

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHAW FESTIVAL 2026 SEASON GROWS WITH *THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS*, *ONE FOR THE POT*, *HEARTBREAK HOUSE* AND MORE

- Shaw Express expands service in summer 2026 with buses from Toronto and Burlington to Niagara-on-the-Lake almost every day there's a show -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (June 24, 2026) – The Shaw Festival's 64th season blossoms to even greater heights with the lively addition of three new entertaining productions marking their official openings in July. ***The Wind in the Willows*** and ***Heartbreak House*** open at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre and ***One for the Pot*** takes to the stage at the Festival Theatre.

The Shaw Express hits the road with even more round trips this season. Generously sponsored by The William and Nona Heaslip Foundation, Shaw Express buses run from Toronto and Burlington to the Shaw Festival almost every day there's a show until the end of September. Starting in July, the Shaw Express will offer two-show bus trips on select days – departing from downtown Toronto and Burlington in the morning in time for the matinee and heading home after the evening performance. For the Shaw Express schedule visit shawfest.com

Beyond the Stage events and activities expand as well, with ***The Wind in the Willows*** pre-show workshop for children and the young at heart, ***Perfect Pairings*** concerts and a host of other exciting activities for all ages.

Shaw Festival performances opening in July:

Heartbreak House

by **Bernard Shaw**

On stage at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre from June 20 to October 3, 2026

Opening performance: July 10, 2026

Ellie Dunn (**Allison Edwards-Crewe**) is engaged to be married to ruthless businessman 'Boss' Mangan (**Graeme Somerville**), but her heart is already engaged elsewhere. When she arrives at the home of her friend Hesione (**Julia Course**), Ellie finds several surprises in store for her, and she soon learns that the country estate is called Heartbreak House for good reason. With war looming on the horizon, questions of love and heartache linger while Hesione's eccentric father Captain Shotover (**Tom Rooney**) declares that society's ship is bound blindly for the rocks.

Directed by Shaw Festival Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**, ***Heartbreak House*** opens at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre.

Ximena Pinilla

Set and Costume Designer

Louise Guinand

Lighting Designer

Claudio Vena

Music Director, Original Music and Sound Designer

Alexis Milligan

Movement Director

Amy Jewell

Stage Manager

Michael Duggan

Assistant Stage Manager

Sponsored by the Gabriel Pascal Memorial Fund and the Dorothy Strelsin Foundation
The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre is sponsored by Paradigm Capital Inc.

One for the Pot

by **Ray Cooney** and **Tony Hilton**

On stage at the Festival Theatre from May 27 to October 11, 2026

Opening performance: July 11, 2026

Wealthy magnate Jonathan Hardcastle (**Patrick Galligan**) gets more than he bargained for when Billy Hickory Wood (**Peter Fernandes**) arrives at his country estate to claim a life-changing inheritance. But before Billy and his scheming “solicitor” Charlie Barnet (**Martin Happer**) can cash in, the surprise arrival of multiple long-lost Hickory Wood brothers throws the entire plan into comedic chaos in The Shaw’s most hysterical farce yet.

Directed by **Chris Abraham**, Ray Cooney and Tony Hilton’s ***One for the Pot*** opens at the Shaw Festival Theatre.

Michael Gianfrancesco	Set Designer
Ming Wong	Costume Designer
Imogen Wilson	Lighting Designer
Thomas Ryder Payne	Original Music & Sound Designer
Geoff Scovell	Flight Director
Amy Jewell	Stage Manager
Becca Jorgensen	Assistant Stage Manager
Beatrice Freedman	Apprentice Stage Manager

Sponsored by Richard McCoy and supported by Burgundy Asset Management Ltd, Wendy & Bruce Gitelman and Jodey Porter

One for the Pot is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

The Wind in the Willows

Based on the play ***Toad of Toad Hall*** by **AA Milne**

Adapted and directed by **Fiona Sauder**

On stage at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre from May 22 to September 27, 2026

Opening performance: July 12, 2026

Nothing beats a peaceful life on the riverbank unless, like serial-enthusiast Toad (**Lawrence Libor**), you prefer recklessly racing in a brand-new motorcar. When Toad’s chaotic behaviour lands him behind bars, it’s up to his friends Rat (**Sharry Flett**), Mole (**Gabriella Sundar Singh**) and Badger (**Shawn Wright**) to help him set things right and reclaim his ancestral home from its unsavoury new occupants in a beautiful new production for all ages.

The Wind in the Willows opens at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre.

Judith Bowden	Set & Props Designer
Laura Delchiaro	Costume Designer
Jeff Newberry	Original Music & Sound Designer
Jack Davidson (née Rennie)	Fight & Movement Director
Lani Martel	Stage Manager
Jamie Anderson*	Assistant Stage Manager
Kathryn Urbanek	Assistant Stage Manager

The Wind in the Willows also features a pre-show workshop designed for children ages 6-13, but open to all. Journey between interactive stations inspired by characters in the play and learn about life on the riverbank.

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

Sponsored by Ron & Barbara Besse and Mary E Hill

Children and Family Programming is supported by Christopher & Jeanne Jennings

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

* 2026 Christopher Newton Interns are generously supported by Marilyn & Charles Baillie.

Beyond the Stage Events and Activities

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. Programming includes [Positive Aging events](#), [Arts Education for children and youth](#), [Backstage Tours and Artist Conversations](#), [Coffee Concerts](#), [Speakeasies](#), [What's In Your Songbook](#), [Gospel Choir](#), [Perfect Pairing Concerts](#), [Pop-Up Patios](#) and so 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 largest charitable theatre companies in North America, 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](#), [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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