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IT'S A LITERARY PARTY!

NEW STAGE *Theatre* SEASON 54

2019 - 2020



New Stage Theatre's Season 54: *The Literary Party*

Dear Theatre Lover,

You are invited to *The Literary Party*! The power of literature comes alive during New Stage Theatre's 54th season, which features comedies, mysteries, and drama with plots that highlight prose and poetry, and captivating musicals and plays adapted from exciting, classic, and beloved books. The 2019-2020 lineup includes award-winning works, regional premieres, a new groundbreaking drama, and an epic musical.

The Literary Party season begins with *Into the Breeches!*, a vibrant and big hearted comedy by George Brant. In this hilarious new play, set in 1942, a group of women are determined to mount the Shakespeare classic *Henry V* while the theatre's director and leading men are off fighting WWII overseas. *Into the Breeches!* will be the first of the season's three regional premieres. It will be followed by another premiere, the thrilling mystery, *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*. Ken Ludwig's adaptation of Christie's timeless classic takes you on a suspenseful, thrilling ride aboard the legendary Orient Express.

Obie Award-winning playwright Dominique Morisseau's *Pipeline* provides a look at the school-to-prison pipeline in a compelling portrait presented against a backdrop of landmark African-American literature. With profound compassion and lyricism, the deeply moving story of *Pipeline* raises important questions about race, class, and parental duty as it brings an urgent conversation powerfully to the fore in our third regional premiere.

Following that will be the Tony Award-winning Best Play *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Mark Haddon's bestselling novel is brought to the stage in this dazzling, inventive play about the wonders of life as a unique young man goes on a quest to solve a mystery.

Closing the season will be the ultimate musical for our time, *Ragtime*. Based on one of the most successful novels of its era, E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime* paints a powerful portrait of the American Dream that awakens the heart and captivates the soul. With a Tony Award-winning book and musical score written by Terrence McNally and with music and lyrics by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, *Ragtime* is a must-see musical masterpiece bursting with show-stopping splendor and unbridled passion.

Amazing adaptations will be offered as extras in the season at discounted ticket prices for subscribers, including the traditional holiday favorite *A Christmas Carol*. The endearing characters Charles Dickens depicts in his yuletide classic create a strong emotional bond with the reader that has survived for decades and Michael Wilson's play adaptation does the same for theatre audiences. In January and February, Roald Dahl's much-loved book will burst into life on the stage in *Matilda the Musical*, a special production guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages.

Some stories can be adapted from one form to another and, in doing so, introduce an entirely new perspective. Stage adaptations of literature, though, hold the unique power to bring our favorite stories to life by bridging two of society's major cultural platforms. New Stage Theatre has a commitment to the words on the page, to authentic storytelling, and to extraordinary talent. We tell stories that appeal to a diverse audience, and our upcoming season is both entertaining and filled with theatrical substance. I invite you to join us for our 54th season to experience the power of language and enjoy *The Literary Party* portrayed by some of the finest theatre artists available. I look forward to seeing you in the audience.

Francine Thomas Reynolds
Artistic Director

New Stage's Programming is made possible with the support of:



Photos by Michael George Photography

SEASON EXTRAS!

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted from Charles Dickens by Michael Wilson
December 3 – 22, 2019 | Holiday Classic

A ghost story for Christmas

New Stage Theatre returns with a holiday tradition! Ebenezer Scrooge is a wealthy man, rich in money and poor in spirit. He's locked his solitary heart into a cashbox and forgotten where he's put the key. Haunted by specters and visited by spirits of his past, present, and future, he journeys from the painful losses of his youth to the human kindness and deep joy of a glorious Christmas morning. Dickens' classic tale reawakens the true spirit of Christmas in a heart-stirring Carol of profound beauty and redemption.

Season ticket subscribers can purchase discounted tickets for this show!

Appropriate for all ages.



ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Book by Dennis Kelly; Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin
Based on the book, *Matilda* by Roald Dahl

January 28 – February 9, 2020 | Children's Musical

The world's biggest little hero

The inspiring story of an extraordinary girl comes to life in *Matilda the Musical*. Based on the beloved Roald Dahl novel, *Matilda* is the story of the courageous little girl with an unbounded imagination who proves that despite the odds, you can do anything you put your mind to—and change your destiny. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by this Broadway hit and winner of 16 Best Musical awards!

"How do you spell magical? M-A-T-I-L-D-A. One of the most bewitching musicals in recent memory." – Bay Area News Group

Season ticket subscribers can purchase discounted tickets for this show!

Appropriate for all ages.



Blue Star Theatre

New Stage Theatre offers approximately 20% off ticket prices to military personnel and their immediate families. Blue Star Theatres is a program of Blue Star Families and the Theatre Communications Group.

Group Rates

Groups of 15 or more are eligible for a discount. Call the Box Office at 601-948-3533 for rates and availability.

Refund Policy

All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges on returned or unused single tickets. You may donate unused, unexpired tickets for possible resale, which may qualify as a tax-deductible contribution.

Student Rush Tickets

\$10 tickets are available to students with a valid student ID one hour prior to any performance. Tickets are subject to availability.

Get in the Act

Your support and generosity allows us to continue making professional theatre accessible to our state. Please see the contribution section on the attached subscription form, or send us a voided check with instructions for an automatic bank draft, or call the theatre at 601-948-3533, ext. 246 to make your donation. All gifts are 100 percent tax-deductible.

Security provided at all performances.

NEW STAGE THEATRE SEASON 54

INTO THE BREECHES!

By George Brant

September 10 – 22, 2019 | Timeless Comedy

The show must go on!

1942. The theatre's director and leading men are off at war overseas. Determined to press on, the ladies at the home front set out to produce an all-female version of Shakespeare's *Henry V*, assembling an enthusiastic yet amateur team. Will their production be a victory? Or will it be a target of disinterest and rotten tomatoes? Together they are determined that the show must go on! A hilarious and heartwarming comedy about the singular way art and community reveal our boldest selves even in the darkest times.

"A gem of a play, one of the sweetest nights of theater you're likely to see...a wonderful cast of characters...a lot of magical moments in this not-to-be-missed show." – The Providence Journal

Recommended for ages 11+

Regional
Premiere

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

By Ken Ludwig

Based on the novel by Agatha Christie

October 22 – November 3, 2019 | Classic Mystery

"We seek the truth from within, not without." – Hercule Poirot

The exotic Orient Express is about to go off the rails! A luxury train struggles westward from Istanbul, getting stuck in the snow somewhere near Belgrade, when something terrible happens. Belgian detective Hercule Poirot is on board and takes up the case — one that challenged every value he holds as a lawman. With a locomotive full of suspects and an alibi for each one, it's the perfect mystery for detective Monsieur Poirot, *nest-ce pas?* Wax your mustache and hold on to your passport for a thrilling ride aboard the legendary Orient Express!

"It's a lithe, pared-down, forward-rushing two hours, a glittering entertainment with just enough serious points to send you home thoughtful." – The Philadelphia Inquirer

Appropriate for all ages

Regional
Premiere

PIPELINE

By Dominique Morisseau

March 10-22, 2020 | Contemporary Drama

The play America needs right now

Recently featured on *Live from Lincoln Center* on PBS, Obie Award-winning playwright Dominique Morisseau presents an urgent conversation about the state of the American education system presented against a backdrop of landmark African-American literature. Nya, an inner-city public high school teacher, is committed to her students but desperate to give her only son Omari opportunities they'll never have. When a controversial incident at his upstate private school threatens to get him expelled, Nya must confront his rage and her own choices as a parent. But will she be able to reach him before a world beyond her control pulls him away?

"Pipeline is an emotionally harrowing, ethically ambiguous drama that raises barbed questions about class, race, parental duty, and the state of American education." – Variety

Recommended for ages 14+

Regional
Premiere

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

By Simon Stephens

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon

April 21 – May 3, 2020 | Drama/Mystery

A beautiful, dazzlingly inventive show about the wonders of life.

Fifteen-year-old Christopher is on a mission. After the untimely death of his neighbor's dog, the brilliant but unique boy is compelled to investigate the crime. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched, and he distrusts strangers. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that upturns his world.

"...just terrific...a profoundly moving play about adolescence, fractured families, mathematics, colors, and lights...dazzling." – Independent (London)

Recommended for ages 13+

Tony Award-
winning Best Play

RAGTIME

Book by Terrence McNally; Music by Stephen

Flaherty; Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Based on the novel *Ragtime* by E. L. Doctorow

June 2-14, 2020 | Musical

Giving the nation a new syncopation

A deeply moving musical, *Ragtime* is a powerful story about immigrants and the fight for the American soul in the early twentieth century. Featuring a Tony Award-winning score and book, *Ragtime* follows three families in pursuit of the American dream. This ensemble musical paints a portrait of the people who built this country with the hopes for a brighter tomorrow.

"It is a gorgeous spectacle that nevertheless manages a look of simplicity. It packs enough entertainment value and hews closely enough to E.L. Doctorow's novel to be the sort of show that will reach audiences from the same diverse social strata as its characters." – CurtainUp

Recommended for ages 11+

Award-winning
Musical

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!

SUBSCRIBERS RECEIVE TICKET DISCOUNT & ADVANCED TICKET SALES

Premium and Flexipass Subscriptions

Premium Subscribers enjoy benefits that single ticket holders miss out on: lock in your ticket prices at a 30% or more discount, same seat-same night privileges, discount tickets available for guests, unlimited ticket exchanges, and discount tickets for season extras.

Flexipass Subscribers receive many of the benefits listed above except ticket coupons must be redeemed before each show in order to receive a seat—seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Premium Preview See the show first—and save the most!
Premium Evening Plan your year—same night, same seats!
Premium Matinees See shows on Sundays and get home early!
Flexipass Five shows—any dates!
Mini Flexipass Three shows—any dates!!

Our Celebrated Arts in Education Program

New Stage's education program is designed to introduce young Mississippians to live theatre of substance and imagination. Included are School Fest Matinees of mainstage shows, a touring program, workshops for both teachers and students, acting classes, summer camps, and an apprenticeship program.

The 2019-20 schedule of shows and programs offer several opportunities for youth involvement. New Stage Theatre's touring productions and matinee productions played for more than 26,000 people during the last school year. The touring productions travel to schools, libraries, and community centers statewide. The touring shows for the 2019-20 year will be a modern take on the classic tale *The Ugly Duckling* for elementary age students, and *If Not Us, Then Who: Freedom Rides to Freedom Summer*, a play with music featuring pivotal moments in the Civil Rights movement for middle and high school students. An abridged production of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* will also be available for middle and high school students. For more information on New Stage's education programs or to schedule a tour, contact 601-948-3533, ext. 232 or education@newstagetheatre.com.

School Fest Matinees

Performances for school groups are available at reduced ticket prices for select performances of *Into the Breeches!* (Sept. 13 & 19, 2019), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Oct. 23, 25, 29, & 31, 2019), *A Christmas Carol* (Dec. 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, 2019), *Matilda* (Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, & Feb. 4, 5, 6, 7, 2020), *Pipeline* (March 19, 2020), and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (April 15, 17, 21, & 23, 2020). Call 601-948-3533, ext. 245 for information and reservations.

How To Find Us

Box Office • 601-948-3531

Business Office • 601-948-3533, ext. 246

Education Office • 601-948-3533, ext. 232

Artistic Office • 601-948-3533, ext. 224

Marketing/Advertising • 601-948-3533, ext. 226

Fax: 601-948-3538

Online: newstagetheatre.com

Email: mail@newstagetheatre.com

Address: 1100 Carlisle Street

Jackson, MS 39202

NEW STAGE Theatre 2019-2020 SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

OFFICE USE ONLY

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CONTRIBUTORS TO NEW STAGE

We deeply appreciate the support of our contributors. Gifts are entirely tax deductible since you purchase your season tickets separately. Contributing categories are listed below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Benefactor:	\$2500 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> Angel:	\$300-\$499
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor:	\$1000-\$2499	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron:	\$100-\$299
<input type="checkbox"/> Archangel:	\$500-\$999		

Print your name as you would like it to appear in the program: _____

Amount of contribution:

\$ _____

Ticket Package	Early Bird	After Aug.15	Qty.	Total
Preview (1st Tues-7:30 p.m.)	\$ 90	\$ 100		
Evening (Tue-Sat 7:30 p.m.)	\$ 110*	\$ 120*		
Matinees (Sun 2:00 p.m.)	\$ 110*	\$ 120*		
Flexipass (five plays)	\$ 110*	\$ 120*		
Mini Flexipass (three plays)	\$ 80			
*Seniors (age 60 and over), students and groups (20 or more) deduct \$10.00 per subscription, except Preview Subscription and Mini Flexipass.		Subtotal		
		less discount*		
		donor contribution		
		postage/handling		2.00
			TOTAL	\$

If a current subscriber, do you wish to keep same performance date and seat numbers? ☐ Yes

If not, please indicate changes below under new subscribers section. **Please note: on Aug.15, all seats not renewed will be released** in order to process subscription change requests and new subscriptions.

New Subscribers (or changes), please indicate a 1st and 2nd choice on performance and seating preference:

Seating preference: Section: ☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right Row: _____ Seats: _____

Performance preference: Please indicate 1st and 2nd choice on performance date.

☐ Tuesday Preview ☐ 1st Wednesday ☐ 1st Thursday ☐ 1st Friday ☐ 1st Saturday ☐ 1st Sunday
☐ 2nd Tuesday ☐ 2nd Wednesday ☐ 2nd Thursday ☐ 2nd Friday ☐ 2nd Saturday ☐ 2nd Sunday

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Make checks payable to New Stage and mail to Box 4792, Jackson, MS 39296-4792.
Tickets will be mailed by the end of August.

If you have received this brochure and have already subscribed for next season, please pass it on to a friend.
On-site security available at each production. Play titles and dates subject to change.

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