

Lining Up for the New Season!

by Kathleen Kennedy

Theater companies have been working hard to get their season lineups set for the 2023-24 season. There are lots of goodies in store for you, so open your calendar and start making your list.

Arizona Opera opens its season at the Temple of Music and Art with the world premiere of a commissioned work, Gregg Kallor's *Frankenstein* (Oct. 21-22). Next, performed onstage at the Ronstadt Music Hall are Rossini's *Barber of Seville* (Feb. 3-4, 2024), Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* (March 9-10), and Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (Apr. 27-28). (azopera.org or 520-293-4336)

Arizona Theatre Company presents Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park* (Sept. 23-Oct. 13), followed by Leslie Bricusse's *Scrooge: The Musical* (Nov. 7-Dec. 2); *Intimate Apparel*, about a 1900s African American seamstress who revolutionized the women's undergarment industry (Jan. 20-Feb. 10, 2024); Terrence McNally's *Master Class*, based on a series of life-changing master classes taught by opera diva Maria Callas (Mar. 2-23); and *True West*, Sam Shepherd's version of the biblical Cain and Abel story set in the American West (Apr. 27-May 18). At the Temple of Music and Art. (atc.org or 520-622-2823)

Arts Express kicks off its season with *Bandstand* (June 16-July 2), about a group of veterans returning home after WWII. Next on the schedule are *Anastasia*, the tale of the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II who supposedly survived the assassination of the royal family, and her quest to uncover her past (July 21-Aug. 6); *Catch Me If You Can*, a musical based on the hit film about a teenage con man and his FBI pursuer (Aug. 25-Sept. 10); *Young Frankenstein*, based on the Mel Brooks movie of the same name (Sept. 29-Oct. 15); *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Nov. 3-19); *Mary Poppins* (Dec. 8-23); *I Do! I Do!*, which follows a couple's ups and downs over 50 years (Jan. 12-28, 2024); *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*

(Feb. 9-25); the rock musical *Hair* (Mar. 15-30); and Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In the Heights*, about life in a predominantly Dominican American New York neighborhood (Apr. 19-May 5). At Park Place Mall, Suite 214. (arts-express.org or 520-319-0400)

Broadway in Tucson opens with *Aladdin* (Sept. 5-10), followed by *The Book of Mormon* (Sept. 15-17); *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* (Oct. 3-8); *Ain't Too Proud*, about the musical journey of The Temptations (Nov. 28-Dec. 3); *Chicago* (Feb. 9-11, 2024); *MJ: The Musical*, about pop icon Michael Jackson (Apr. 2-7); *Hairspray* (Apr. 23-28); and *Mrs. Doubtfire* (May 28-June 2). At UArizona's Centennial Hall. (broadwayintucson.com or 520-903-2929)

Gaslight Theatre offers *The Curse of the Pirate's Gold* (Jan. 11-Mar. 31, 2024); *Harley's Angels* (Apr. 4-June 2); *Spider Guy* (June 6-Aug. 25); *Shrek! A Tale of True Love and OGRE-Acting!* (Aug. 29-Nov. 3); and *Scrooge* (Nov. 7-Jan. 7, 2025). (thegaslighttheatre.com or 520-886-9428)

Invisible Theatre starts its 52nd season with *I Love to Eat (A Love Story with Food)*, a one-man show about culinary wizard James Beard (Sept. 5-17). Appearing next are *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*, about an unlikely WWII courtship as told by the couple's son (Oct. 24-Nov. 5); *Hedy! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr* (Dec. 6-10); *Unbossed and Unbowed: The Shirley Chisholm Story*, about the first African American woman to win a seat in the US Congress and run for the presidency (Jan. 20-21, 2024, at the Berger Performing Arts Center); *The Bookstore* about the new owner of a magical bookstore and its eccentric employees and clientele (Jan. 30-Feb. 11); *Call Me Elizabeth*, about the life of Elizabeth Taylor (Feb. 21-25); *A Conversation With Edith Head*, about legendary Hollywood costume designer Edith Head and starring artistic director Susan Claassen (Mar. 6-10); *From Broadway to Hollywood!*, a one-man multimedia show about the back-

stories of famous songs, interspersed with performances of memorable songs and video interview footage of famous composers and performers (Mar. 23-24 at the Berger Performing Arts Center); and *Thriller of the Year*, about a successful crime novelist who is being stalked by someone trying to kill her using methods described in her own books (Apr. 23-May 5). (invisibletheatre.com or 520-882-9721)

Live Theatre Workshop opens its *Mainstage* season with *The Savannah Sipping Society*, about Southern women at happy hours trying to reinvent their lives (Oct. 20-Nov. 18), followed by *The Realistic Joneses*, about new neighbors and moving boundaries (Jan. 12-Feb. 17, 2024); *Moonlight and Magnolias*, a reimagining of the writing of the movie *Gone with the Wind* (Mar. 1-Apr. 6); and *The Little Dog Laughed*, a comedy about a closeted gay Hollywood actor (Apr. 19-May 25). Onstage in the *Children's Theatre* are scheduled *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus* (Sept. 16-Oct. 1, 2023); *La Bella and the Beast* (Jan. 27-Feb. 11, 2024); *The Big Dipper: Calendar, Compass, and Clock* (Apr. 5-14), and the 5th Annual Young Playwrights of Tucson Competition (June 1-2). At Live Theatre Workshop, 3322 E. Fort Lowell Rd. (livetheatreworkshop.org or 520-327-4242)

Next Stage Theatre Southwest presents *A Behanding in Spokane*, a farce about a man searching for his severed hand, and grifters peddling a hand stolen from a museum (July 22-23), followed by *Reasons to Be Pretty*, about two couples and their infidelity, deception, and fixation on physical appearance (Nov. 3-19). At the Temple of Music and Art. (Tickets and information on Facebook and Instagram at @nextstagesw)

Oro Valley Theatre Company leads off its season with *The 39 Steps*, a multimedia spoof based on John Buchan's book and Alfred Hitchcock's spy movie (Nov. 9-12). Next in the lineup are the murder mystery *Dial M for Murder* (Feb. 16-18, 2024) and Noel Coward's

Curtain Going Up

Blithe Spirit (Apr. 18-21). At Gaslight Music Hall in Oro Valley, 13005 N. Oracle Rd., #165. (orovalleytheatrecompany.com or 520-529-1000)

The Rogue Theatre kicks off its 19th season, "All's Fair in Love & War," with *Heartbreak House*, George Bernard Shaw's play written in the style of Chekhov, about the meaningless pursuits of a group of characters representing different aspects of Edwardian society and oblivious to the coming world war (Sept. 7-24), followed by *The Left Hand of Darkness*, an adaptation of Ursula K. Le Guin's award-winning science fiction novel about a human sent to the planet Winter—where inhabitants can change their gender at will to negotiate their joining the multiworld community (Nov. 2-19); Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, about life on a spring day in a small Welsh fishing village (Jan. 11-28, 2024); *An Iliad*, a modern adaptation of Homer's tale of the Trojan War (Feb. 22-Mar. 10); and *Love's Labor's Lost*, Shakespeare's comedy about men's vows of abstinence amid the lures of winsome ladies (Apr. 18-May 5). At The Historic Y, 300 E. University Blvd. (theroguetheatre.org or 520-551-2053)

Saguaro City Music Theatre brings the sci-fi musical cult comedy classic *Little Shop of Horrors* (Oct. 13-29) to the Berger Performing Arts Center. (saguarocity.org or 520-809-5729)

The Scoundrel & Scamp Theatre opens its 7th season, "Worlds Within," with its 24/7 Play Festival, in which seven new 10-minute plays are written and acted within 24 hours by local artists (Aug. 11-12). Next on the schedule, *A Wrinkle in Time* brings Madeleine L'Engle's Newberry Award-winning children's book to the stage (Oct. 26-Nov. 12), followed by a reading of the winner of the 4th Annual Plays in Translation contest (Nov. 11) and a reading of Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love* (Feb. 11, 2024). Next in the lineup are Lauren Gunderson's *The Book of Will*, about two friends struggling to assemble Shakespeare's plays into a folio after his death (Feb. 29-Mar. 17); and "Rainbow in the Old Pueblo," a celebratory weekend of performances, art, and storytelling.

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