

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHAW FESTIVAL OPENS 2026 SEASON WITH *FUNNY GIRL*, *SLEUTH*, AND *JEEVES & WOOSTER IN PERFECT NONSENSE*

*- Expanded lineup of Beyond the Stage events and activities features artist conversations,
Positive Aging workshops, summer youth programs, concerts and more -*

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (May 12, 2026) – The Shaw Festival officially opens its 64th season this month with three wildly different, but equally entertaining, productions of ***Sleuth***, ***Funny Girl*** and ***Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense***. To complement its world-class performances, this season the Shaw Festival will offer more than 5,000 Beyond the Stage events, classes and activities for people of all ages.

Shaw Festival performances opening in May:

Sleuth

On stage at the Court House Theatre from April 2 to October 9, 2026
Opening performance: May 22, 2026

Patrick Galligan as Andrew Wyke and **Sepehr Reybod*** as Milo Tindle engage in a deadly game of cat and mouse in **Anthony Shaffer's** fiendishly clever thriller ***Sleuth*** at the newly reconfigured Court House Theatre. Directed by **Peter Fernandes**.

Sponsored by Colleen & Brian Johnston

Hotel Sponsor: 124 on Queen Hotel & Spa

*2026 Christopher Newton Intern, Sepehr Reybod, is generously supported by Marilyn & Charles Baillie

Sleuth is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

Funny Girl

On stage at the Festival Theatre from April 24 to October 3, 2026

Opening performance: May 23, 2026

Sara Farb leads an incredible ensemble as Broadway star Fanny Brice in the Shaw Festival's production of the **Jule Styne** and **Bob Merrill** touching musical drama. Featuring classic songs like "Don't Rain on My Parade", "I'm the Greatest Star" and "People." Directed by **Eda Holmes**, music direction by **Paul Sportelli** and choreography by **Parker Esse**.

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**

This production is dedicated to the memory of The Honourable William J. Saunderson.

Sponsored by BMO Financial Group, DeRoy Testamentary Foundation, The William & Nona Heaslip Foundation and supported by Diane King

Music director supported by David & Amy Fulton

Hotel Partner: Vintage Hotels

Funny Girl is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.

www.concordtheatricals.com

Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense

On stage at the Court House Theatre from May 8 to October 10, 2026

Opening performance: May 24, 2026

Robert and **David Goodale**'s Olivier award-winning adaptation of **P.G. Wodehouse**'s *The Code of the Woosters* makes its Canadian debut at the Court House Theatre. Unhinged hijinks and the theatrical virtuosity of **Jeff Irving**, **Damien Atkins** and **Travis Seetoo** guarantee big laughs. Directed by **Brendan McMurtry-Howlett**.

A Play from The Works of **P.G. Wodehouse**
By **Robert Goodale** and **David Goodale**

Sponsored by Elaine & Donald Triggs

Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense has been licensed by arrangement with The Agency (London) Ltd, 24 Pottery Lane, London W11 4LZ and Independent Talent Group Limited, 40 Whitfield Street, London, W1T 2RH.

Beyond the Stage Events and Activities

Shaw Festival's Beyond the Stage programming includes [Positive Aging programs](#), [arts education for children and youth](#), [backstage tours](#) and [artist conversations](#), [Coffee Concerts](#), [Speakeasies](#), [What's In Your Songbook](#), [Gospel Choir](#), [Perfect Pairings concerts](#), [Pop-Up Patios](#) and much more. Visit shawfest.com/beyondthestage for more information.

Generously supported by The Martin Family as The Shaw's Education Partner.
Beyond the Stage workshops graciously supported by the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation.

The Shaw Festival's 2026 season runs through to December 23 and is supported by the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

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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

One of the five largest charitable theatre companies in North America, and one of Niagara's 20 largest employers, the Shaw Festival's mission is to enrich and connect people's lives through theatre. Based in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake, The Shaw's 2026 productions include [Funny Girl](#), [One for the Pot](#), [Amadeus](#), [Sleuth](#), [Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense](#), [A New Work in Progress](#) by [Branden Jacobs-Jenkins](#), [The Wind in the Willows](#), [Heartbreak House](#) and [Ohio State Murders](#). The Shaw Festival's Holiday Season includes [A Year with Frog and Toad](#) and [Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella](#). Through its [All.Together.Now](#) campaign, The Shaw is creating new spaces and programs where people can build real human connections and rediscover their creativity. For more information, visit shawfest.com.

We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing. ~ George Bernard Shaw

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