW WORK IN PROGRESS**

**A Special Workshop Presentation of a new play  
Created and Directed by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**

Presentations Start: **August 1**

Closes: **September 5**

Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright (***Purpose***), **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins** will debut a **world premiere workshop presentation** at the Shaw Festival. Next season, Jacobs-Jenkins will be embedded at the Festival, creating a new play inspired by Eugene O'Neill's ***The Emperor Jones***, in collaboration with members of the Ensemble. The Shaw Festival has previously staged two of his acclaimed works: ***An Octoroon*** (2017) and ***Everybody*** (2022).

## **JACKIE MAXWELL STUDIO THEATRE**

### **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**

**Based on the play *Toad of Toad Hall* by A.A. Milne**

**Adapted and Directed by Fiona Sauder**

Previews: **May 22**

Available for review begins: **June 21**

Closes: **September 27**

Young, impressionable Mole heads to the riverbank and meets the resourceful Rat, the grumpy Badger and the irrepressible Mr. Toad. When Toad's passion for fast cars gets him in trouble, the other three must save him. A tale about friendship, loyalty and the joy of getting into trouble based on the adored 1908 children's novel.

## **HEARTBREAK HOUSE**

**By Bernard Shaw**

**Directed by Tim Carroll**

Previews: **June 20**

Available for review begins: **July 9**

Closes: **October 3**

The shadows of war may be gathering, but for most of the weekend guests at Heartbreak House the big questions are about love and marriage. As couples waltz in a dance of ever-changing partners, only the enigmatic old sea dog Captain Shotover seems to see what is coming towards them. One of the greatest plays of all time, this brilliantly layered drama is Shaw at his most entertaining and enigmatic.

## **OHIO STATE MURDERS**

**By Adrienne Kennedy**

**Directed by Philip Akin**

Previews: **July 19**

Available for review begins: **August 7**

Closes: **October 3**

Suzanne, an acclaimed Black author, returns to her alma mater, Ohio State University, to give a speech on the violent nature of her writing. Confronted with dark memories of her past, she unravels the painful truth of what happened in 1949 during her time as a student. Written by prolific playwright Adrienne Kennedy, this hauntingly powerful one-act play is a poignant exploration of race, identity and grief. **Mature content.**

**OHIO STATE MURDERS** is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

## **HOLIDAY SEASON**

**Rodgers + Hammerstein's**

### **CINDERELLA**

**Music by Richard Rodgers**

**Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II**

**New Book by Douglas Carter Beane**

More details about the Shaw Festival's upcoming 2026 season, casts and creative team will be announced in the coming weeks. For the latest updates, visit [shawfest.com](https://shawfest.com). **\*Dates listed are subject to change.**

Tickets to the 2026 season go on sale beginning November 1 for Friends of The Shaw and December 6 to the public. Orders can be placed through the Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW (7429) or online at [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com).

Patrons can receive front-of-the-line access to tickets by becoming [Friends of The Shaw](#). Call 1-800-657-1106 ext. 2556 to learn more.

The Shaw Festival's 2025 season continues with [\*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe\*](#), [\*Anything Goes\*](#), [\*Wait Until Dark\*](#), [\*Tons of Money\*](#), [\*Major Barbara\*](#), [\*Murder-on-the-Lake\*](#), [\*Gnit\*](#), [\*Blues for an Alabama Sky\*](#), [\*Dear Liar\*](#), [\*La Vie En Rose\*](#), [\*Ella and Louis\*](#), [\*May I Have the Pleasure?\*](#), [\*The Roll of Shaw – Through the Wardrobe\*](#), [\*Coffee Concerts\*](#), [\*Speakeasies\*](#), [\*What's In Your Songbook\*](#), [\*Gospel Choir\*](#), [\*Irving Berlin's White Christmas\*](#) and [\*A Christmas Carol\*](#).

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The Shaw Festival wishes to acknowledge and honour the land upon which its patrons and company members gather as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. Recognition and thanks are extended to the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

### **About the Shaw Festival**

Inspired by the spirit of [Bernard Shaw](#), the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw 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, visit [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com).

### **Connect with the Shaw Festival**

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