



**THE
COLONIAL
PLAYERS**

OF ANNAPOLIS



75 YEARS of AWARD-WINNING
75
THEATER IN THE ROUND

2023/2024 season

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OUR THEATER'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Season 75 is our Diamond Anniversary and we have some true gems to share with you!

To celebrate this milestone, we have mined the theatrical world to bring you a dazzling selection of five plays never seen before on our stage!

We start our treasure hunt with the satirical comedy *Tartuffe* by Molière, translated by Richard Wilbur. First performed in 1664 to great acclaim and immediate censure, this marvelous tale of false piety and duplicity is as relevant today as it was centuries ago.

Our second setting takes us on the intensely rational and tragic journey of Vivian Bearing, Ph.D., a renowned professor of English diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. *Wit* by Margaret Edson is a remarkable and humane play.

For the holiday season, and an Annapolis tradition, Richard Wade and Dick Gessner's family musical *A Christmas Carol*, transports us once more to a cold December in London, where we witness Ebenezer Scrooge's realization of the true meaning of Christmas.

We begin 2024 in the age of artificial intelligence, with the richly spare and wondrous play, *Marjorie Prime* by Jordan Harrison. With diverging recounts of their lives, the characters are drawn into the chance to reconstruct their often painful past.

Our spring musical follows the bickering residents of a rural village in 1935 Provence, France, who have been without a baker for seven weeks! Sacré bleu! Old-world charm permeates every moment of *The Baker's Wife*, a true gem of a musical by legendary authors, Joseph Stein and Stephen Schwartz.

And finally, we head back to England for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Based on the book by Mark Haddon, this play by Simon Stephens follows fifteen-year-old Christopher, who is exceptionally intelligent but ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. When he falls under suspicion for killing his neighbor's dog, he sets out to identify the true culprit, which leads to an earth-shattering discovery and a journey that will change his life forever.

We hope you'll join us as we delve into this season of glorious treasures!

Tartuffe

SEPTEMBER 8 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Written by Molière, translated into English verse by Richard Wilbur

Directed by Beth Terranova

When piety disguises cunning, there's danger in the air... While the ostensibly pious vagabond, Tartuffe, is exploiting the homeowners who graciously took him in, the only one who can see through his false piety is the housekeeper Dorine. He has magnificent success in winning the respect and devotion of the head of the house, but then tries to marry his daughter **and** seduce his wife **and** scrounge the deed to the property... Will his duplicity be exposed and punished?

The author has mercilessly examined the evil that men can commit in the guise of religious fervor and the dangers that imperil those who would believe only what they choose to believe despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary. A **sparkling** version of one of the great comedies of the French Theater. As current today as it was centuries ago, this classic comedic tale is an excellent play for the modern era.

This play features comedic violence, and adult themes.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
SEP.		08	09	10	M
	14	15	16	17	M
	21	22	23	24	M
	28	29	30		

Wit

OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 11, 2023

Written by Margaret Edson

Directed by Jacob Haythorn

Vivian Bearing, Ph.D., a renowned professor of English who has spent years studying and teaching the brilliant and difficult metaphysical sonnets of John Donne, has been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. Her approach to the study of Donne: aggressively probing, intensely rational. But during the course of her illness—and her stint as a prize patient in an experimental chemotherapy program at a major teaching hospital—Vivian comes to reassess her life and her work with a profundity and humor that are transformative both for her and the audience.

In her extraordinary first play, Margaret Edson has created a work that is as intellectually challenging as it is emotionally immediate. A **remarkable** and humane play that you will remember till your dying day.

This play features adult language, themes of mortality, and nudity.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
OCT.		20	21	22	M
	26	27	28	29	M
NOV.	02	03	04	05	M
	09	10	11		



A Christmas Carol

Play and Lyrics by Richard Wade
Music by Richard Gessner

Directed by Debbie Barber-Eaton

It's only Christmas in Annapolis when *A Christmas Carol* is playing at CP! The Colonial Players is delighted to bring this Dickens classic back to the stage with this phenomenally popular adaptation. This musical tale of redemption will warm your heart, bring you glad tidings, and add a **glittering** touch to the festive season. Written for the Players in 1981 by Richard Wade and Dick Gessner, our 75th season would not be complete without it.

A Christmas Carol will be presented in December 2023 as our special holiday offering. **Tickets will go on sale in-person at our annual sidewalk sale the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving (November 18, 2023).** Please check our website in early November for more information about the ticket sale.

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DECEMBER	07	08	09	10
	8 pm	7 pm 9 pm	2 pm 4:30 pm 8 pm	2 pm 4:30 pm
	14	15	16	17
	8 pm	7 pm 9 pm	2 pm 4:30 pm 8 pm	2 pm 4:30 pm



A Christmas Carol, 2021. Photo by Brandon Bentley



Crimes of the Heart, 2023. Photo by Brandon Bentley

Marjorie Prime

JANUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 3, 2024

Written by Jordan Harrison

Directed by Edd Miller

It's the age of artificial intelligence, and 85-year-old Marjorie spends her final, ailing days with a computerized version of her deceased husband — otherwise known as a "Prime". With the intent to recount their life together, Marjorie's Prime relies on the information from her and her kin to develop a more complex understanding of his history. As their interactions deepen, the family begins to develop diverging recounts of their lives, drawn into the chance to reconstruct the often painful past.

What would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance?

In this richly spare, wondrous play, Jordan Harrison explores the mysteries of human identity and the limits — if any — of what technology can replace.

This play feature mature themes, including grief, and suicide.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
JAN.		12	13	14	M
	18	19	20	21	M
	25	26	27	28	M
FEB.	01	02	03		

The Baker's Wife

MARCH 1 - MARCH 30, 2024

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Book by Joseph Stein

Directed by Michelle Harmon Bruno

The bickering residents of a rural village in 1935 Provence, France, have been without a baker for seven weeks. They finally find peace and contentment in the new baker, Aimable, and his attractive young wife, Genevieve. However, when Genevieve is lured away by a handsome young gigolo, the middle-aged baker loses all zest for life and baking. When he refuses to bake, the villagers must work as a team to bring Aimable and Genevieve back together.

Old-world charm permeates every moment of **The Baker's Wife**, a true **gem** of a musical by legendary authors, Joseph Stein (*Fiddler on the Roof*) and Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Wicked*, *Pippin*). This romantic musical has developed a loyal following for its lush score featuring the song "Meadowlark."

This musical features themes of infidelity. May contain gluten.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MAR.		01	02	03	M
	07	08	09		M
	14	15	16	17	M
	21	22	23	24	
	28	29	30		

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

APRIL 26 - MAY 18, 2024

*Based on the novel by Mark Haddon,
adapted by Simon Stephens*

Directed by Steve Tobin

15-year-old Christopher has an extraordinary brain. He is exceptional at mathematics but ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched, and he distrusts strangers. Now it is 7 minutes after midnight, and Christopher stands beside his neighbor's dead dog, Wellington, who has been speared with a garden fork. Finding himself under suspicion, Christopher is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington, and he carefully records each fact of the crime. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a thrilling journey that upturns his world.

Winner of the 2015 Tony Award for Best Play, this is a beautiful, eloquent, **dazzlingly** inventive show about the wonders of life.

This play features strong language and swearing, and high intensity audio and lighting effects.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
APR.		26	27	28	M
MAY	02	03	04	05	M
	09	10	11	12	M
	16	17	18		

75 YEARS OF AWARD-WINNING
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The Lifespan of a Fact, 2022. Photo by Brandon Bentley

The Colonial Players celebrates our 75th season



The Book of Will, 2023. Photo by Brandon Bentley

Season 74 was full to the brim with love, laughter, and real life on the boards.

With our themes of secrets and lies, audiences from far and wide were able to enjoy passionate, compelling art, and we were delighted to still offer live streaming directly to the comfort of your home.

CP is 100% volunteer and we welcome your support and participation, whether onstage, backstage, ushering, staffing the Box Office, or buying tickets! Our patrons' financial support helps pay the bills and their applause makes everything we do worthwhile.

Have you heard about The Colonial Players FlexTicket?

For the same cost per seat as a subscription, purchase CP's 10-Seat FlexTicket which you may use for any combination of shows and seats you choose through the end of the season. They are transferable so that your friends and kids may use yours. FlexTicket users may order their tickets by phone (410-268-7373), via email (boxoffice@thecolonialplayers.org), or in person at the Box Office. When shows are sold out, FlexTicket holders have the added advantage of being able to order standby tickets by phone, on the same day as the show, up to an hour before curtain time. FlexTicket Standbys who have ordered by phone will be seated before regular standby ticket holders.

FlexTickets are available for Adults for \$22 per ticket and for Seniors, Students, and active Military for \$18 per ticket. FlexTickets are purchased in blocks of 10 tickets.

of Great Community Theater

TICKETING AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Show Times

8:00 pm Thursday, Friday, Saturday

2:00 pm Sunday

Box Office

Phone: 410-268-7373

Email: boxoffice@thecolonialplayers.org

The Box Office is open one hour before curtain time on performance days.

The Box Office is also open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday before Opening Night from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Tickets may be purchased online at our website thecolonialplayers.org at any time or call us at 410-268-7373 and leave a message.

Will Call tickets will be held for patrons at the Box Office until show time.

Patrons may also choose Print At Home or Mobile Ticket delivery.

Subscription/Flex Ticket Prices

\$22 Adults

\$18 Seniors 65+/ Fulltime Students/Military

FlexTickets for 10 seats may be used for any combination of shows and seats until the end of the season. The Box Office will keep track of use and punch the FlexTicket as the seats are used. Ticket orders must be placed through the Box Office, not on the web. FlexTickets are transferable.

Senior/Student/Military FlexTickets must be used by seniors, students, or Military patrons.

Subscribers may exchange their tickets in person, by phone, by mail, or email at boxoffice@thecolonialplayers.org. **In order to receive new tickets in exchange, the Box Office must be notified 48 hours before performance time.**

The Colonial Players does not issue refunds.

Unused tickets may be returned to the Box Office for a tax-deductible donation receipt. FlexTickets expire at the end of the season. There will be no refunds on unused seats of the FlexTicket.

A NOTE TO OUR AUDIENCES:

As with most contemporary plays, many of our shows this season contain contemporary language and situations which The Colonial Players believes should be viewed and heard as the playwright intended within the context of the scripted story. **The Colonial Players, Inc. reserves the right to change season offerings if necessary.**

Single Ticket Prices

\$26 Adults

\$21 Seniors 65+/ Fulltime Students/Military

All single tickets are subject to a \$2 service fee per ticket.

Single tickets may be purchased in person at the Box Office, by mail, by phone, or at our website, thecolonialplayers.org. Tickets ordered by phone or online must be purchased using MasterCard, Visa, or Discover credit cards. Checks and cash are also accepted at the Box Office by mail or in person. With the exception of Standby tickets, **all single (non-subscription) ticket purchases are final. Exchanges and refunds are not permitted on single ticket sales. FlexTicket reservations may not be changed within 48 hours of performance time.**

Seats are guaranteed only until curtain time.

As we are a theater in the round, latecomers may have to wait to be seated until an appropriate break in the performance and at the discretion of the Stage Manager. A television monitor in the lobby allows late patrons to view the performance. Please allow plenty of time for parking in the crowded downtown area. It is very difficult for us to seat latecomers.

Standby tickets are sold one hour prior to performance time in person, on a first-come, first-serve basis. If standby seats are unavailable, purchasers' money will be returned immediately. FlexTicket holders may call on the same day of the show up to an hour before curtain time to reserve a priority standby seat.

Wheelchair space is available at most performances with advance notice. Order online or call the Box Office at 410-268-7373 at least one hour before curtain time.

Gift certificates for tickets are available at the Box Office.

Become a supporter!

Subscribers providing additional support to The Colonial Players are listed in each show's program. In addition, donors at the level of Designer or above will be invited to purchase a limited number of *A Christmas Carol* tickets before the public sale on November 18, 2023.

OUR HISTORY

The Colonial Players was founded by a group of Annapolitans dedicated to bringing high quality theater to what was then a sleepy town on the Chesapeake. As Annapolis has grown, so has the theater, continuing to thrive with a dedicated corps of volunteers and a loyal subscriber base.

The history of The Colonial Players is intertwined with the rhythms and pace of downtown Annapolis. From its humble beginnings in the old Annapolis Recreation Center near City Dock to its current home at the foot of State Circle, The Colonial Players continues its mission to entertain and educate, bringing the dramatic arts to the heart of the city.

The theater's curtain first rose in 1949 with a production of James Thurber's slapstick comedy *The Male Animal*. Six years later, The Colonial Players purchased an old car repair shop on East

Street, and through the years this site has been remodeled and expanded into the 180-seat arena theatre patrons and actors alike enjoy today.

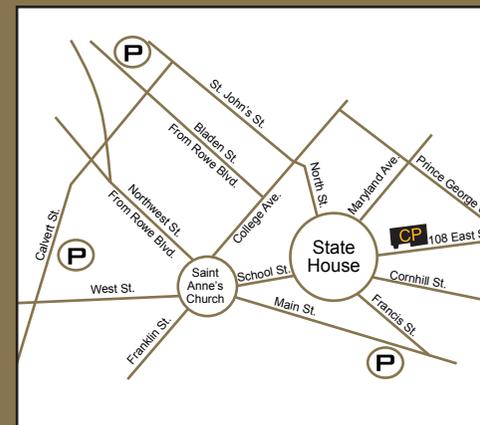
From Shakespeare to Noel Coward to Stephen Sondheim, The Colonial Players audiences have enjoyed a wide range of performances.

Experimental theater, theater for children, works by new playwrights, one-act play festivals, an array of workshops, and our annual Christmas production fulfill our mission to entertain, educate, and enrich our community through the dramatic arts.

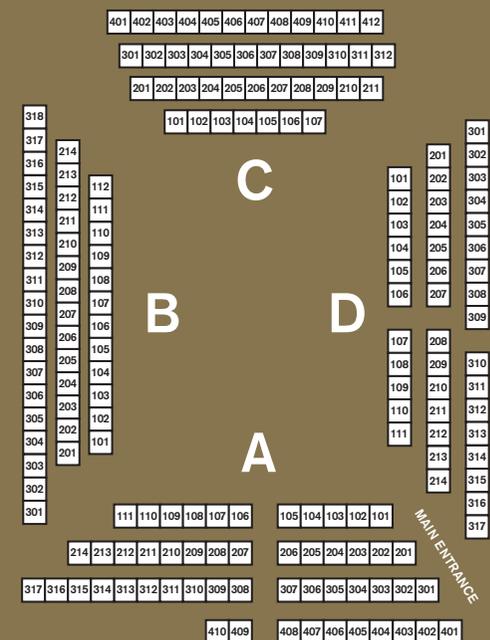
The Colonial Players is proud of its place in Annapolis history, and we invite you to take part.

Whether as a theatergoer, subscriber, or volunteer, actor, director, or playwright, join us as we continue to make theater in 360° a vibrant part of Annapolis.

WHERE WE ARE



SEATING CHART



Cover: *The Book of Will*, 2023.

Photo by Brandon Bentley

Design by Drama Queen Graphics, LLC



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Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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