

Celebrating 25 CLASSICAL Years

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY
2011–2012
SEASON
ANNOUNCEMENT

2011–2012 Season play descriptions and *The Bard's Broadway 25th Anniversary Program*

Free For All presented by Target - *Julius Caesar*

by William Shakespeare
original direction by David Muse
August 18 – September 4, 2011
Sidney Harman Hall

As swift and enthralling as a political thriller, *Julius Caesar* portrays the life-and-death struggle for power in Rome. Fearing that Caesar's growing strength and imperial ambitions threaten the Republic, a faction of politicians plots to assassinate him. But when Caesar is killed, chaos engulfs Rome. Alive with stunning rhetoric, *Julius Caesar* investigates the intoxicating effects of power and the dangers of idealism. In Caesar, Brutus and the young Marc Antony, Shakespeare created three fascinating, dynamic characters.

The Heir Apparent

by Jean-François Regnard
adapted by David Ives
directed by Michael Kahn
September 6 – October 23, 2011
Lansburgh Theatre

Celebrate STC's 25th Anniversary with an uproarious World Premiere comedy from the creative team behind STC's hit production of *The Liar*. Broadway playwright David Ives returns with *The Heir Apparent*, an adaptation of Jean-François Regnard's 1706 masterpiece, directed by Artistic Director Michael Kahn. Eraste desperately wants to marry Isabelle, but first he needs to secure an inheritance from his miserable old uncle, Geronte. Geronte won't make it easy for Eraste, though, as he's bequeathed his money to distant relatives. Can Eraste's resourceful servant save the day with his powers of disguise and his quick wit? Love, family and intrigue join to make this a hilarious French farce that shouldn't be missed. *The Heir Apparent* is the 8th mainstage production originating from our ReDiscovery Series and is made possible by the generous support of The Beech Street Foundation.

Much Ado About Nothing

by William Shakespeare
directed by Ethan McSweeney
November 25, 2011 – January 1, 2012
Sidney Harman Hall

This holiday season, fall in love with one of the most romantic comedies ever written, Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Everyone can see that Benedick and Beatrice are meant for each other except Benedick and Beatrice. Hero and Claudio, themselves newly betrothed, conspire to trick them into announcing their feelings and falling for each other. Meanwhile, a bitter and troublesome Don John schemes to destroy Claudio and Hero's engagement by besmirching Hero's honor. Touted as "one of the hottest directors to come out of Washington" by *The Washingtonian*, Ethan McSweeney directs Shakespeare's classic tale of matched wits and love.

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

by William Shakespeare
directed by PJ Paparelli
January 17 – March 4, 2012
Lansburgh Theatre

Possibly Shakespeare's earliest romantic comedy, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* centers on Valentine and Proteus, loyal friends who are transformed into enemies thanks to their fickle hearts. After traveling to Milan, Valentine falls in love with the Duke's daughter, Silvia. By chance or fate, Proteus also falls in love with her, forsaking the woman he left behind in Verona. A jealous Proteus betrays his friend's plan to elope with Silvia, and the Duke banishes Valentine. Should Valentine and Proteus sacrifice their friendship for desire, or can they somehow find a compromise? This adventurous, romantic story has it all—hidden identities, comedy, a gang of gentlemen outlaws—even a double wedding. Former STC Associate Director PJ Paparelli returns to direct this early Shakespeare classic.

Strange Interlude

by Eugene O'Neill
directed by Michael Kahn
March 27 – April 29, 2012
Sidney Harman Hall

STC Artistic Director Michael Kahn directs Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning, yet controversial, drama about love and deception. Heartbroken over her adored fiancé's death, Nina engages in a series of sordid affairs before agreeing to marry a man she does not love. Months later, pregnant with her husband's child, she learns a horrifying secret about his family, setting off a dramatic and emotional chain of events across two decades. One of O'Neill's early plays, *Strange Interlude* was hailed as revolutionary, shocked 1928 audiences—and became a smash hit. Michael Kahn's production of another O'Neill classic, *Mourning Becomes Electra*, was called a "raw force" by *The Washington Post*.

The Servant of Two Masters

by Carlo Goldoni
adapted by Constance Congdon
directed by Christopher Bayes
May 15 – July 1, 2012
Lansburgh Theatre

Celebrated director Christopher Bayes restages this magical comedy at the Shakespeare Theatre Company after a sold-out run at Yale Repertory Theatre. Identities are mistaken, engagements are broken and lovers are reunited in Carlo Goldoni's *commedia dell'arte* masterpiece. Mayhem erupts when the wily—and chronically hungry—servant Truffaldino hatches a zany scheme to double his wages (and his meals) by serving two masters at once. *The New York Times* declared, "The laughter would be quite enough to propel *The Servant of Two Masters* onto a theater lover's must-see list. But then there's the magic... Now *that's* theater!"

The Merry Wives of Windsor

by William Shakespeare
directed by Stephen Rayne
June 12 – July 15, 2012
Sidney Harman Hall

The most beloved comic characters of Shakespeare's *Henry IV* plays come together in this bawdy, riotous romp, not seen at STC in more than a decade. Celebrating the 25th Anniversary by reinventing the very first production presented during the Free For All, STC is happy to bring back *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Falstaff, an impoverished knight, plots to woo two wealthy wives at the same time. However, his plan backfires and the cunning wives seek revenge, bringing chaos to Windsor and embarrassment after embarrassment to Falstaff. Director Stephen Rayne, whose recent production of *Sabrina Fair* at Ford's Theatre garnered rave reviews, brings a new spin on this comedy and a merry end to an exceptional season.

Continued...

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STC PRESENTS

2011-2012 full season subscribers save 10%.
For tickets and more information, call 202.547.1122.

FELA! The Hit Musical

September 13–October 9, 2011
Sidney Harman Hall

Producers Shawn “Jay-Z” Carter, Will and Jada Pinkett-Smith present this triumphant tale of courage, passion and love, featuring Fela Kuti’s captivating music and the visionary direction and choreography of Tony Award®-winner Bill T. Jones. *FELA!* is the true story of the legendary Nigerian musician Fela Kuti, whose soulful Afrobeat rhythms ignited a generation.

John Hurt in *Krapp’s Last Tape*

November 29–December 4, 2011
Lansburgh Theatre

Oscar-nominated actor John Hurt stars in Samuel Beckett’s masterful solo-study *Krapp’s Last Tape*. In a performance heralded as “perfection” and “unmissable” (*The Independent*), Hurt brings new depths to the bitterly nostalgic title character in this production from the Gate Theatre in Dublin.

Basil Twist’s *Petrushka*

March 16–25, 2012
Lansburgh Theatre

STC is pleased to welcome puppeteer Basil Twist’s extraordinary re-imagining of the Ballet Russes production of *Petrushka*. First commissioned for the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, *Petrushka* premiered in 2001 and tells the tragic love story of three puppets at a Russian carnival. Petrushka, the clown, falls in love with the winsome Ballerina at first sight. The conniving and rich Moor loves the Ballerina as well, and seduces her with beautiful things. She rejects the earnest advances of Petrushka, who, upset and lonely, confronts the Moor. Have these puppets come to life, or are they merely playing out a story being told?

Reality and magic are woven together by the deft hand of Basil Twist, against the backdrop of a specially created two-piano version of Stravinsky’s original ballet score. Nine hidden puppeteers use a combination of Czech and Japanese techniques to bring the puppets and Basil Twist’s vision to life. The performance opens with an abstract fantasia of puppetry, set to Stravinsky’s *Sonata for Two Pianos*.

THE BARD’S BROADWAY

Many of Shakespeare’s works have been adapted as musicals and ended up on *The Great White Way*. As part of the 25th Anniversary, STC celebrates Shakespeare through song and dance with two musical interpretations performed in concert-style staging as additions to the regular season. These limited engagements will be presented with the support of live music and feature several familiar faces from STC’s stages. The Bard’s Broadway is currently on sale to season subscribers only; public tickets will go on sale at the end of the summer.

The Boys from Syracuse

music by Richard Rodgers
lyrics by Lorenz Hart
book by George Abbott
concert adaptation by David Ives
directed by Alan Paul
November 4–6, 2011

The Boys from Syracuse, based on *The Comedy of Errors*, tells the story of identical twin brothers separated in a shipwreck as children. When the two brothers, their wives and servants (also long-lost identical twins) meet in Ephesus, confusion and comedy lead them to discover each other’s true identities. Adapted in the late 1930s, *The Boys from Syracuse* incorporates the swing and popular music of the era in famously infectious songs like “This Can’t Be Love.” Rodgers and Hart’s long-time collaboration brought other hit musicals and films such as *Pal Joey* and *Babes in Arms*.

Two Gentlemen of Verona (a rock opera)

music by Galt MacDermot
lyrics by John Guare
book by John Guare and Mel Shapiro
January 27–29, 2012

John Guare (*Six Degrees of Separation*) and Mel Shapiro’s rock opera, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, adds a spicy, funky twist to Shakespeare’s work of the same name. The musical centers on the relationship between two friends, Proteus and Valentine, as they battle for the affections of the same woman. With music by Galt MacDermot, best known for his musical composition of *Hair*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* transforms and celebrates one of Shakespeare’s most popular comedies of mistaken identity. Performances will run concurrent with STC’s mainstage production of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.