

SHAW 20 FESTIVAL 26

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SHAW FESTIVAL 2026 SEASON REACHES NEW HEIGHTS WITH AMADEUS, OHIO STATE MURDERS AND A NEW WORK IN PROGRESS

*- Final round of summer openings highlights beloved classics and world premieres as
The Shaw announces fall shows for theatre residency at Harbourfront Centre -*

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (July 28, 2026) – The Shaw Festival's 64th season reaches a zenith with the hotly anticipated openings of two new productions and the introduction of a world premiere workshop piece.

Shaw Festival performances opening in August:

- **Ohio State Murders** – Adrienne Kennedy's one-act tragedy deals with one woman's response to a horrific and intimate crime at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre.
- **Amadeus** – Peter Shaffer's historical drama about the deadly, one-sided rivalry between classical composers Antonio Salieri and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart opens at the Festival Theatre.
- **A New Work in Progress** – A new twist on the classic Cinderella fairytale from Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins being workshopped and developed live on stage at the Court House Theatre.

The Shaw Festival and Harbourfront Centre recently announced the first shows in their multi-year artistic residency, bringing to Toronto acclaimed Shaw Festival productions of **Sleuth**, from October 16 – November 1, and **A Christmas Carol**, from November 12 – December 23. These popular Shaw productions will be specially adapted for the stage of the Fleck Theatre at Harbourfront Centre Theatre, with a third production to be announced in October. For more information visit harbourfrontcentre.com/shaw.

About the Shows

Ohio State Murders

by **Adrienne Kennedy**

On stage at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre from July 19 to October 3, 2026

Opening performance: August 14, 2026

Renowned author and Ohio State University alumna Suzanne Alexander (**Sophia Walker**) returns to her alma mater to lead a talk about the use of graphic imagery in her writing. Confronted with the ghosts of her past, including an illicit relationship with her former English professor, Robert Hampshire (**André Morin**), Suzanne seizes the opportunity to speak out about the racism and injustice she experienced as a Black woman in 1950s Ohio and how the violence she endured helped shape who she became, both as a writer and as a woman.

Directed by 2026 Order of Canada Recipient **Philip Akin**.

Kimberley Rampersad	Associate Director
Melanie McNeill	Set and Costume Designer
Jeff Pybus	Lighting Designer
Jacob Lin	Music Director, Original Music and Sound Designer
Alexis Milligan	Movement Director

Lani Martel	Stage Manager
Kathryn Urbanek	Assistant Stage Manager

Sponsored by TD Bank Group.

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

Ohio State Murders is presented by arrangement with [Concord Theatricals](#) on behalf of Samuel French Inc.

Amadeus

by **Peter Shaffer**

On stage at the Festival Theatre from July 8 to October 4, 2026

Opening performance: August 15, 2026

In 1780s Vienna, composer Antonio Salieri's (**Tom Rooney**) brilliant career at the court of the Emperor Joseph (**Graeme Somerville**) is threatened by the arrival of talented newcomer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (**Michael Therriault**). Though boorish and ill-mannered, young Mozart is blessed with the kind of God-given genius Salieri can only dream of, and yet no one else in Vienna seems to recognize it. Enraged, Salieri sets out to sabotage Mozart's career and destroy his marriage to Constanze (**Kristi Frank**), even as he acknowledges the one thing he can never truly destroy: the musical greatness which has been denied to Salieri forever.

Directed by Shaw Festival Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**.

Judith Bowden	Set and Costume Designer
Kevin Lamotte	Lighting Designer
Paul Sportelli	Music Supervisor
Alexis Milligan	Movement Director
Allan Teichman	Stage Manager
Michael Duggan	Assistant Stage Manager
Liz King	Assistant Stage Manager

Sponsored by Jodey Porter and Sylvia Soyka.

Shaw Festival Music Director Paul Sportelli is supported by David & Amy Fulton.

Amadeus is presented by arrangement with [Concord Theatricals](#) on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

A New Work in Progress

Written and directed by **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**

On stage at the Court House Theatre from August 1 to September 10, 2026

The tale of Cinderella is adored the world over, but there's much more to this story than evil stepfamilies, fairy godmothers and eligible princes. Real life doesn't end when the story does and this exciting, grown-up take on the classic fable imagines a darkly comic world beyond the fairytale and asks both where these characters come from, as well as where they end up long after the heroine puts away her glass slippers. It may not always be happily ever after, but even for so-called evil stepmothers, life is but a work in progress.

Written and directed by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, ***A New Work in Progress*** is being developed as part of a unique workshopping process in collaboration with Shaw Festival artists. Audiences are invited to watch this bold new work come together over the course of a series of in-progress performances.

Kimberley Rampersad	Associate Director
Tatiana Kalagian Kahvejian	Set Designer
A.W. Nadine Grant	Costume Designer
Isabella Byrd	Lighting Designer
Ryan DeSouza	Associate Music Director

Bray Poor	Sound Designer
Greg Corbino	Puppet Design and Fabrication
Lisa Russell	Stage Manager
Liz King	Assistant Stage Manager
Annie McWhinnie	Assistant Stage Manager

Sponsored by the Tim & Frances Price Risk Fund and the Andy Pringle Creative Reserve.

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 Pairings 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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Media Contacts

Matthew Bickerton
Communications Co-ordinator
1-800-657-1106 x 2224
Mobile: 905-941-0377
mattbickerton@shawfest.com

Ash Belmer
Publicist, B-Rebel PR
Mobile: 416-617-8934
ash@b-rebelpr.com