

Carnegie Mellon

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Carnegie Mellon's School of Drama Announces 2007-2008 Season

PITTSBURGH—Elizabeth Bradley, head of Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama, announces the 2007-2008 drama season. The upcoming season will address the struggle of individual will within a hostile society. Performances take place in the Philip Chosky Theater, the Helen Wayne Rauh Studio Theater and the John Wells Video Studio and various locations around the Carnegie Mellon campus and Pittsburgh.

“We’re proud that the 2007-2008 Season at the School of Drama continues to explore varied theatre forms, conventions and pioneers. This includes the touring Commedia project, which will forge a new relationship with the broader Pittsburgh community,” Bradley said. Commedia dell’arte training is a crucial part of the training at the School of Drama, and the joy of this unique experience will be shared with Pittsburgh.

The 2007–2008 season includes “The Three Sisters, directed by Vladimir Mirodan; “Guys and Dolls, created by created by Jo Swerling, Abe Burrows, and Frank Loesser; “Ghosts,” translated by Brian Johnston; “The Piano Lesson, written by August Wilson; “Don Carlos.” All performances will take place at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday; 4 and 8 p.m., Friday; and 2 and 8 p.m., Saturday. (More information about each production is listed below.)

The School of Drama is one of the nation’s most distinguished degree-granting theatre programs and is one of five schools within Carnegie Mellon’s College of Fine Arts, a community of nationally and internationally recognized artists and professionals organized into Architecture, Art, Design, Drama and Music, and their associated centers and programs.

For additional information about the upcoming season or ticket purchases, contact the School of Drama box office at 412-268-2407, noon to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. For more information on the School of Drama or the College of Fine Arts, visit www.cmu.edu/cfa or contact Eric Sloss at 412-268-5765 or ecs@andrew.cmu.edu.

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About the Performances:

“The Three Sisters,” directed by Vladimir Mirodan

Opening: Oct. 5; Closing: Oct. 13. Philip Chosky Theater

The season opens with Anton Chekhov’s classic drama “The Three Sisters”. Considered to be one of Chekhov’s most moving and subtle dramas, “The Three Sisters” masterfully blends tragedy with moments of profound humor and the beauty of the everyday. The play itself was part of a revolution in acting styles, and laid the groundwork for the dominance of realism in the 20th Century. Carnegie Mellon welcomes noted Chekhov director Vladimir Mirodan, head of London’s famed Drama Centre and a regular at the Royal National Theatre.

“Guys and Dolls”

Opening: Nov. 29; Closing: Dec. 8. Philip Chosky Theater

The second production at Carnegie Mellon will be “Guys and Dolls,” the American musical theatre masterpiece created by Jo Swerling, Abe Burrows, and Frank Loesser. Guys and Dolls is a good-natured frolic about authentic American characters immortalized in the fiction of Damon Runyan. Nathan Detroit runs an illegal floating crap game, but his girlfriend Adelaide would prefer him to marry her after a fourteen-year engagement. When a group of “high-rollers” comes to town, Detroit gets in deep while his partner Sky Masterson gambles that he can seduce Sarah, a Salvation Army missionary. When everyone falls in love, everything gets complicated.

“Ghosts”

Opening: Dec. 5; Closing: Dec. 8. Philip Chosky Theater

The School of Drama marks the hundred-year anniversary of playwright Henrik Ibsen’s death and also honors the career of Brian Johnston in presenting his internationally-acclaimed translation of Ibsen’s “Ghosts”. Johnston, who has retired from The School of Drama faculty, is one of the world’s foremost Ibsen scholars. His translation of this classic play shows the consequences of such vices as denial, hatred, ignorance, and fear in a compassionless society.

“The Piano Lesson”

Opening: Feb. 22; Closing: Mar. 1. Philip Chosky Theater

The tragic loss of Pittsburgh’s own master playwright August Wilson has triggered a long-overdue renaissance of his work. “The Piano Lesson” is part of Wilson’s epic ten-play cycle on African-American history. Set in Depression-era Pittsburgh, the story documents the struggle of two siblings over a piano crafted by their enslaved grandfather. As the brothers negotiate their status, they become emblematic of the struggles of African-Americans to negotiate their turbulent history and the ghosts, both figurative and literal, which haunt the piano.

“Don Carlos”

Opening: April 23; Closing: April 26. Philip Chosky Theater

Friedrich Schiller’s masterwork of German Romanticism, “Don Carlos” combines royal family intrigue with an deep reflection on political oppression. Don Carlos is a powerful man: as the son of Phillip II, he is heir to the throne. Yet a passionate love for his own stepmother, Queen Elizabeth, will prove to be the young man’s ruin. The deceitful Queen channels Don Carlos’ passion as leverage against his father’s tyrannical regime. The resulting secrets, paranoia, and lust for love and power eventually consume the whole court. Schiller wrote: “Don Carlos has the soul of Hamlet ... and my own pulse.”

Commedia Dell 'Arte

April 11-26. Various locations around the City of Pittsburgh.

The School of Drama's marvelous clowns will appear in their "Pageante Waggon" at selected outdoor sites around the city, where Carnegie Mellon students will perform adaptations of Goldoni's "Servant of Two Masters" and Moliere's "Scapino". These fast-paced comedies of knaves and scoundrels will engage audiences of all ages as we fight with words, swords, and food; see the dead come back to life, and witness the single most hilarious lunch date of all time.

The Divine Comedy of Carnegie, Frick and Goldman, Incorporated

April 24-26, 2008, Braddock Library

Mark Rylance renowned actor and theater director from England brings the story of Andrew Carnegie and Henry Frick to Carnegie Mellon School of Drama. In April 2008, Rylance will work with the School of Drama to develop the story of Carnegie and Frick for a theatre production.

The School of Drama will also offer the following plays written or directed by students. Tickets are free.

"The Boys Next Door", by Tom Griffin: Nov. 7-9,

"Golden Boy" by Clifford Odet, Nov. 7-9,

"The Stranger" by Craig Lucas, Feb. 6-8,

"Accidental Death of an Anarchist" by Dario Fo, Mar. 26-28,

"Playground: A Festival of Independent Student Work": Helen Wayne Rauh Theater. Titles, times and dates TBD.

"New Works Festival": Titles, times and dates TBD.

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