



PRESS RELEASE
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Classics, Celebrated Playwrights & Multi-Generational Appeal in Syracuse Stage's 2009-2010 Season

(SYRACUSE, NY)—Syracuse Stage is pleased to announce its 2009-2010 season, featuring classic characters and timeless stories from celebrated playwrights. The seven plays include Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* about a fictional meeting between Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso; a musical version of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* by award-winning songwriters Alison Hubbard and Kim Oler; Steve Murray's *This Wonderful Life*, a one-man adaptation of the beloved Christmas film; important life lessons in Arthur Miller's *The Price*; an enchanted re-imagining of Alice In Wonderland with *Lookingglass Alice*; heartwarming comedy in John Cariani's play about the little-town-that-could, *Almost, Maine*; and August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Fences*. Syracuse Stage season sponsors are *The Post-Standard* and Time Warner Cable. Subscriptions are now available by calling the Syracuse Stage Box Office at 315-443-3275.

In keeping with the previous season, there will be two holiday offerings next season. The large-scale musical *Little Women* will run in the Archbold Theatre, a co-production with the Department of Drama in The College of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University, and *This Wonderful Life* will run in the Storch Theatre. New this year, the holiday musical *Little Women* is one of the six plays offered on subscription.

Reflecting on the upcoming season, Producing Artistic Director Timothy Bond sees many opportunities to expand artistically and connect with Syracuse audiences. "As the area's leading professional theatre, Syracuse Stage is committed to providing theatrical productions of the highest quality. It's here where audiences can experience the work of Broadway performers, directors and playwrights, at Syracuse prices," said Bond. "The upcoming season offers something for everyone, iconographic characters with multi-generational appeal, classics from literature, film and the stage."

SEASON OVERVIEW:

Picasso at the Lapin Agile
October 14 - November 1
By Steve Martin

OK. OK. 1904. Paris. Einstein walks into a bar. No. No. Wait. Picasso walks into a bar. No. Hold on. Picasso and Einstein walk into a bar. Yeah! Then what? Then Charles Dabernow Schmendiman walks in, too. Who? Exactly. Then what? 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.

The Cabaret Lapin Agile is in the Montmartre district of Paris, on the right bank of the Seine River, near the famous church of Sacre Couer. Pablo Picasso's 1905 oil painting "At the Lapin Agile" helped to make this cabaret world famous. *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* was first produced at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago. Steve Martin is an Emmy Award-winning American actor, comedian, writer, playwright, producer, musician and composer.

Little Women

November 24 - December 27

The Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Family Holiday Series

A Co-Production between Stage and Syracuse University's Department of Drama

Music by Kim Oler

Lyrics by Alison Hubbard

Book by Sean Hartley

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Directed by Anthony Salatino

Music Direction by Dianne Adams McDowell

What we cherish most—family, sacrifice, determination, hope and love—never goes out of style. All of Louisa May Alcott's classic characters are here: warm and loving Marmee, vivacious Amy, sweet and dreamy Meg, tender-hearted Beth, handsome and charming Laurie, Aunt March, Professor Bhaer and of course the passionate and funny Jo. Brimming with 20 beautiful songs, this new musical captures all the struggle, romance and deep emotions of Alcott's beloved tale. Celebrate your holidays with the March family.

Little Women was work-shopped in Syracuse University's 2007 New Play Workshop Program, spearheaded by Marie Kemp, Assistant Professor in the Department of Drama. For the musical score, the songwriting team of Alison Hubbard and Kim Oler received a prestigious Richard Rodgers Award. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott was written and published in two parts in 1868 and 1869. It was an immediate success, selling 2000 copies.

This Wonderful Life

December 10 - January 3

A one-man stage adaptation of *It's a Wonderful Life*

Written by Steve Murray

Conceived by Mark Setlock

Directed by Peter Amster

Every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings. Visit Bedford Falls this holiday season for a charming stage telling of Frank Capra's Hollywood classic. One brave actor plays 32 characters including George Bailey, Clarence, Mr. Potter, Mary, Martini and Zuzu and brings everyone's favorite family holiday charmer to wonderful life. Hee-haw.

In 2005, Portland Center Stage commissioned Murray to write *This Wonderful Life* as conceived by Mark Setlock. The play has subsequently been produced by San Jose Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Boston Lyric Stage, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theatre and others.

The Price

January 27 - February 14

By Arthur Miller

Directed by Timothy Bond

It's flat out great drama the way only a modern master like Arthur Miller can write it. From the author of American classics such as All My Sons, Death of Salesman, The Crucible, Miller's The Price is taut, truthful and deeply engaging and belongs with the best of his plays. In an overstuffed attic apartment, two long-estranged brothers, one a cop, the other a doctor, agree to meet to sell off what remains of their deceased father's furniture and find themselves in an emotional renegotiation of the past. Regrets, resentments and recriminations expose the high price each has paid for lost opportunities and lessons learned. A drama of redemptive power.

Co-produced with Geva Theatre of Rochester. Originally performed in 1968 and revived in 2008 at the historic Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia.

Lookingglass Alice

February 24 - March 14

By David Catlin

Based on *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

In your wildest imaginings, you've never imagined Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass like this! Staged with endless wit, astonishing physicality, breathtaking aerial acrobatic and theatrical daring, Alice, Mad Hatter, Humpty Dumpty, Cheshire Cat, Tweedledee and Tweedledum and all of Lewis Carroll's enchanting characters come to dizzyingly, playful, gravity-defying life in a circus-like spectacle sure to amaze kids and adults alike.

Co-produced with Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre Company, Alliance Theatre of Atlanta and Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Almost, Maine

March 24 - April 11

By John Cariani
Directed by Skip Greer

Because it's all about love, and like love, it is never what you expect. Meet the people of Almost, Maine, a tiny town so far north Vermont is considered the South. One winter night with the aurora borealis creating celestial enchantment, eight couples fall under the spell of that funny little unpredictable thing called love. By turns touching, comic, warm, gentle and altogether surprising, Almost, Maine is a funny Valentine of a play that will make you smile with your heart.

Co-produced with Geva Theatre Center of Rochester. Opened off-Broadway in 2005 at the Daryl Roth Theatre. Developed in 2002 by Portland Stage Company, where it received its world premiere in 2004. www.almostmaine.com

Fences
May 5 - May 23
By August Wilson

A true classic always speak to us anew. Pittsburgh, 1957. Troy Maxon, ex-ballplayer, complicated African American family-man and garbage collector has lived a life of diminished hopes and abandoned dreams. Now Troy's talented son, Cory, has hopes and dreams of his own. Will Troy allow his bitterness about the past to poison his son's promising future? With a view toward a better future, August Wilson's Fences first posed this dramatic and necessary question 25 years ago...and it hits us as hard today.

Co-produced with Seattle Repertory Theatre. The first staged reading of *Fences* occurred in 1983 at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center's National Playwright's Conference. In 1985 the play opened at the Yale Repertory Theatre, and in 1987 it opened on Broadway at the 46th Street Theatre. *Fences* was well-received, winning four Tony Awards including best play, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, the Pulitzer Prize, and the John Gassner Outer Critics' Circle Award.

6-PLAY SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES RANGE \$96-\$258:

- Opening Night subscriptions: \$144-\$258
- Fri and Sat evenings: \$144-\$240
- Sat, Sun, Wed matinees: \$144-\$228
- Tues, Wed, Thur evenings: \$144-\$198
- Wed & Thur previews: \$120-\$150
- Age 40 and younger: \$96

**New subscriptions now available by calling the Box Office at 315-443-3275.*

**Discounts for seniors available matinee series and weekday evenings.*

**Student matinees now available through Group Services at 315-443-9844.*

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION SERIES:

- Sunday *StageTalk* Discussions: Hundreds of patrons enjoy the Sunday Discussion series immediately following the Sunday 7:00 p.m. performance of each play. This is a comfortable forum where questions from patrons are answered by members of the cast and Stage staff.
- Wednesday Lunchtime Lectures: Held in the Sutton Pavilion at Syracuse Stage, the Lunchtime Lectures offer a free and informative talk about each play, starting at 1 p.m. before Wednesday matinee performances.
- Welch Allyn Signed Interpreted Performances: For every production a matinee performance is signed for hearing impaired audience members.

BENEFITS TO SUBSCRIBING:

- One Free Ticket
- Best Seats
- Best Prices
- Discounted Tickets to *This Wonderful Life*
- Discounts to Area Restaurants
- Best Single Ticket Discounts for Stage and SU Drama
- Best Ticket Exchange
- Best Ticket Replacement Guarantee
- StageView E-newsletter

SYRACUSE STAGE:

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre. Founded as a not-for-profit theatre in 1974 by Arthur Storch, Stage has produced more than 220 plays in 35 seasons including numerous world and American premieres. Each season upwards of 90,000 patrons enjoy an exciting mix of comedies, dramas and musicals featuring the finest professional theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT). In addition to ticket sales, Syracuse Stage performances are made possible by funds from Syracuse University, the Central New York Community Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, Onondaga County, and corporate, foundation and individual donors.

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Syracuse Stage | Producing Artistic Director: Timothy Bond | Managing Director: Jeffrey Woodward
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