

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# SHAW 20 FESTIVAL 27

## **SHAW FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2027 PLAYBILL**

*- First time two musicals will share the Festival Theatre stage, complemented by vibrant dramas, mysteries, Spontaneous Theatre and classic fables starting March 31 -*

**Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (August 25, 2026)** – The [Shaw Festival](#) announced its highly anticipated 65th season playbill today, for the first time in Shaw history featuring two musicals on the Festival Theatre stage during the main season. The vibrant lineup, beginning March 31, 2027, features a romantic Shavian drama, a stupendous Stoppard satire, Spontaneous Theatre, spooky mysteries and classic fables. In 2027, audiences will experience a compelling diversity of shows highlighting The Shaw's rich traditions of creativity and adventure while embracing the future of two-way theatre.

"Two big, beloved and wildly different musicals on the Festival Theatre stage – surrounded by murder, mayhem, Shaw, Stoppard and a few rather gruesome fairy tales – gives our artists and audiences an irresistible playground for 2027," said Tim Carroll, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival. "With this diverse range of titles, we're also working on new ways to share these shows through our Beyond the Stage workshops and events to bring our audiences even closer to the art, their creativity and each other."

Kicking off next season is ***Arsenic and Old Lace*** by Joseph Kesselring, a classic dark comedy where family eccentricities take a murderous and hilariously chaotic turn – and Ira Levin's acclaimed comic thriller ***Deathtrap***, drawing audiences in with the promise of plot twists and a play within a play. Next, one of two musical productions this season, the beloved Broadway hit from the legendary Rodgers & Hammerstein, ***South Pacific***, sets sail at the Festival Theatre, followed by the return of Bernard Shaw's ***Arms and the Man*** – the first Shaw to play at the Court House Theatre since 2017. These four productions officially open Shaw's 2027 season from May 28 – 30, 2027.

"Our audiences have enthusiastically welcomed the return of the Court House Theatre as a Shaw venue this year, and we couldn't be more delighted to bring Bernard Shaw back to the stage where The Shaw began in 1962," said Tim Jennings, Executive Director/CEO of the Shaw Festival. "There's something very special about celebrating where we started while also looking ahead to the reopening of the Royal George Theatre in fall 2028 and an exciting new chapter for The Shaw."

The Shaw Festival's 2027 season begins March 31 and runs until December 23.

## **FESTIVAL THEATRE**

**Rodgers & Hammerstein's**

### **SOUTH PACIFIC**

**Music by Richard Rodgers**

**Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II**

**Book by Oscar Hammerstein II and Joshua Logan**

**Adapted from the Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Tales of the South Pacific* by James A. Michener**

**Directed by Nina Lee Aquino**

Previews: **April 10**

Closes: **October 30**

Romance blossoms for American sailors and Navy nurses stationed on a South Pacific island during the Second World War. Glorious, rousing songs – “Some Enchanted Evening,” “There’s Nothing Like a Dame” and “I’m Gonna Wash that Man Right Outa My Hair” – and a story of love, heartbreak, prejudice and survival make this one of the great theatrical experiences. A Rodgers & Hammerstein classic from the golden age of musicals.

**SOUTH PACIFIC** is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.  
[concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

## **ARSENIC AND OLD LACE**

**By Joseph Kesselring**

**Directed by Jackie Maxwell**

Previews: **May 9**

Closes: **October 9**

Some families have skeletons in the closet. This family keeps adding to their collection. Mortimer Brewster is a drama critic who just wants to get on with enjoying life by destroying bad plays and courting the beautiful Elaine Harper. But his aunts, Abby and Martha, are about to upset his plans. They may seem a perfectly respectable, indeed harmless, pair of elderly spinsters, but the Brewster sisters are anything but. The chaos and laughter spiral ever higher as each new arrival threatens to expose their macabre secret.

## **THE COLOR PURPLE**

Based upon the novel written by Alice Walker and the Warner Bros/Amblin Entertainment Motion Picture  
Book by Marsha Norman

Music and Lyrics by Brenda Russell Allee Willis Stephen Bray

**THE COLOR PURPLE** was produced on Broadway at the Broadway Theater by Oprah Winfrey, Scott Sanders, Roy Furman and Quincy Jones. The world premiere of **THE COLOR PURPLE** was produced by the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Directed and choreographed by Kimberley Rampersad**

Previews: **June 26**

Closes: **October 31**

Celie is a survivor. The story of her remarkable resilience follows her life in the American South from the early to mid-20th century. She endures racism, sexism and abuse, but ultimately finds love, happiness and success. Based on Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and directed by Kimberley Rampersad, this joyous musical – featuring an uplifting score full of jazz, blues and gospel – is a triumphant celebration of life.

**THE COLOR PURPLE** is presented through special arrangement with, and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. [www.theatricalrights.com](http://www.theatricalrights.com)

## **JUMPERS**

By Tom Stoppard

**Directed by Tim Carroll**

Previews: **August 11**

Closes: **October 31**

What happens when philosophy collides with gymnastics, murder, religion and love? An acrobatic philosopher – or is he a philosophical acrobat? – is murdered while a mysterious lady performs a striptease on a swing: it can only be the start of a Tom Stoppard play. Part murder mystery, part bedroom farce and part Shavian provocation, this dazzling and hilarious play is unlike anything written before or since. And yet, at its heart, it asks a simple question: where does thinking stop and feeling take over?

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

## **COURT HOUSE THEATRE**

### **DEATHTRAP**

**By Ira Levin**

**Directed by Tara Rosling**

Previews: **March 31**

Closes: **October 8**

How far should a playwright go for another hit? What if it has been 18 years since his last one? What if he's had a string of bombs and he's desperate? Well, if you're Sidney Bruhl, you'll consider deception, betrayal and even murder. But not everything is as it seems in his Connecticut home, where the plot twists come fast and furious (and funny). No wonder this comic thriller has been delighting audiences since 1978.

**DEATHTRAP** is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

### **ARMS AND THE MAN**

**By Bernard Shaw**

**Directed by Alistair Newton**

Previews: **April 28**

Closes: **October 9**

To Raina Petkoff, betrothed to a decorated hero, war seems glamorous. But when an enemy soldier climbs in at her window to escape the fighting, she sees the other side of the picture. Like any sensible fellow, Captain Bluntschli's first duty is to his own survival; that's why he's armed with chocolates instead of bullets. This witty satire on romantic attitudes to war, heroism and marriage remains one of Shaw's most popular comedies.

### **GRIMM TALES**

**Adapted from the Brothers Grimm by Carol Ann Duffy**

**Dramatised by Tim Supple**

**Directed by Jay Turvey**

Previews: **June 9**

Closes: **October 10**

Forget the fairy tales you grew up with. These stories have teeth. Now more than two centuries old, the Brothers Grimm's fairy tales have stood the test of time so well that it's easy to take them for granted. We know them, but how well do we remember them? Do we only know the sanitized versions? British poet Carol Ann Duffy brings some of the most beloved Grimm stories – including *Cinderella* and *Hansel and Gretel* – to red-blooded, even gruesome, life.

**GRIMM TALES** is published in the UK by Faber & Faber as *Collected Grimm Tales* and is presented by arrangement with Knight

Hall Agency Ltd.

## **AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE RATS and THE PATIENT**

Previews: **September 11**      Closes: **October 10**

Two bite-sized helpings of murder from the Queen of Mystery. In *The Rats*, secret lovers Sandra and David show up for drinks at their friends' apartment, only to find that no one is home. They have no idea how much worse their evening is about to get. In *The Patient*, Mrs. Wingfield has fallen from her balcony and is unable to speak. Gathered around her hospital bed, relatives must figure out if she jumped ... or was she pushed?

**THE RATS and THE PATIENT** are presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

## **JACKIE MAXWELL STUDIO THEATRE**

### **WHAT EVERY WOMAN KNOWS**

**By J.M. Barrie**

**Directed by Kimberley Rampersad**

Previews: **May 20**      Closes: **October 10**

After a wealthy Scottish family discovers John, a university student, breaking into their house to read books in their library, they make him a deal. They'll fund his education if he will marry their daughter, Maggie. John agrees to the loveless marriage and is oblivious to Maggie's crucial role in his successful political career. This sly pre-suffrage comedy by J.M. Barrie is full of wit.

### **GOBLIN:PYGMALION**

**A Spontaneous Theatre Creation**

**By Bruce Horak, Ellis Lalonde, and Rebecca Northan**

**Directed by Rebecca Northan**

Previews: **June 16**      Closes: **October 10**

You loved the electric unpredictability of *Murder-on-the-Lake*, now meet the Goblins.

The brilliant minds behind the smash-hit, *Murder-on-the-Lake*, return to the Shaw Festival with a showcase of Shavian shenanigans that will upset the applecart of everything you thought you knew about social class, the power of language, and Eliza Doolittle. The internationally

acclaimed, Spontaneous Theatre, would like to introduce you to their alter-egos: Wug, Kragva, and Moog – three theatre-obsessed Goblins with an insatiable appetite for human literature, and an endless confusion about theatre etiquette. Having already dismantled Shakespeare, Sophocles, and Dickens, Canada's most notorious Goblins are about to descend on The Shaw, seize control of our stages, and pepper *Pygmalion* with spontaneity and chaos.

*The Goblins appear by arrangement with Oldfield Management Inc.*

## **INTIMATE APPAREL**

**By Lynn Nottage**

**Directed by Philip Akin**

Previews: **August 5**

Closes: **October 9**

Esther, a seamstress since she was a child, dreams of a life as romantic as those of the people for whom she makes intimate apparel; but middle age is approaching and she still lives alone in a New York boarding house. When she receives a letter from a man working on the Panama Canal, the door to a different life seems to open. But love is not as straightforward as sewing lingerie. Lynn Nottage's 2003 play is a moving modern classic.

**INTIMATE APPAREL** is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service.  
[concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

## **HOLIDAY SEASON**

**November 18 until December 23**

Details about Shaw's holiday production, readings and cabaret series will be announced soon.

More details about the Shaw Festival's upcoming 2027 season, casts and creative teams will be announced in the coming weeks. For the latest updates, visit [shawfest.com](http://shawfest.com). **\*Dates listed are subject to change.**

Tickets to the 2027 season go on sale beginning November 7 for Friends of The Shaw and December 8 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.

## **Beyond the Stage Events and Activities**

To complement its world-class performances, each year the Shaw Festival offers more than 5,000 Beyond the Stage events, classes and activities for people of all ages. Programming in 2026 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](http://shawfest.com/beyondthestage) for more information.

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](http://shawfest.com).

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

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