



THE
COLONIAL
PLAYERS

OF ANNAPOLIS



2016 / 2017 season

A photograph of three men in tuxedos on a stage. The man on the left is looking up and to the right. The man in the center is looking forward. The man on the right is looking up and to the left. The background is dark with blue stage lighting.

“a beautiful and touching production”

— from the Bay Weekly review of *Side Man*, October 2015

Hold on to your hats, theater lovers!

Our 68th season is a veritable rollercoaster ride of drama, comedy and delightful musical theater! We open with Martin McDonagh’s dark Irish comedy, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, set in 1934 on the Aran Islands off Galway. Next we plunge into the fractious marriage of George and Martha in Edward Albee’s classic study of borderline personality disorders, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. From there it’s on to the considerably lighter fare of *A Christmas Carol*, our biennial musical version of the Charles Dickens holiday classic. For the new year we head to

The City of Conversation (Washington), Anthony Giardina’s fascinating multi-decade look at the politics and Politics of a connected Georgetown family; then back to England for the charmingly funny *Calendar Girls*; then to Venice, Italy, of the early 1960s for our version of the Tony award winning musical *Nine*; and finally to Bucks County, Pa., for Christopher Durang’s hilarious *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. As rollercoasters go, it promises to be one heck of a ride. Please join us!

The Cripple of Inishmaan

Written by Martin McDonagh

Directed by Dave Carter

Set in 1934 on the Aran Islands at the mouth of Galway Bay in western Ireland, this play focuses on inhabitants of the island of Inishmaan, who are excited to learn of a Hollywood film crew's arrival on neighboring Inishmore to make a documentary about life on the islands. "Cripple" Billy Claven, eager to escape the gossip, poverty and boredom of Inishmaan, vies for a part in the film, and to everyone's surprise, the orphan and outcast gets his chance . . . or so they believe.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2016

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
SEP.		09	10	11	M
	15	16	17	18	M
	22	23	24	25	M
	29	30			
OCT.			01		

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf

Written by Edward Albee

Directed by Craig Mummey

George, a professor at a small college, and his wife Martha have just returned home, drunk from a Saturday night party. Martha announces with liberal profanity that she has invited a young couple—an opportunistic new professor at the college and his stunningly naïve new bride—to stop by for a nightcap. When the couple arrives the charade begins. The drinks flow and the inhibitions melt. It becomes clear that Martha is determined to seduce the young professor, and George couldn't care less. But underneath the edgy banter lurks an undercurrent of tragedy and despair, provoked by a secret that has seemingly been the foundation for the elder couple's relationship. In the end the secret is exposed, revealing the degrading mess they have made of their lives.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2016

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
OCT.		21	22	23	M
	27	28	29	30	M
NOV.	03	04	05	06	M
	10	11	12		



“A well-paced, funny romp of a play”

— from the DC Metro Theater Arts review of *Boeing Boeing*, February/March 2016



“A heart-warming and funny piece of Americana”

— from the Bay Weekly review of *Morning's at Seven*, November/December 2015

A Christmas Carol

DECEMBER 2016

By Rick Wade and Dick Gessner

Directed by Richard Wade

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.	01 8PM	02 7PM 9PM	03 2PM 4PM 8PM	04 2PM 4PM
	08 8PM	09 7PM 9PM	10 2PM 4PM 8PM	11 2PM 4PM

The City of Conversation

JANUARY 2017

Written by Anthony Giardina

Directed by Ruben Vellekoop

In 1979, Washington D.C. was a place where people actually talked to each other—where adversaries fought it out on the Senate floor and then smoothed it out over drinks and hors d'oeuvres. But it was all about to change. In this play, spanning 30 years and six presidential administrations, Hester Ferris throws Georgetown dinner parties that can change the course of Washington's politics. But when her beloved son suddenly turns up with an ambitious Reaganite girlfriend and a shocking new conservative worldview, Hester must choose between preserving her family and defending the causes she's spent her whole life fighting for.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
JAN.		13	14	15
	19	20	21	22
	26	27	28	

Calendar Girls

by *Tim Firth*

Directed by *Debbie Barber-Eaton*

After Annie's husband John dies of leukemia, she and best friend Chris resolve to raise money for a new settee in the local hospital waiting room. They manage to persuade four fellow members of the local Women's Institute to pose nude with them for an "alternative" calendar. The news of the women's charitable venture spreads like wildfire, and hordes of press soon descend on the small village of Knapeley in the Yorkshire Dales. The calendar is a success, but Chris and Annie's friendship is put to the test under the strain of their newfound fame.

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2017

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
FEB.		17	18	19	M
	23	24	25	26	M E
MAR.	02	03	04	05	M
	09	10	11		

Nine

Book by *Arthur Kopit*

Music and Lyrics by *Maury Yeston*,

Adapted from the Italian by *Mario Fratti*

Directed by *Ron Giddings*

Nine is the story of a film director, the celebrated Guido Contini, and his attempts to come up with a plot for his next film as he is pursued by hordes of beautiful women, all clamoring to be loved by him and him alone. Flashbacks reveal the substance of his life, which will become the material for his next film: a musical version of the Casanova story.

MARCH – APRIL 2017

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MAR.		31			
APR.			01	02	M
	06	07	08	09	M E
	13	14	15	DARK	
	20	21	22	23	M
	27	28	29	30	M



“The music is delicious, the acting superb”

— from the Maryland Theater Guide
review of *Ernest in Love*
April/May 2015

“Great comedic flair”

— from the DC Metro Theater Arts review of *Sherlock's Last Case*, September 2015



Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

By Christopher Durang
Directed by Steve Tobin


Vanya and Sonia rarely leave the confines of their childhood home in Bucks County, Pa., while their sister Masha has been gallivanting around the world as a successful actress. A surprise visit from Masha and her 20-something boy toy, Spike, throws the normally quiet household into utter upheaval as its residents and visitors get swept up in an intoxicating mixture of lust, rivalry, regret, and the sudden possibility of escape.

Some of the show's elements were derived from works of Anton Chekhov, including several character names, the play's setting in a cherry orchard, and the theme of the possible loss of an ancestral home.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MAY		19	20	21	M
	25	26	27	28	M E
JUN.	01	02	03	04	M
	08	09	10		

Colonial Players celebrates our 68th

Season of Great Community Theater



“An uproariously amusing evening of theater”

— from DC Metro Theater Arts review of *Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them*, June 2015

Colonial Players has won many, many awards over the years, in both the **Washington Area Theater Community Honors (W.A.T.C.H.)** and the **Ruby Griffith Awards** — but 2015 was a banner year for us! We had a record-breaking 26 W.A.T.C.H. nominations (more than any other theater) and came home with trophies for Best Featured Actor in a Play (Duncan Hood, *Morning's at Seven*) and Best Light Design in a Musical (Frank Florentine, *Ernest in Love*). Just as important, our 2015 production of *The Liar*, directed by Steve Tobin, won the top Ruby Griffith award, the silver trophy for **All-Round Production Excellence**. We have the honor of displaying that beautiful and boastworthy hardware in our lobby until March of 2017.

For many years, CP has contributed to the community: donations, scholarships, workshops, forums, and activities designed to develop new directors, actors and playwrights.

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. Thank You!

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 \$18 per show and for Seniors/Students and active Military for \$14 per show.

TICKETING AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Show Times

8:00 pm	Thursday, Friday, Saturday
2:00 pm	Sunday
7:30 pm	Sunday evening (2nd week of run only)

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 self-addressed stamped envelope.

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

\$20 Adults
\$15 Seniors 65+/ Fulltime Students/Military

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.

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. Thank you for your generous support.

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.

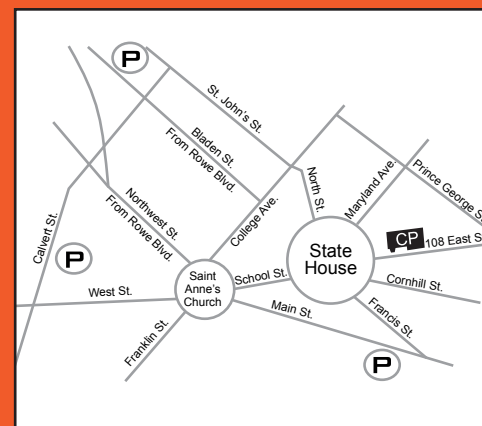
The theater's curtain first rose in 1949 with a production of James Thurber's slapstick comedy *The Male Animal*. Six years later, Colonial Players purchased an old car repair shop on East Street, and through the years this site has been

remodeled and expanded into the 180-seat arena theatre patrons and actors alike enjoy today.

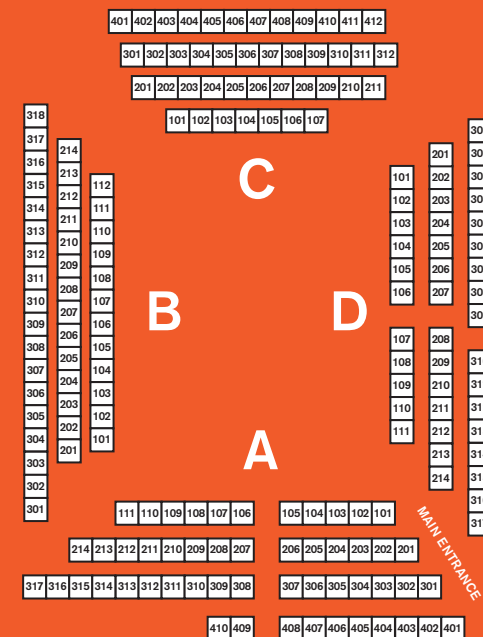
From Shakespeare to Noel Coward to Stephen Sondheim, Colonial Players audiences have enjoyed a wide range of performances. Experimental theater, theater for children, works by new playwrights, one-act play festivals, an array of workshops, and our annual Christmas production fulfill our mission to entertain, 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



SEATING CHART



Cover Photo: *Venus in Fur*, 2016

Design by Drama Queen Graphics, LLC

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