



PRESS RELEASE

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Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Stage's 37th Season Starts with Absurdist Comedy by Steve Martin



Directed by Penny Metropulos

ARCHBOLD THEATRE at SYRACUSE STAGE

Previews: Oct 14 & 15

Opening Night: Oct 16

Final Performance: Nov 1

(Syracuse, NY)—Set in the real-life Parisian cafe Le Lapin Agile (Nimble Rabbit), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* wonders what if contemporaries Picasso and Einstein accidentally met while in their twenties, just before the infamous scientist transformed physics with his theory of relativity and the celebrated painter set the art world afire with cubism. Laughter, comedy, absurdity and some delightfully zany musings on the nature of art, science and the twentieth century, as only Steve Martin (yes, that Steve Martin) could render them. Plus a royal visit.

Recommended for ages 13 and up, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* runs October 14-November 1 in the Archbold Theatre at Syracuse Stage. Tickets can be purchased online at www.SyracuseStage.org, by phone at 315-443-3275 or in person at 820 East Genesee Street. *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* is sponsored by Constellation Energy, M&T Bank and Time Warner Cable. Media sponsors are WCNY, WAER 88.3 and Syracuse.com. Syracuse Stage season sponsors are *The Post-Standard* and Time Warner Cable.

"This play is like Beckett meets The Marx Brothers, influenced by Anton Chekhov and George Bernard Shaw, filtered through the wit and crazy mind of Steve Martin," said Director Penny

Metropulos. "The year is 1904. It's the beginning of a new century, a time of relative innocence, and some degree of romanticism. It was a time of breaking boundaries in science and art."

Steve Martin has written: "Focusing on Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity and Picasso's master painting, *Les Femmes d'Alger*, the play attempts to explain, in a light-hearted way, the similarity of the creative process involved in great leaps of imagination in art and science."

"Steve Martin is a man of vast talent, incredibly intelligent," said Metropulos. "This is a gentle and extremely thought-provoking play. It goes much deeper than the surface."

Martin keeps a fast pace in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* with musings on the new century, among other topics. Adding to the fun is a host of bystanders that includes Picasso's agent Sagot, a young inventor by the name of Charles Dabernow Schmendimen, Freddy the owner and bartender of Le Lapin Agile, a waitress named Germaine (also Freddy's girlfriend), and a few others, including a surprise visitor from the future.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile was Steve Martin's first full-length play. At its first reading in Martin's Beverly Hills home, Tom Hanks read the role of Picasso and Chris Sarandon read the role of Einstein. A workshop at Australia's Malthouse Theatre resulted in two public readings. Then in 1993, the play received its world premiere at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, followed by a successful run in Los Angeles at the Westwood Playhouse (now known as the Geffen Playhouse). The 1995 production in New York City won the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Play.

TICKETS

Single Tickets: \$24-\$48

Children (under 18): \$16

Under 40: \$20 all tickets, all performances.

Rush: \$15-\$25 general public, \$10 with valid student ID, subject to availability

**Rush tickets available by phone (\$5 fee) or in person (no fee)*

**Discounts available for seniors, students, groups and subscribers*

Online: www.SyracuseStage.org

Call: 315-443-3275

In person: 820 East Genesee Street

Groups (10 or more): 315-443-9844

PLAYWRIGHT

Steve Martin (*Playwright*) was born in Waco, Texas on August 14, 1945 and is seen as one of today's most popular performers. He achieved fame as a film actor, with such credits as *Roxanne*, *Father of the Bride*, *Parenthood*, *The Spanish Prisoner*, *L.A. Story*, and *Bowfinger*. His acting career earned him several prizes, including an Emmy for his television writing and two Grammys for comedy albums. In addition to his two New York Times bestsellers, *Shopgirl* and *Pure Drivel*, he has also written nine screenplays. Steve Martin lives in Los Angeles.

DIRECTOR

Penny Metropulos (*Director*) directed *Up* for Syracuse Stage last season. She has been associated with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) in Ashland since 1985. From 1996 - 2007 she worked as co-Associate Artistic Director at OSF beside Syracuse Stage's Timothy Bond. In addition to directing, Penny co-adapted a new musical version of *The Comedy of Errors*, an original musical *Tracy's Tiger*, based on William Saroyan's novella, and *The Three Musketeers* which all premiered at OSF. Other directing credits at OSF include *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Philanderer*, *Humble Boy*, *Lorca in a Green Dress*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *As You Like It*, *The Tempest*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *The Good Person of Szechuan*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Timon of Athens*, *Cabaret Verboten*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart*, and *Restoration*. Other regional theatre credits include *You Can't Take it With You*, *The Trip to Bountiful* and *Quilters* at the Denver Center Theatre Center; *The Misanthrope* at Arena Stage in Washington, DC; *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; *Missing Persons* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre; *Candida* at Intiman Theatre in Seattle; *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Richard II*, *The Winter's Tale* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* at California Shakespeare Festival; and *Othello* and *Twelfth Night* for The Acting Company in New York. Next year she will direct *Romeo and Juliet* for The Acting Company's 2010 season, co-produced with The Guthrie Theatre, and *Henry IV Part 1* for OSF's 75th anniversary season. She has worked extensively with theatre outreach and education and has been a guest teacher for numerous MFA programs throughout the country. Penny began her career as a singer. She toured the country and sang in jazz clubs until her interest turned to theatre in her late teens. She then attended the Dallas Theatre Center Academy where she began her acting career. As an actress her credits included six seasons with the Arizona Theatre Company and three seasons at OSF. She is a graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.

CAST

Susannah Flood (*Suzanne*, *The Countess*, *Female Admirer*) appeared last season at Syracuse Stage as Maria in *Up*. Her Off-Broadway credits include workshops of *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* (New York Theatre Workshop, directed by Doug Hughes), *Canary* (Rattlestick Theatre), and *Okay* (part of Ensemble Studio Theater's 2008 Marathon). She has appeared regionally in the world premier of Paula Vogel's *A Civil War Christmas* (Long Wharf Theatre), as Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hartford Stage, directed by Lisa Peterson), Emily in *Our Town*, Katya in *Memory House* (Trinity Repertory Company), Varya in *The Cherry Orchard* (The Chautauqua Theatre Company, directed by Ethan McSweeney), Sister James in *Doubt* (The Hangar Theatre), and Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare in Santa Fe). Susannah is a graduate of UC Berkeley and The Brown/Trinity Consortium (MFA).

Matt Harrington (*Einstein*) is a recent graduate of New York University's Graduate Acting Program, where he performed in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Three Sisters*, *Bus Stop*, *The Constant Wife*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the original clown show *Back*. This is Matt's first time performing at Syracuse Stage.

Denis Lambert (*Visitor*) is making his Syracuse Stage debut. Most recently, he played identical twins Peter and Craig in *Dying City* at the TBG Theatre in New York. Denis appeared on Broadway as Roy in *A Chorus Line* (Al, Bobby, Greg, Mike u/s perf.) and played Greg in the revival's First National Tour. He also appeared in the First National Tour of *The Producers*. Off-Broadway credits include *Zorba* at the York Theatre and *Finian's Rainbow* at City Center's Encores! He has appeared regionally at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Paper Mill Playhouse, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, and The Charlottetown Festival. Film: *Coming Home*. Denis is on faculty at New York Film Academy, holds a Bachelor of Fine

Arts degree from College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and is a member of Actors' Equity Association.

Craig MacDonald (*Gaston*) has worked as an actor, director and theatre artist for 35 years and currently teaches Acting and Character Mask for Syracuse University's Department of Drama. A member of Actors' Equity Association for 20 years, he has performed Off-Broadway, regionally, with touring productions, and on camera for television and film. Recently at Syracuse Stage he performed as Zoltan Karpathy in *My Fair Lady*, and as the Constable in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Other recent roles include Horace in *Hello, Dolly!* at Hangar Theatre, and Pa Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath* at Cornell University. Last August he played drums in the onstage band for Cortland Repertory Theatre's Elvis tribute *Idols of the King*. As a director, Craig worked with actor Karl Gregory on his award-winning performance of *Fully Committed* for Ithaca's Kitchen Theatre.

Joseph Midyett (*Picasso*). Recent credits include the National MFA Playwright's Festival, and Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* (The Pearl Theatre Company). Regional Theatre: Sthavaraka in *The Clay Cart* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), Mozart in *Amadeus* (Texas Shakespeare Festival), Adam in *The Complete Works of Shakespeare - Abridged* (Dallas Theatre Center), Peter in *Peter Pan* (directed by Mark Lamos), Bentley in *Misalliance* (directed by Ethan McSweeney), Frank Cushing in *Savages, Christians and Other Homosapiens* (directed by Adrian Hall for University of Delaware's Professional Theatre Training Program). Film credits include *Penance for the Slain, Hope Cafe* and *Kickball*. This production marks Joseph's debut at Syracuse Stage.

Brendan Naylor (*Schmendiman*) is a senior Musical Theatre major at Syracuse University's Department of Drama. His Syracuse credits include *Lucky Stiff, Sweeney Todd*, and *The Chris and Alex Show*. He also directed *Man Woman Hombre Mujer* and *The Zoo Story*.

Larry Paulsen (*Sagot*) has appeared extensively at theatres nationwide. Off-Broadway credits include *The Winter's Tale* at Classic Stage Company, *Julius Caesar* at New York Shakespeare Festival, and *Swansong* at Lion Theatre. Regional theatre credits include Denver Center Theatre Company (where he appeared in *You Can't Take It With You* directed by Penny Metropulos), Seattle Repertory Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, Intiman Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, The Cleveland Play House, A Contemporary Theatre, Portland Center Stage, South Coast Repertory, Mark Taper Forum, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Empty Space Theatre, and North Shore Music Theatre. For seven seasons, Larry was a company member at Oregon Shakespeare Festival where he performed in dozens of productions.

Nancy Rodríguez (*Germaine*). Broadway: *Cymbeline* (Lincoln Center Theatre). Off Broadway: Polly in the world premier of *London Cries* (Irondale Ensemble Project), Magdalena in *The Last of Bernarda* and Bruni in *Blind Alley* (Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre), Unitia in *HELP!* (Schoolhouse Theater), Annie in *Animus* (INTAR Theatre's New Works Lab), Ginny in *Donna Morelli* (New York Stage and Film), Monica in *Now and Then* (L.E.F.T.) Regional Theater: Portia in *Julius Caesar*, Iras in *Antony and Cleopatra* (Shakespeare Theatre Company), Nina in *Edgardo Mine* (Guthrie Theatre), Ariel in *The Tempest*, Dunyasha in *The Cherry Orchard*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* (Mountain Playhouse), Iras/Octavia in *Antony and Cleopatra*, Phebe in *As You Like It*, Alice in *Playboy of the West Indies*, Ensemble in *Life is a Dream*, Sofia in *Two Sisters and a Piano* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Studio Theatre), Yellow in *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf* (Portland Center Stage). Film/TV: *Law and Order: Criminal Intent, Indigo, Into Me See, The Promise, Cricket*

Head, Bored of Education, Heroes. Nancy received a HOLA Award for Outstanding Ensemble, and she holds a BFA in acting from Boston University College of Fine Arts.

Michael Tisdale (*Freddy*) is a professional writer and actor living in Brooklyn, NY. New York City credits include: *The Secret Agenda of Trees* (The Wild Project), *The Private Lives of Eskimos* (The Committee Theatre Company), *Waste* (Theatre for a New Audience), *Never the Sinner* (John Houseman Theatre), *Summer People* (The Actors Company Theatre). Regional credits: *Camille* (Bard College Summer Festival), *The Glass Menagerie* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *Fraulein Else* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Long Wharf Theatre, and McCarter Theatre Center), *Romeo & Juliet* (Ahmanson Theatre), *Towards Zero* (Alley Theatre). TV/Film: *Law & Order*, *Third Watch*, *Coverage*. Training: The Juilliard School. As a writer Michael's works have been developed and/or produced by Atlantic Theatre Company, Rising Phoenix Repertory, New York University, hotINK International Festival of Play Readings, Hartford Stage, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, Theatre Row Stages, HERE, and Cleveland Public Theatre. This past summer Michael directed a short film starring Bill Irwin and Mercedes Ruehl based on his play *Goldstar, Ohio*.

DESIGNERS

William Bloodgood (*Scenic Designer*). Previous work at Syracuse Stage includes *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Broadway Bound* and *The Sisters Rosensweig*. Well-known in American regional theatres, his work has been seen at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, Arizona Theatre Company, the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Alley Theatre in Houston, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, Denver Center Theatre Company, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Intiman Theatre in Seattle, Kansas City Rep, the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Portland Center Stage, San Jose Repertory Theatre, and Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo, as well as at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, where he has designed scenery for 150 productions. Bloodgood has complemented his work in theatre with experience in interior design, space planning, display, and graphics. He is currently teaching scenic design at the University of Texas at Austin.

Deb Trout (*Costume Designer*). Previously Ms. Trout designed for *El Paso Blue* directed by Timothy Bond, and numerous shows directed by Penny Metropulos at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. A resident of Seattle, she has designed for productions at Seattle's ACT Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and most recently for *The Marriage of Figaro* with Seattle Opera. Other collaborations include designs at Portland Center Stage, Denver Center Theatre Company, Minneapolis Children's Theater, Manhattan School of Music, Alliance Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Perseverance Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and Yale Repertory Theatre among others. Deb co-founded the New York based millinery company Mackey and Trout, is a graduate of Yale School of Drama, is a member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829, and is on the design faculty at University of Washington.

Don Darnutzer (*Lighting Designer*) designed lighting for the Tony-nominated Broadway production of *It Ain't Nothin' But The Blues*, at the Ambassador Theatre and Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theatre. Off-Broadway credits include *Lost Highway*, *The Immigrant*, and *Almost Heaven: Songs by John Denver*. Regional credits include Denver Center Theatre Company (1998 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre), The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Guthrie Theatre, B.B. King Blues Club, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, American Conservatory Theatre, Arena Stage, Arizona Theatre Company, The Old Globe Theatre, Alley Theater, Geffen Playhouse, Mark Taper Forum, Seattle Repertory

Theatre, The Cleveland Play House, New Orleans Opera, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Palm Beach Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, La Societe Lyrique d'Aubigny, Portland Opera Company, Northlight Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, San Antonio Festival.

Jonathan R. Herter (Sound Designer) has been the resident sound designer and engineer for Syracuse Stage and SU's Department of Drama since the 1997-1998 season. He was born and educated in Central New York and has designed about 56 productions for the Stage, most recently *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Putting It Together*, *Godspell*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Tales from the Salt City*. Jonathan has designed shows for numerous other LORT theatres, and some local spaces including The Redhouse. Some of his favorite designs include *Red Noses*, *The Day Room*, *Spike Heels*, *The Real Thing*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Inherit the Wind*, *M. Butterfly*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *West Side Story*, *Frozen*, *Member of the Wedding*, *Copenhagen*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, and *Big River*.

DRAMATURG

Kyle Bass (*Dramaturg*) was the Production Dramaturg for the Syracuse Stage production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and Script Dramaturg for the Stage productions of *Tales from the Salt City* and *Woman in a Blue Dress*. Kyle wrote *Carver at Tuskegee*, a one-man monologue play about George Washington Carver that toured earlier this year as part of Syracuse Stage's *Backstory!* Program. Kyle is on the faculty at Goddard College in Vermont, where he teaches Dramatic Writing in the MFA Creative Writing program. He also teaches playwriting in the SU Department of Drama. Kyle holds an MFA in playwriting from Goddard College.

SYRACUSE STAGE

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre. Founded in 1974, Stage has produced more than 220 plays in 36 seasons including a number of world, American, and East Coast premieres. Each season 90,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays and bold interpretations of classics and musicals featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. A solid core of subscribers and supporters helps keep Syracuse Stage a vibrant artistic presence in Central New York. Additional support comes from the government, foundations, corporations and Syracuse University. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA), the University Hill Corporation and the East Genesee Regent Association. Syracuse Stage is a member of The League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the largest professional theatre association in the country.

Fact Sheet:

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Stage's 37th Season Starts with Absurdist Comedy by Steve Martin

Directed by Penny Metropulos

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ARTISTIC:

William Bloodgood (*Scenic Designer*)

Don Darnutzer (*Lighting Designer*)

Deb Trout (*Costume Designer*)

Jonathan Herter (*Sound Designer*)

Kyle Bass (*Dramaturg*)

Malcolm Ingram (*Dialect Coach*)

Stuart Plymesser (Production Stage Manager)

Kerri J. Lynch (Stage Manager)

CAST:

Susannah Flood (*Suzanne, The Countess, Female Admirer*)

Matt Harrington (*Einstein*)

Denis Lambert (*Visitor*)

Craig MacDonald (*Gaston*)

Joseph Midyett (*Picasso*)

Brendan Naylor (*Schmendiman*)

Larry Paulsen (*Sagot*)

Nancy Rodríguez (*Germaine*)

Michael Tisdale (*Freddy*)

The names in bold are actors and stage managers who are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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SHOW CALENDAR: October/November

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			14 7:30 P	15 7:30 P	16 8:00 O	17 3:00 8:00
18 2:00 7:00 D	18	20	21 7:30	22 7:30	23 8:00	24 3:00 S 8:00
25 2:00	26	27 7:30	28 2:00 7:30	29 7:30	30 8:00	31 3:00 8:00
31 2:00						

P=Preview O=Opening S=Signed D=Discussion

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