



Ballard Performing Arts Playmakers present their 2018-2019 season lineup

Directed by Shawn M. Riley and Chelsea DuVall Produced by Shawn M. Riley

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 -- The Ballard High School Playmakers will present three theatrical productions designed to provoke, delight, and inspire the Seattle community in the coming 2018-19 school year. Community members are warmly invited to attend and enjoy the emerging talent of Ballard High School's thespians.

"This year's plays and musicals are all comedies and still they reflect our times with serious elements or overtones," says theatre director Shawn M. Riley. "Viewers will get to witness strong female characters in volatile situations, struggling characters driven to finally get their shot, and the calculated jockeying that frequently occurs in places of power. The themes are timeless, and Ballard students get to explore them creatively."

Schedule of Performances

***Big Love* / October 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20, 2018**

Big Love covers high-stakes terrain in the story of Lydia and 49 Greek brides who have fled to an Italian villa to avoid marrying their cousins. The grooms soon follow—ready to claim what they consider theirs. As the characters wait for their wedding day, they raise issues of gender politics, love, domestic violence, and migration. With its modern music and arresting action, the play asks big questions that resonate today: What makes a man, a woman, a human being, a displaced person?

Inspired by Aeschylus's Greek tragedy *The Suppliants*, *Big Love* was written by Charles Mee and first debuted in 2000.

Musical Theater production:

***Little Shop of Horrors* | March 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23, 2019**

This sci-fi, comedy musical has been delighting viewers since 1982. Seymour Krelborn is a meek flower-shop assistant who discovers a strange plant which he affectionately names "Audrey II," after his crush at the shop. This plant is unique though: it sings, it swears, and it thirsts for human blood. As the carnivorous plant grows bigger and more aggressive, it promises Seymour fame and fortune if he continues to provide fresh supplies of blood. Just when it's too late, Seymour discovers Audrey II's extra-terrestrial origins and true plans to take over the world. Music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman.

***Tartuffe* | May 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 18, 2019**

This classic comedy was written by French playwright Molière in 1664. When a religious imposter named Tartuffe ingratiates himself into the Parisian home of Orgon and his mother Madame Pernelle, not everyone is convinced Tartuffe is the pious man he claims to be. Tartuffe pretends to speak with divine authority, and his hosts no longer make decisions without first consulting him. When Orgon blindly gives Tartuffe his daughter Mariane's hand in marriage, the family devises a scheme to expose Tartuffe's hypocrisy. But once exposed, Tartuffe still has a few tricks up his sleeve.

Location and Times

All performances will be held at the Earl Kelly Center for Performing Arts at Ballard High School, 1418 NW 65th Street, Seattle, WA, 98117; 7:30 p.m. curtain time with one 15-minute intermission.

Tickets

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students/seniors. Advance tickets are now available at <https://showtix4u.com>; (search for "Ballard High School." Orders must be placed by noon on performance day.) To request discounted season tickets or group tickets, please contact Shawn Riley at smriley@seattleschools.org.

About Ballard Performing Arts

The award-winning Ballard High School Performing Arts Program has gained regional, national, and international acclaim for its dynamic and inspired performances. The Music Department includes two concert bands, three concert choirs, two concert orchestras, percussion ensemble, two jazz bands, one jazz choir, multiple chamber ensembles and a marching band of nearly 200 musicians. The Theatre Department offers classes in Technical Theatre and Theatre I and II while the Ballard Playmakers produce two plays and one musical theatre production each year. More than 450 students—approximately one fourth of the school—participate in these music and theatre opportunities. Ballard Performing Arts sets a high standard of excellence for all students, ensembles, and productions while developing individual artistry through the study of high quality repertoire and exceptional performance opportunities. Learn more: [_](http://ballardperformingarts.org)

ballardperformingarts.org

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Ballard Performing Arts

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