Something for everyone!

2016-17 SEASON
Be More Chill, Twelfth Night, American Idiot, Barbecue, The Light in the Piazza

JOIN US!

OPENING NIGHT EVENTS BEFORE EVERY SHOW!
Dear Friends and Centre Stage Patrons,

From time to time, someone will ask how we choose the plays we produce. Here is the short answer. Season planning is always complex at any theatre and for an educational institution, it’s even moreso. A committee of faculty weighs a large number of considerations. What is timely? What is exciting? What is important? What would be fun? What is innovative? What would we like to do? What will best advance the training and educational needs of our current students? What will best showcase their talents? What will appeal to our audience? Ultimately, it’s important that there is passion and thought behind each selection.

Then we consider balance. Does this particular collection of plays offer enough to be more than the sum of its parts? Is it “too much of a good thing”—that is, are the plays too similar in either style or substance? Are they connected thematically? Should they be? Is this a good mix to satisfy the many needs we try to address each season? Then we must consider our resources. What is the overall budget (which means time and labor in addition to money)? Can we balance, for example, a huge costume show with less demanding shows in order to stay within—or at least, not too far beyond—our means? Do we have a reasonable chance to succeed at each of these shows individually, and can we produce the season in a way that will be artistically and educationally satisfying? Can we provide compelling nights in the theatre for our devoted audience and at the same time reach out to new folks as well?

So many questions. I’m happy to present you with what represents our answers for 2016–17.

See you at the theatre,

Dan Carter
Director, School of Theatre
Producing Artistic Director, Penn State Centre Stage

OPENING NIGHTS

Our opening night receptions have always been a complement to our productions! Seeing friends, meeting other theatre lovers, and learning about the making of the production through the directors’ and designers’ eyes all contribute to their success.

This season we will host opening night receptions in the Playhouse upstairs lobby. Please plan to add an opening night reception or dinner to your evening! We look forward to seeing you!

BE MORE CHILL
Opening Night Reception, Thursday, October 6, 2016, $30
Playhouse Upstairs Lobby, Theatre Building
(Includes pre-show hors d’oeuvres and post-show desserts. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; show begins at 7:30 p.m. DOES NOT INCLUDE SHOW TICKET.)

TWELFTH NIGHT
Nittany Lion Inn Opening Night Dinner, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, $45
(Cash bar at 5:00 p.m.; dinner at 5:30 p.m., in the Faculty Staff Club at the Nittany Lion Inn. Includes transportation to/from show. DOES NOT INCLUDE SHOW TICKET.)

AMERICAN IDIOT
Opening Night Reception, Friday, February 17, 2017, $30
Playhouse Upstairs Lobby, Theatre Building
(Includes pre-show hors d’oeuvres and post-show desserts. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; show begins at 7:30 p.m. DOES NOT INCLUDE SHOW TICKET.)

BARBECUE
Opening Night Reception, Friday, March 24, 2017, $30
Pavilion Theatre
(Includes pre-show hors d’oeuvres and post-show desserts. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; show begins at 7:30 p.m. DOES NOT INCLUDE SHOW TICKET.)

THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA
Opening Night Reception, Friday, April 7, 2017, $30
Penn State Downtown Theatre Center
(Includes pre-show hors d’oeuvres and post-show desserts. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; show begins at 7:30 p.m. DOES NOT INCLUDE SHOW TICKET.)

Please note: Be More Chill and Twelfth Night opening nights occur on Thursday evenings due to Penn State’s home football game schedule.
BE MORE CHILL

Music and Lyrics by Joe Iconis • Book by Joe Tracz
Based on the novel by Ned Vizzini • Directed by John Simpkins

Not quite one of the cool kids and not nerdy enough to fall in at the other end of his high school's cliquey social spectrum, Jeremy Heere is almost invisible. That is, until he discovers a tiny supercomputer that gives him access to everything he wants: girl, parties, popularity. Truly the teenage dream—or so he thinks. The show features music by Joe Iconis, who supplied music for NBC's SMASH. Mr. Iconis will also visit the Penn State campus to meet with our B.F.A. actors and develop a new musical for them.

SPECIAL EVENT: OCTOBER 24–30
PENN STATE DOWNTOWN THEATRE CENTER

TROUBLE IN TAHITI

Composed by Leonard Bernstein • Conducted by Ted Christopher

Our School of Theatre production staff and students will provide the set, costumes, lighting, and sound for the School of Music's production of Trouble in Tahiti. This one-act opera in seven scenes, composed by Leonard Bernstein, is among the darkest of Bernstein's "musicals." For tickets, please visit www.music.psu.edu. (Cannot be purchased as part of the PSCS season subscription).

NOVEMBER 14–DECEMBER 3
PAVILION THEATRE

TWELFTH NIGHT

By William Shakespeare • Directed by Steve Snyder

Love makes fools of us all! One of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies, Twelfth Night is a topsy-turvy place full of romantics and eccentrics. At least that's how it seems to Viola, who's been cast adrift in this merry world. Out of necessity, she disguises herself as a boy but quickly becomes an object of desire to the woman her employer sent her to woo on his behalf.

FEBRUARY 14–25
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

AMERICAN IDIOT

Book by Billie Joe Armstrong and Michael Mayer • Lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong
Music by Green Day • Directed by Erin Speer

American Idiot follows the exhilarating journey of a new generation of young Americans as they struggle to find meaning in a post-9/11 world, with an electrifying score by Green Day. This punk rock opera follows the story of Jesus of Suburbia, an adolescent anti-hero who is divided between "rage and love."

MARCH 21–APRIL 1
PAVILION THEATRE

BARBECUE

By Robert O'Hara • Directed by Steve Broadnax

This American domestic comedy forces uneasy thoughts about the facile presumptions we make about poverty, race, and social class, as applied to dysfunctional families. In the confines of the theatre, it seems safe enough to howl at the antics of poor white trailer-trash siblings staging an intervention for the family hellion. But what if a poor black trailer-trash brood organized the same intervention for one of their own? Anyone have a problem with that?

APRIL 4–15
PENN STATE DOWNTOWN THEATRE CENTER

THE LIGHT IN THE PIZZIA

Book by Craig Lucas • Music and Lyrics by Adam Guettel • Directed by Darcy Evans

Filled with sunshine, light as a summer breeze, this exhilarating musical follows the Italian travels of Margaret Johnson and her stunningly beautiful daughter, Clara. When a dashing young Italian captures Clara's heart, Margaret is compelled to reveal the secret about her daughter. Even as she struggles with concern about Clara's future, she must decide whether or not to release her hold—and bravely give the young lovers her blessing.

Tickets: www.theatre.psu.edu
814-863-0255 • 800-ARTS-TIX
Our Friends

Become a Patron
Penn State is home to one of the finest theatre training programs in the country. Our mission is to offer you a richer theatre experience by inviting you to become a patron of Penn State Centre Stage. With your season contribution you can experience the best of Broadway and beyond, gain free access to intimate student performances, and take a look behind the scenes.

About Penn State Centre Stage
• As the professional arm of the Penn State School of Theatre, Penn State Centre Stage serves as the mentoring program for young theatre professionals embarking in the theatre business.
• Each production is produced from conception to completion at Penn State, utilizing skills mastered and taught by theatre faculty and other industry professionals. As a result, Penn State’s School of Theatre is one of the very best programs in the United States.
• The costs associated with producing professional theatre far exceed the price of admission. Major funding is provided by corporate donations and the generosity of individual patrons.
• Your contributions make it possible to hire the actors, designers, choreographers, directors, and technicians who augment the resident company and make Penn State Centre Stage a truly “Professional Theatre.”

Your patronage will help us make all this possible while keeping ticket costs affordable, augmenting technical marvels, and supporting visiting artists and educators who come to share their craft.

Please join us—become a Penn State Centre Stage patron today.
We believe that just as a performance does not exist without its audience, a theatre cannot exist without its community.
• You can make a tax-deductible donation to Penn State Centre Stage by including a gift with your ticket order, or by phoning 888-800-9163, or by visiting www.MakeADifference.psu.edu. Specify “Centre Stage” when you make a credit card gift by phone or online. You can also mail a check to: Centre Stage/Penn State Annual Giving, 17 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802-1506.

Support the 2016–17 Penn State Centre Stage Season

Name ________________________________________
Address ______________________________________
Phone ___________________________ Email __________

Method of Payment:
□ Check enclosed (payable to Penn State)
□ I will arrange for my company to match this gift (for more information, visit www.matching.psu.edu). Your tax-deductible donation will be reduced by the value of the benefits received at each level. If you do not wish to accept the benefits, so that your membership will be eligible for a full tax consideration, please check the box above.

□ Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Please deduct $_______ ($10 minimum) each month from my account. I have attached a voided check. The authorization to transfer the amount indicated will remain in effect until I notify the bank or Penn State. A record of the deduction will be made on the regular bank statement. A receipt for the total amount will be sent at the end of each calendar year. In the event of an error, I have the right to reverse the gift with a written notice.

Signature (Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization)
X ________________________________________

Bill my credit card: □ Visa □ MasterCard □ Discover □ American Express

Card Number: __________________________ Exp. Date: _________________

Name as it appears on card: ________________________________

Signature (credit card authorization): __________________________

PLEASE NOTE:
You may elect to take all, part, or none of the donor benefits. Please indicate on the contribution form if you choose not to accept show tickets (contributors of $500 and above). Your gift receipt will reflect that the tax deductibility of your contribution is reduced by the monetary value of the benefits you accept. (For 2016–17 the average value of a show ticket is $22.) If you have any questions, please contact the College of Arts and Architecture Development Office at 814-863-2142.

Thank you for your support of Penn State Centre Stage.

PATRON LEVELS
Friend $100 to $249
Playbill recognition
Benefactor $250 to $499
Above benefits, plus:
Name recognition in lobby
Supporter $500 to $999
Above benefits, plus:
4 regular show tickets
Performer $1,000 to $2,499
Playbill recognition
Name recognition in lobby
4 regular show tickets
2 opening night tickets
Director $2,500 to $4,999
Playbill recognition
Name recognition in lobby
6 regular show tickets
4 opening night tickets
Producer $5,000+
Playbill recognition
Name recognition in lobby
6 regular show tickets
6 opening night tickets

In-kind contributions receive the same patron benefits!
Season Subscriptions
Subscribe to 4 or more shows and save 10 percent!
Tickets must be purchased at one time. No other discounts apply.
• Free exchange privileges! Only subscribers can exchange their seats prior to the date they are holding free of charge for another performance of the same show based on availability.
• Lost ticket insurance! We’ll replace lost or misplaced tickets at no additional charge right up to performance time.

Perfect for Groups
Save big when you see a preview or matinee priced 20–40 percent lower than the regular ticket price—call 814-863-0255 today!
Or buy ten regular tickets at the same time (all to the same show or mix and match) and receive a discount of 10 percent off ticket price. Tickets must be purchased as one transaction (does not apply to previous sales or opening nights). For more information and ordering assistance, call 814-865-7469 or 800-278-7849.

Venues & Parking

Penn State Downtown Theatre
Center, 146 S. Allen St.,
State College

Pavilion Theatre
Corner of Shortlidge and Curtin Rds.,
University Park

Playhouse Theatre, Theatre Building
(near Palmer Museum of Art)
University Park

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Ticket Locations
Arts Ticket Center at Eisenhower Auditorium: M-F 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Penn State Tickets Downtown: M-F 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Bryce Jordan Center Ticket Window: M-F 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Summer)
M-F 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Fall/Spring)
HUB Outlet (while Penn State classes are in session, fall and spring semesters): M-F 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tickets:
814-863-0255
800-ARTS-TIX
www.theatre.psu.edu

www.facebook.com/pennstatecentrestage
www.facebook.com/pennstatetheatre
We’re on twitter—follow us! @psutheatre

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Parking for Penn State evening and weekend events is easy. Simply go to www.theatre.psu.edu and click on the link for Parking. The link will open a Parking form that you can print and send with payment to the University Parking Office. It’s that simple!