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2017/2018 season



“...a screamingly funny, yet poignant comedy.”

— from the DC Metro Theater Arts review of *Calendar Girls*, February 2017

OUR 69TH SEASON HAS A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE...

And promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable ride through fact, fiction, and history. We open the season with the delightful comedy *Shiloh Rules* by Doris Baizley and are transported to a civil war re-enactment battlefield where issues of race and sexism are explored; then we travel to 17th Century Germany with Moisés Kaufman's *33 Variations* where we encounter the intertwined stories of Ludwig von Beethoven and a modern day musicologist; back in America, we next venture back to the 1940's with a special holiday treat and the presentation of *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*; then it's off to modern day England with *Quartet* by Ronald Harwood as we visit with four retired

opera singers in their retirement home; next it's back to America with the engaging drama *Sex with Strangers* where two writers deal with the challenges of intellectual property rights in the age of the internet and social media; then it's off to Monte Carlo with the delightful and hilarious musical comedy of *Lucky Stiff* where an unassuming English shoe salesman is forced to take the embalmed body of his recently murdered uncle on a vacation; and we close by travelling back to 1962 in the Catskill Mountains of New York with Harvey Fierstein's Tony-Nominated play *Casa Valentina* where we get a glimpse into the lives of a group of “self-made women” as they search for acceptance and happiness in their very own Garden of Eden.

Another season not to be missed!

Shiloh Rules

Written by Doris Baizley

Directed by Beth Terranova

A dedicated Union nurse and a mysterious Confederate refugee meet on the Shiloh battlefield to compete for the title of Best Female Reenactor of the Year. With their young trainees trying to out-do each other in “authenticity,” and a concessionaire egging both sides on, their competition leads them into real conflict with Ranger Wilson, an African-American female park ranger who would rather be anywhere than the year 1862, imaginary or not. As the re-enactment rages out of control, all six women discover that some conflicts of the Civil War weren’t left behind in 1862.

“It’s not easy finding a new take on something as heavily scrutinized as the Civil War, but Doris Baizley has done it in Shiloh Rules, an inventive comedy with some drama, history and first-aid tips thrown in.” — The New York Times

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2017

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
SEP.		08	09	10
	14	15	16	17
	21	22	23	24
	28	29	30	
OCT.				01

33 Variations

Written by Moisés Kaufman

Directed by Amanda Klute

A musicologist trying to accomplish her life’s work in the face of a debilitating disease and an estranged daughter. A composer coming to terms with his genius. And, even though they’re separated by 200 years, these two people share an obsession that might, even just for a moment, make time stand still.

Drama, memory and music combine to transport you from present-day New York to nineteenth-century Austria in this extraordinary American play about passion, parenthood and the moments of beauty that can transform a life.

Nominated for 5 Tony Awards in 2009 including Best Play, Best Performance by a Leading Actress (Jane Fonda), Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Play (Zach Grenier), Best Scenic Design of a Play, Best Lighting Design of a Play. Winner of the Best Scenic Design of Play 2009 Tony Award.

“Mr. Kaufman’s script impressively and unobtrusively makes musicology accessible to the uninitiated without professorial condescension.” — The New York Times

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2017

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
OCT.		20	21	22
	26	27	28	29
NOV.	02	03	04	05
	09	10	11	12



“Funny,
emotional
and sparked
with debate...”

— from the Bay Weekly review of
The City of Conversation, January 2017



“If you want to believe in magic again...”

— from the Bay Times Weekly review of *The Secret Garden*, April 2016

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

Adapted by Joe Landry

*From the Screenplay by Frances Goodrich,
Albert Hackett, Frank Capra, and Jo Swerling*

Directed by Scott Nichols

This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve.

“One of the best holiday shows around. This is a fresh and inventive way of reconnecting with a classic stor of love and redemption.”

— Chicago Sun-Times

“A fresh theatrical context that creates just the right kind of retro warmth. If you cry every time you see the movie, you’ll be blubbing away right on cue...Guaranteed.”

— The Chicago Tribune

HOLIDAY OFFERING

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
NOV.	30 8PM			
DEC.		01 8PM	02 2PM 8PM	03 2PM
	07 8PM	08 8PM	09 2PM 8PM	10 2PM

Our Holiday Offering is not part of the subscription season. Tickets will go on sale in late August 2017.

Quartet

Written by Ronald Harwood

Directed by Darice Clewell

Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred reside in a home for retired opera singers in Kent, England. Each year, on the tenth of October, there is a concert to celebrate Verdi’s birthday. Jean, who used to be married to Reggie, arrives at the home and disrupts their equilibrium. She still acts like a diva and refuses to sing. But the show must go on in this funny and poignant play.

A poignant play by the author of *Another Time*, *The Dresser* and *Interpreters*.

“An unashamed – no, shameless – vehicle for four feisty old troupers whose task is to make us laugh a little, sigh a little and cry a little as they take us into the bittersweet world of facing up to age and mortality.” — The Independent

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2018

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
JAN.		12	13	14 M
	18	19	20	21 M
	25	26	27	28 M
FEB.	01	02	03	04 M

Sex with Strangers

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2018

by *Laura Eason*

Directed by *Dave Carter*

Ethan is a hyper-connected millennial and star blogger. His first book “Sex with Strangers,” a collection of personal blog posts that chronicles his many sexual exploits, is a best-seller. Olivia is a gifted but obscure Gen-X novelist. When the two meet one snowy night, they each crave what the other possesses. As attraction turns to sex, they inch closer to getting what they want. Before that happens, however, each must confront the dark side of ambition as they try to reinvent themselves in a digital world where the past is only a click away.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
FEB.		23	24	25	M
MAR.	01	02	03	04	M
	08	09	10	11	M
	15	16	17	18	M

“A twisty and timely two character drama about lust, love and the complex nature of identity in our digital-dominated era.” — *The New York Times*

“A thoughtful comedy about privacy and publicity. Eason offers resonant observations about how technology both eases and complicates relationships.” — *The New Yorker*

Lucky Stiff

APRIL – MAY 2018

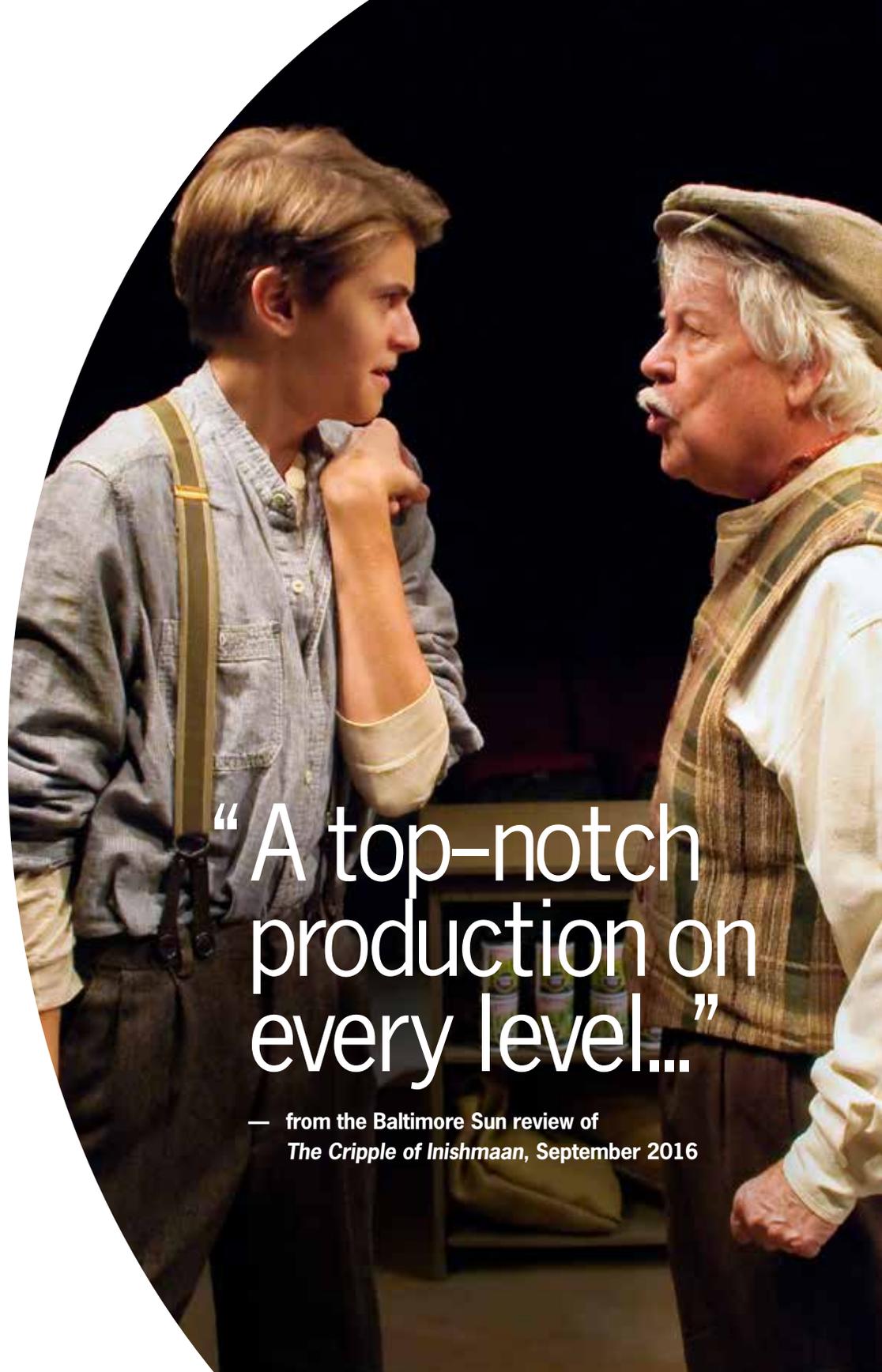
Music by *Stephen Flaherty*, Book and Lyrics by *Lynn Ahrens*

Directed by *Eric Hufford*

Based on the novel, *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo* by Michael Butterworth, **Lucky Stiff** is an offbeat, hilarious murder mystery farce, complete with mistaken identities, six million bucks in diamonds and a corpse in a wheelchair. The story revolves around an unassuming English shoe salesman who is forced to take the embalmed body of his recently murdered uncle on a vacation to Monte Carlo. Should he succeed in passing his uncle off as alive, Harry Witherspoon stands to inherit \$6,000,000. If not, the money goes to the Universal Dog Home of Brooklyn... or else his uncle’s gun-toting ex!

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
APR.		06	07	08	M
	12	13	14	15	M
	19	20	21	22	M
	26	27	28	29	M
MAY	03	04	05	06	M

Tony Award-winning writing team, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty’s, first produced show. This song writing team was also responsible for: *Once on This Island*, *Ragtime*, *Seussical*, *A Man of No Importance*, and most recently on Broadway, *Rocky the Musical*.



“A top-notch production on every level...”

— from the *Baltimore Sun* review of *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, September 2016

Casa Valentina

Written by Harvey Fierstein
Directed by Mickey Lund

Nestled in the Catskills—1962’s land of dirty dancing and Borscht Belt comedy—an inconspicuous bungalow colony caters to a very special clientele: heterosexual men who delight in dressing and acting as women. These white-collar professionals escape their family lives to spend discrete weekends away inhabiting their female alter-egos. When the opportunity to share their secret lives with the world arises, the

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MAY		25	26	27	M
	31				
JUN.		01	02	03	M
	07	08	09	10	M
	14	15	16	17	M

members of this sorority have to decide whether societal freedom outweighs the risk of potential ruin. Based on real events and infused with Fierstein’s trademark wit, this moving, insightful, and delightfully entertaining work offers a glimpse into the lives of a group of “self-made women” as they search for acceptance and happiness in their very own Garden of Eden.

Casa Valentina received four 2014 Tony Award nominations: Best Play, Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play (Reed Birney), Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play (Mare Winningham) and Best Costume Design of a Play (Rita Ryack).

“Never underestimate Harvey Fierstein’s gift for revealing new worlds within worlds we think we know well...[CASA VALENTINA is] moving, beguiling and, yes, again historically significant without lecturing or threatening...Fierstein wants us to understand the vast spectrum of gender and sexuality. Along the way, bless him, he understands how to entertain.” — NY Newsday

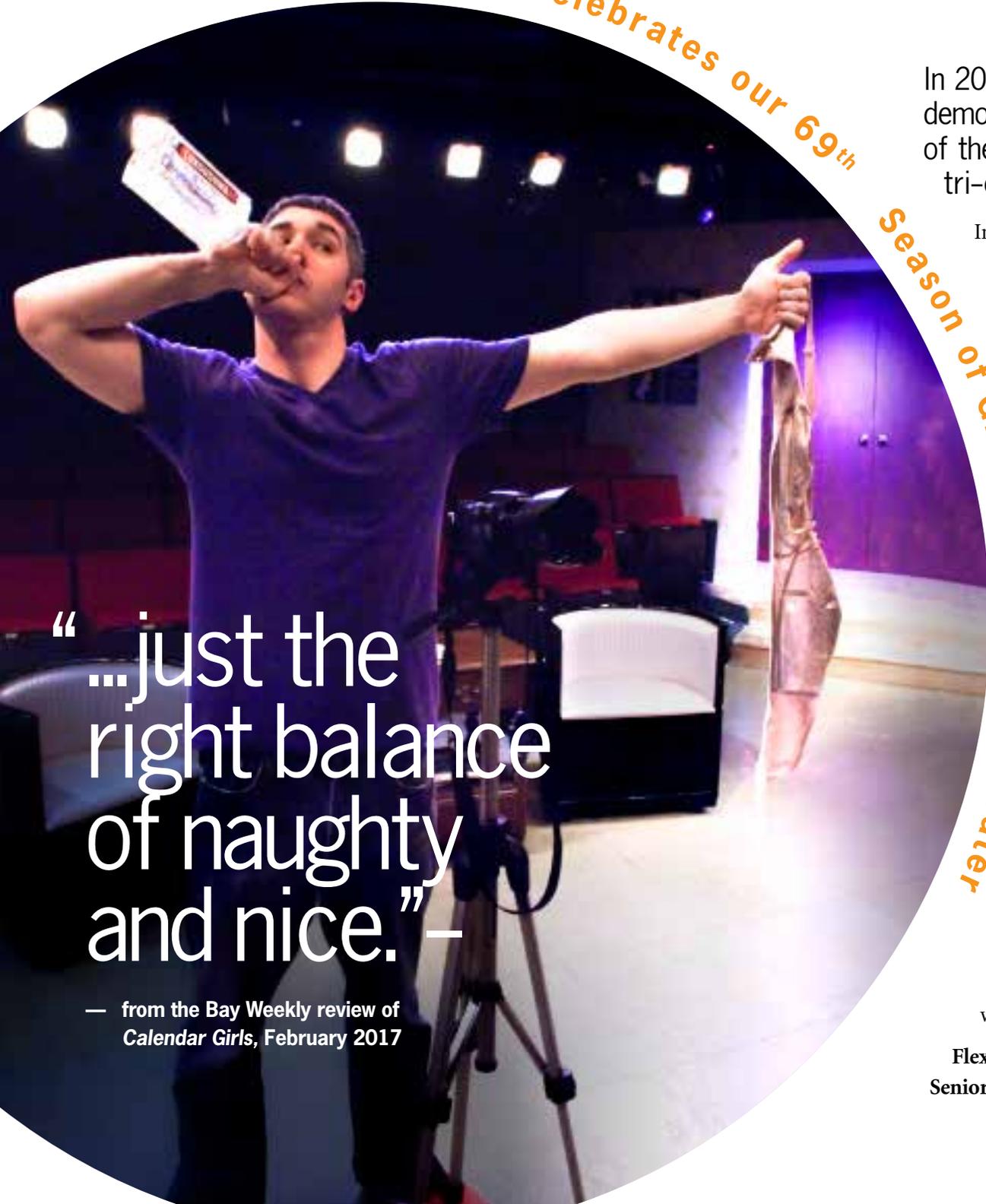
“...a rewarding experience and well-worth the visit...”

— from the MD Theatre Guide review of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, October 2016



Colonial Players celebrates our 69th

Season of Great Community Theater



“...just the right balance of naughty and nice.” –

— from the Bay Weekly review of *Calendar Girls*, February 2017

In 2016, the Colonial Players once again demonstrated why it continues to be one of the **best community theatres** in the tri-city region.

In addition to *Venus in Fur* being awarded the Ruby Griffith Award for Outstanding Achievement in a play, we garnered another 14 Washington Area Theater Community Honors (W.A.T.C.H.) nominations including best director nods for *Venus in Fur* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*; acting nods for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Venus in Fur* and *Boeing Boeing*; and design and technical nods for *Venus in Fur*, *Boeing Boeing* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. CP is 100% volunteer and we welcome your support and participation, whether onstage, working backstage, ushering, staffing the box office or buying tickets! Our patrons' financial support pays the bills and their applause makes our hard work worthwhile.

Have you heard about the **Colonial Players FlexTicket?**

For the same cost per seat as a subscription, you may now purchase CP's new 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 must order their tickets by phone, in person through the box office (410-268-7373), or online. 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 \$19 per show and for Seniors/Students and active Military for \$15 per show.

