

# OUR 70<sup>TH</sup> SEASON REACHES THE STARS...



Get ready to travel with Colonial Players! Our first season begins innocuously enough at a dinner party in New York, where we participate in an evening of comedic mayhem and mystery with Neil Simon's **Rumors.** From there, travel down the coast to the 1960's town of Levittown, Long Island to meet a creative writing teacher in Richard Greenberg's Babylon Line. By Christmas, we'll be in London in 1843, for our biennial classic A Christmas Carol to join Ebeneezer Scrooge on his journey of spirit and redemption. Next we'll be shooting for the stars, with the true story of Henrietta Leavitt, the Harvard astrologist who mapped the sky in 20th century Boston, in Lauren Gunderson's Silent S Hang on, because it's time to head to the 80's in William Shakespeare's comedy, The Merry Wives of Windsor. Not the 1580's, the 1980's, where we give the Bard a Reaganstyle makeover. In spring, we visit Gordon Schwinn in the hospital in the 1990's, in our comedic musical A New Brain, with music and lyrics by William Finn, and book by Finn and James Lapin. We wrap up in the seaside town of Gull's Point in 1944, in the compelling mystery by Agatha Christie, Towards Zero. Join us for a season of music, mystery and marvel. This isn't one to miss!

Rumors SEPTEMBER 2018

# Written by Neil Simon Directed by Atticus Boidy

At a large, tastefully-appointed Sneden's Landing townhouse, the Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of Farce. Gathering for their tenth wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in the other room, and his wife is nowhere in sight. His lawyer, Ken, and wife, Chris, must get "the story" straight before the other guests arrive. As the confusions and mis-communications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
SEP.		07	08	09	M
	13	14	15	16	М
	20	21	22	23	М
	27	28	29		

"Has nothing on its mind except making the audience laugh." — The New York Times

# The Babylon Line

Written by Richard Greenberg Directed by Jennifer Cooper

Levittown, 1967. It's the first night of an adult-ed creative writing course at the local high school. The teacher, Aaron Port, lives in Greenwich Village and reverse commutes once a week on the Long Island Rail Road's Babylon line. His students are a bit of a mixed bag: so many potential writers, so many tales to be told. Aaron is, of course, the storyteller-in-chief, and it is his wry and rueful recollections of

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
ОСТ.		19	20	21	М
	25	26	27	28	M
NOV.	01	02	03	04	М
	08	09	10		

**OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018** 

that season in Levittown that frame the proceedings. As the actors take on multiple roles as characters in each other's stories, the audience is gifted with an engaging tableau of love, loss, and the yearning for understanding in 1960s suburbia. Mr. Greenberg allows all his characters their moments in the authorial spotlight, with narratives that inevitably become more and more self-revealing, as no one's story is as simple as it first might seem.

"...the quiet, funny script resonates with the evergreen themes of community, desire, and self-discovery. It's a memorable ride." — Entertainment Weekly





# A Christmas Carol

By Rick Wade and Dick Gessner Directed by Sarah Wade

### The beloved Annapolis tradition returns to brighten up your holiday season!

This classic production takes place, as Mr. Dickens himself would have it, in the streets of Victorian London and in the counting house and bedchamber of Ebenezer

Scrooge. In the revelations of his visitors and in his memory, we are transported to times and places of Scrooge's past, present, and future. This musical version of the beloved Dickens classic, with music and lyrics by Annapolitans Dick Gessner and Richard Wade, respectively, has been produced by Colonial Players since 1981. Now presented biennially, it is the hottest ticket in town at Christmastime.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
DEC.	06 8	07 78 98	08 28 48 88	09 28 48
	13	14 78 98	15 28 48 88	16

Our Holiday Offering is not part of the subscription season. Tickets will go on sale on November 17, 2018.

# Silent Sky

JANUARY 2019

Written by Lauren Gunderson Directed by Gwen Morton

When Henrietta Leavitt begins work at the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s, she isn't allowed to touch a telescope or express an original idea. Instead, she joins a group of women "computers," charting the stars for a renowned astronomer who calculates projects in "girl hours" and has no time for the women's probing theories. As Henrietta, in her free time, attempts to measure the light and distance of stars, she must also take measure of her life on Earth,

	IHU	FRI	SAI	SUN	
JAN.		11	12	13	м
	17	18	19	20	М
	24	25	26	27	М
	31				
FEB.		01	02		

trying to balance her dedication to science with family obligations and the possibility of love. The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women's ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Social progress, like scientific progress, can be hard to see when one is trapped among earthly complications; Henrietta Leavitt and her female peers believe in both, and their dedication changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth. A "Hidden Figures" for the 19th century.

"...shines with the luminous joy of re-centering women whose achievements have been too long overlooked by the telescope of history." — Chicago Tribune

<sup>&</sup>quot;... Still dazzling after 35 years" — Bay Weekly

### FEBRUARY - MARCH 2019

# The Merry Wives of Windsor

## by William Shakespeare Directed by Steve Tobin

Let me now take you to a time and place - not of the doublets, corsets and pumpkin pants of Ye Olde England - but of the shoulder pads, big hair, and Izod shirts of the bedroom community of 1980s Windsor....Connecticut. The well-to-do Page and Ford families are beset by problems typical of the upwardly mobile classes - they're just trying to keep up with their neighbors and fit in. Enter Falstaff, a down-on-his luck Wall St. trader who is looking for other sources of income. He hatches a plan to

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
FEB.		22	23	24	M
	28				
MAR.		01	02	03	M
	07	80	09	10	M
	14	15	16	17	M
	21	22	23		

ensnare these "Real Housewives of Windsor Connecticut." However, the mistresses Ford and Page discover his plan, and they put into play a plan of their own! Hilarity ensues. This Shakespearean comedic farce will feature all the music, fashion, and cultural references of the 1980s, but with the language and characters that we love. Shakespeare and Shtick. After over a 20-year absence from Colonial Players... The Bard is Back!

# A New Brain

APRIL - MAY 2019

Music and Lyrics by William Finn, Book by William Finn and James Lapine Directed by Alicia Sweeney

A New Brain is an autobiographical musical by William Finn, of Falsettos and Spelling Bee fame, concerning his bout with an arteriovenous malformation in his brain and the healing power of art through the character of songwriter Gordon Schwinn. The show opens with Gordon working at his piano to meet a deadline, irritated because he must write a song about spring for a children's

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN		
APR.		12	13	14	M	
	18	19	20	DARK		
	25	26	27	28	M	
MAY	02	03	04	05	М	

television host, Mr. Bungee, who dresses as a frog. At lunch with best friend and agent, Rhoda, Gordon collapses face first into his meal and is taken to the hospital. Gordon's greatest fear is dying with his best songs still unwritten. Descending upon his hospital room are a hilariously absurd cast of characters: his oppressive mother, his supportive lover, hospital staff, and a wise homeless woman and a hallucination of his haranguing, amphibian boss. Facing his own mortality and awaiting brain surgery, Gordon wrestles with the person he has been, the legacy he will leave behind, and ultimately, the person he will be if he survives.





## Towards Zero

Written by Agatha Christie Directed by TBD

When a house party gathers at Gull's Point, the seaside home of Lady Tressilian, Neville Strange finds himself caught between his old wife Audrey and his new flame Kay. In this nail-biting

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MAY		31			
JUNE			01	02	M
	06	07	08	09	M
	13	14	15	16	M
	20	21	22		

thriller with Superintendent Battle, the play probes the psychology of jealousy in the shadow of a murder.

# "...brought this piece to life with passion"

 from the TheatreBloom review of 33 Variations, October 2017



In 2017, the Colonial Players had a remarkable 69th birthday with yet again another strong season.

We explored difficult themes, celebrated life, and showed what ultimately brings us together: passionate, compelling, art. From the battlefield of Shiloh, to Monte Carlo, to Vienna, Austria, we told stories that resonated with our audiences and we couldn't be prouder. 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.

### TICKETING AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Show Times**

**8:00 pm** Thursday, Friday, Saturday

**2:00 pm** Sunday

### **Box Office number: 410-268-7373**

The Box Office is open one hour before curtain time on performance nights and matinees.

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.

Tickets will be held for patrons at the box office until show time. Patrons may also have tickets mailed to them for a fee of \$1 or provide a selfaddressed stamped envelope.

### **Subscription/Flex Ticket Prices**

\$19 Adults

\$15 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.

### 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

### **Single Ticket Prices**

\$23 Adults

\$18 Seniors 65+/ Fulltime Students/Military

Single tickets may be purchased in person at the Box Office, by mail, 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 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 Christmas Carol* tickets in October before the public sale on November 17, 2018. Thank you for your generous support.

### A NOTE TO OUR AUDIENCES:

As with most contemporary plays, many of our shows this season contain contemporary language and situations, which 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.

### **OUR HISTORY**

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 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, 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, 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, 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.

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

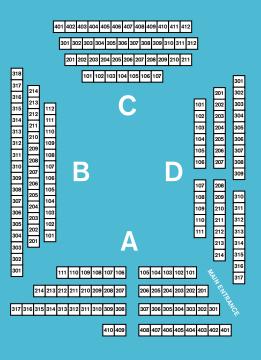
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### SEATING CHART



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