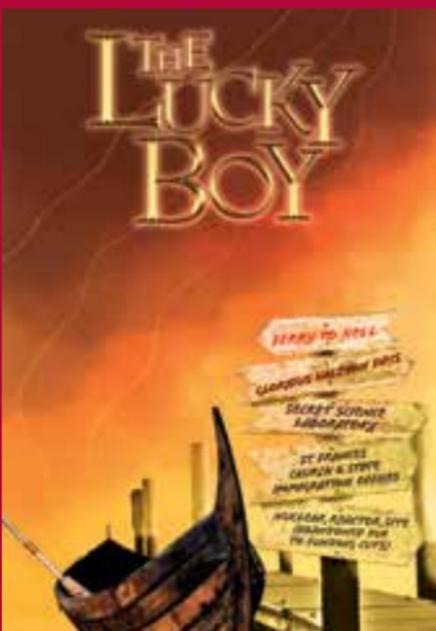
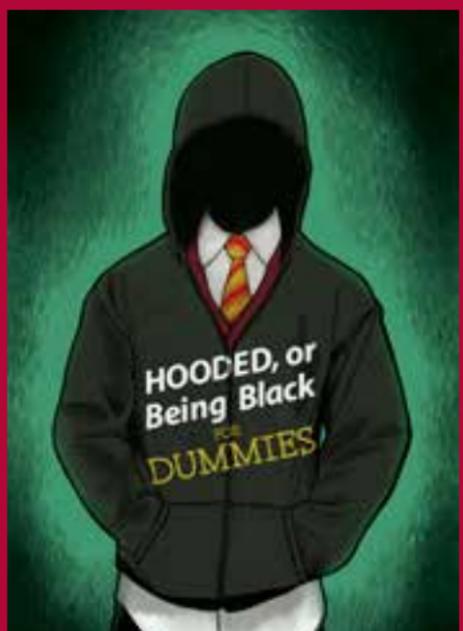
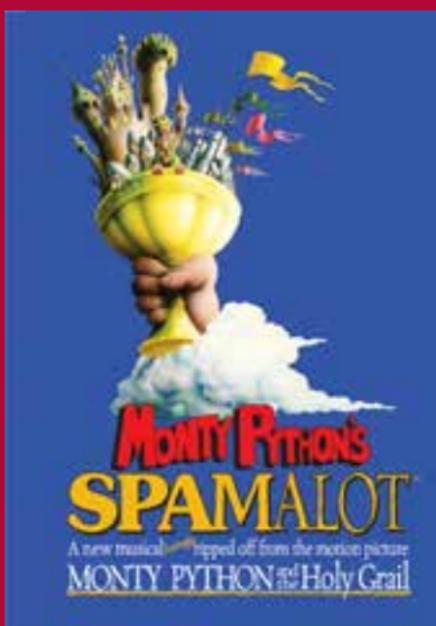
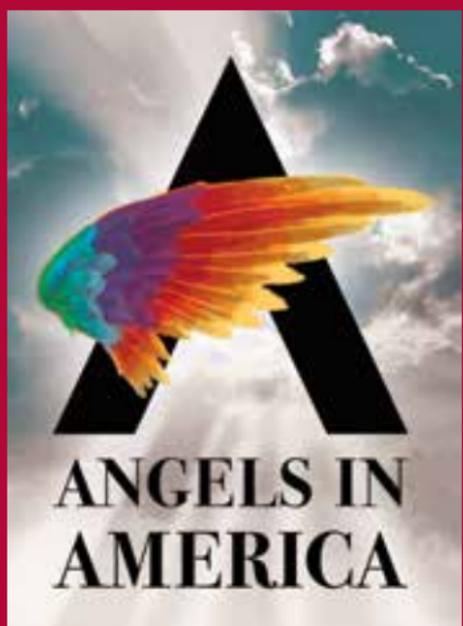
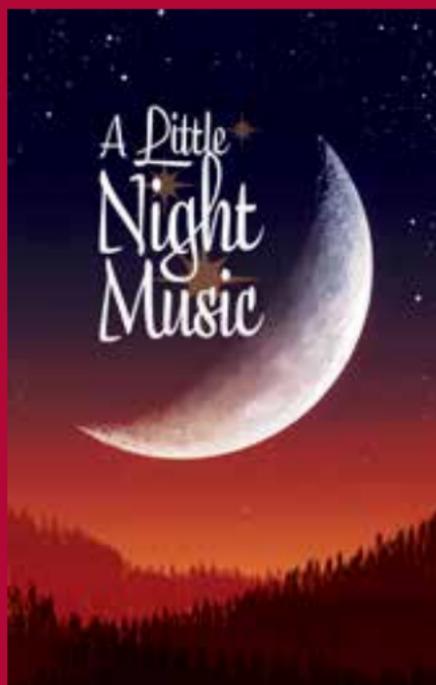
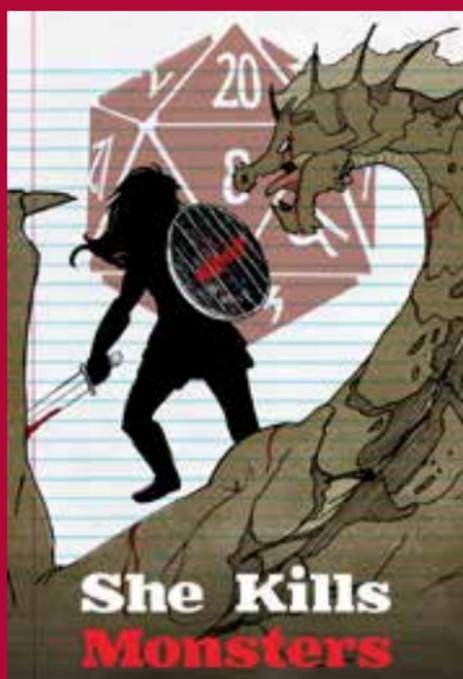


PENN STATE

CentreStage

Penn State's professional theatre training program • 2019-20 Season Guide



From the Artistic Director



It's hard to believe that this year marks the 100th Anniversary of Theatre at Penn State!

When I heard about this, I began to wonder what students and faculty from 1920 might have imagined about theatre at Penn State in 2020. Would they have anticipated that we would be recognized as one of the finest training grounds for theatre artists in America? That our alumni would be found working in every facet of theatre and entertainment around the world? That our faculty would be internationally recognized as leaders in their fields and our students would be as determined and talented as they are? It's hard to say, but it is clear that as theatre at Penn State turns 100-years-old this season, the depth, diversity and importance of the work on our stages continues to reflect our goals of providing our students with the finest learning experiences and our community and region with the highest standards of theatre performance.

As you will see in the pages that follow, the shows we are producing this season cover a very broad range of genre and style. Included are two modern theatrical masterpieces in Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* and Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, as well as cutting-edge new work by an extraordinary trio of rising diverse voices in *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen, *Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies* by Tarrance Arvelle Chisholm and the premiere of the new musical *The Lucky Boy* by Kirsten Childs. Add to all of this the inspired lunacy of Monty Python's *Spamalot* and by the end of the year, this season will have found ways to move, provoke and thoroughly entertain us all.

Centre Stage may not have a 100-year history, but our roots run deep in the region. So many major artists, and soon-to-be major artists, have crossed our stages over the years and this illustrious history has been enriched by our community support. Please join us this year as we begin to tell the stories of the next 100 years.

Rick Lombardo
Director, School of Theatre
Producing Artistic Director, Penn State Centre Stage

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

NAST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE



U/RTA University Resident Theatre Association

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION 1913

Member of U/RTA, the country's oldest and largest consortium of professional theatre training graduate programs and associated professional theatre companies, and utilizes that association to facilitate and manage contracts with members of the various theatrical unions. These include Actors' Equity Association, the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, and United Scenic Artists.



SDC The Director and Choreographer are members of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.



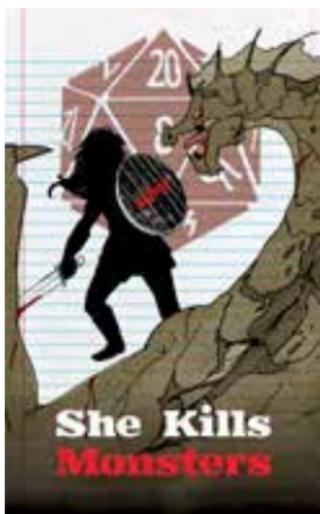
Tickets: www.theatre.psu.edu

CENTRE STAGE

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

SHE KILLS MONSTERS

By **Qui Nguyen** • Directed by **Sebastian Trainor** and **Erik Raymond Johnson**



A comedic romp into the world of fantasy role-playing games, *She Kills Monsters* tells the story of Agnes Evans as she leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's *Dungeons & Dragons* notebook, however, she stumbles into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was Tilly's refuge. In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and '90s pop culture, acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.

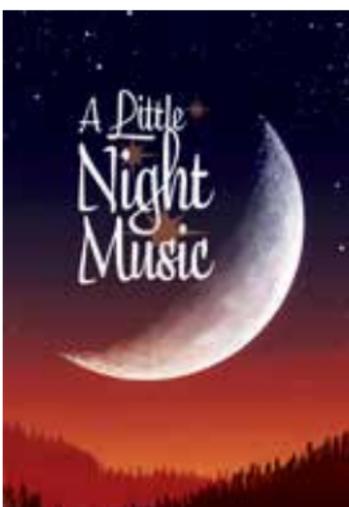
OCTOBER 8–17

Evenings at 7:30 p.m.: \$25 • Previews at 7:30 p.m./Matinee at 2 p.m.: \$20 • Student: \$12.50

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	MATINEE
	Preview Oct. 8 Oct. 15		Preview Oct. 10 Oct. 17	Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 12
Oct. 14		Oct. 16				

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

Music and lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim** • Book by **Hugh Wheeler** • Directed by **Phillip Fazio**



Set at the turn of the last century, *A Little Night Music* interweaves a tangled web of former and current lovers among the upper crust elite of Sweden. Esteemed lawyer Fredrik Egerman has recently married a young virgin, Anne, with whom his son, Henrik, has also fallen madly in love. Fredrik's dedication to his blushing bride is tested when he reunites with a former flame, the famed (and fading) actress Desirée Armfeldt. Things grow more complicated when her jealous (and married) lover Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm gets wind of the reunion. The coupling and uncoupling comes to a head when Desirée convinces her mother to host Fredrik and his family for a weekend on her lavish country estate—and the Count, with wife in tow, crashes the party.

NOVEMBER 5–15

Evenings at 7:30 p.m.: \$25 • Previews at 7:30 p.m./Matinee at 2 p.m.: \$20 • Student: \$12.50

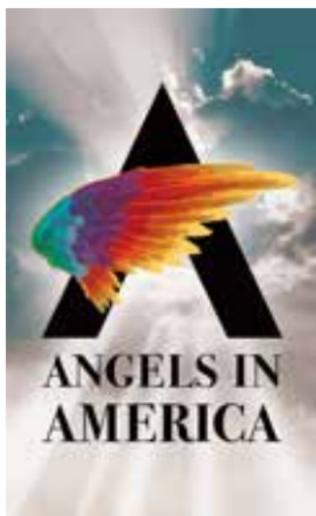
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	MATINEE
	Preview Nov. 5 Nov. 12		Preview Nov. 7 Nov. 14	Nov. 8 Nov. 15	Nov. 9	Nov. 9
Nov. 11		Nov. 13				

CENTRE STAGE

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

ANGELS IN AMERICA

By **Tony Kushner** • Directed by **Rick Lombardo**



A quarter-century after stunning the theatre world, one of the greatest theatrical journeys of our time celebrates its 25th anniversary. As politically incendiary as any play in the American canon, *Angels in America* also manages to be, at turns, hilariously irreverent and heartbreakingly humane. In addition, it is astonishingly relevant, speaking every bit as urgently to our anxious times as it did when it first premiered. Tackling Reaganism, McCarthyism, immigration, religion, climate change, and AIDS against the backdrop of New York City in the mid-1980s, no contemporary drama has succeeded so indisputably with so ambitious a scope.

*Please note: Play is 3 hours and 30 minutes with two 15-minute intermissions.

FEBRUARY 25–MARCH 5

Evenings at 7 p.m.: \$25 • Previews at 7 p.m.: \$20 • Student: \$12.50

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	Preview Feb. 25 Mar. 3		Preview Feb. 27 Mar. 5	Feb. 28	Feb. 29
Mar. 2		Mar. 4			

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

Book and lyrics by **Eric Idle** • Music by **John Du Prez** and **Eric Idle**

Directed and choreographed by **Wes Drummond**



This 2005 Tony winner for Best Musical is a hilarious musical comedy based on the iconic, 1975 film, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail!* An absurdist farce of the musical theatre cannon, *Spamalot* follows King Arthur in his quest throughout England to recruit his Knights of the Round Table.

After gathering in Camelot, Arthur and his gang of misfits are sent on a quest to find the Holy Grail. Throughout this bizarre journey the group comes in contact with many challenges and characters which continue to test their strength and wits, neither of which are impressive. *Spamalot* is both a celebration and critique of the human condition. It is a glimpse into a society which seems to exist simultaneously in the Medieval Period as well as 2020.

MARCH 31–APRIL 10

Evenings at 7:30 p.m.: \$25 • Previews at 7:30 p.m./Matinee at 2 p.m.: \$20 • Student: \$12.50

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	MATINEE
	Preview Mar. 31 April 7		Preview April 2 April 9	April 3 April 10	April 4	April 4
April 6		April 8				



Tickets: www.theatre.psu.edu

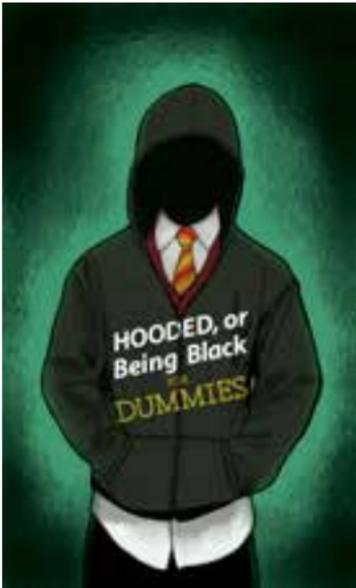
OFF-CENTRE

PENN STATE DOWNTOWN THEATRE

Off-Centre productions provide an opportunity to produce smaller-scale shows that are compelling, thought-provoking, and entertaining. These productions often act as a bridge for artists-in-training to work alongside faculty mentors to advance their knowledge of production practices in manageable, yet challenging, productions.

HOODED OR BEING BLACK FOR DUMMIES

By **Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm** • Directed by **Herb Newsome**



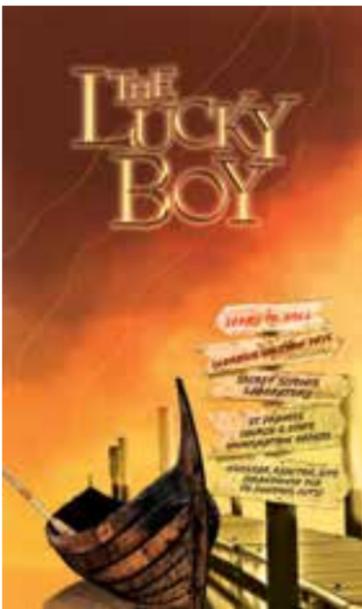
Marquis and Tru are both 14-year-old black boys, but they exist in two totally different worlds. Marquis is a book smart prep-schooler living in the affluent suburb of Achievement Heights, while Tru is a street savvy kid from deep within the inner city of Baltimore. Their worlds overlap one day in a holding cell. Tru decides that Marquis has lost his “blackness” and pens a how-to manual titled “Being Black for Dummies.” He assumes the role of professor, but Marquis proves to be a reluctant pupil. They butt heads, debate, wrestle, and ultimately prove that Nietzsche and 2pac were basically saying the same thing.

SEPTEMBER 24–28

General Admission • Evenings at 7:30 p.m.: \$12.50 • Student: \$8.50

THE LUCKY BOY

Book, music, and lyrics by **Kirsten Childs** • Directed by **John Simpkins**



Kirsten Childs, 2019 commissioned writer for the New Musicals Initiative, penned the latest project *The Lucky Boy* based on an adaptation of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale “The Devil with the Three Golden Hairs.” Driven by a need to be eternally revered, King Ambrose tortures and kills citizens who don’t proclaim him adorable. When it’s predicted that an illegal alien baby will grow up to surpass him in adorability, Ambrose finds the child and throws him into a nuclear waste bin. Rogue scientists, defunded by royal order, rescue the baby and name him Lucky. Because of particles of adorabilium in the nuclear waste, he’s now not only immune to radiation poisoning, but he’s ten times more adorable than the King. Eighteen years pass and Lucky has fallen in love with Ambrose’s daughter Vocal Fry. Ambrose consents to the nauseatingly-in-love pair’s marriage—if Lucky can bring Ambrose three golden hairs from the devil’s head!

FEBRUARY 18–22

General Admission

Evenings at 7:30 p.m.: \$12.50 • Student: \$8.50

The Lucky Boy commission was made possible by a generous contribution from Peter and Ann Tombros.

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PENN STATE

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Venues & Parking



Penn State Downtown Theatre Center, 146 S. Allen St., State College



Playhouse Theatre, Theatre Building (near Palmer Museum of Art) University Park



Parking for Penn State evening and weekend events is easy. Simply go to www.theatre.psu.edu and click on the link for Parking. The link will open a Parking form that you can print and send with payment to the University Parking Office. It's that simple!

Ticket Locations

Arts Ticket Center at Eisenhower Auditorium: M-F 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Penn State Tickets Downtown: M-F 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bryce Jordan Center Ticket Window: M-F 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Summer)
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