

# VILLANOVA THEATRE '23 - '24 SEASON





# DEAR FRIENDS,

As a theatre lover, I'm sure you've heard the news: in the wake of a crippling pandemic and an explosion of digitized streaming options, attendance at live performance has plummeted. Many professional organizations are now facing existential questions – not **“WHAT GREAT WORKS SHOULD WE PRODUCE AND HOW CAN WE MAKE EACH A THRILLING EXPERIENCE?”** but “Can we weather this financial storm and remain in business?”

At Villanova Theatre, our primary mission is to train the next generation of theatre artists and scholars. So while we do not face the extreme strains professional companies are now weathering, we do still need audiences and your investment to complete our work and fulfill the promise of live performance: **THAT IN-PERSON, HERE-AND-NOW, HAD-TO-BE-THERE EXPERIENCE TO WHICH ALL GREAT THEATRE ASPIRES.**

This immediacy – the excitement of being present with others, sharing an emotionally charged, communal experience – is why we all fell in love with theatre in the first place.

**IT'S REAL; IT'S HUMAN. A.I. CAN'T TOUCH IT AND NEVER WILL.**

That's why Villanova Theatre continues to program ambitious work that must be experienced in 3D. **WORK THAT IGNITES, EXCITES, DELIGHTS AND CHALLENGES.** We hope you'll experience this work in person with us.

Our 2023-2024 season begins with new plays by two of the most exciting voices in American playwriting. For starters, Julia Izumi's captivating **SOMETIMES THE RAIN, SOMETIMES THE SEA** playfully reimagines a beloved children's story to create a hopeful and heartbreaking new fable for our troubled times. Wendy MacLeod's breathtaking **POSTERITY** — staged here for the first time anywhere — leaps across time and space to poignantly capture our human longing to freeze time and cling to those we love. We'll kick off 2024 in style with the effervescent Gershwin musical **CRAZY FOR YOU** — a tune-filled, toe-tapping extravaganza. And we'll close our season with a bold new staging of Thomas Kyd's audacious **THE SPANISH TRAGEDY**, the great-granddaddy of modern revenge tales and a timely look at the limits of both justice and violence.

It's all live, in-person, here-and-now, and we hope you'll be here with us, sharing the ride. (Trust me, your favorite streaming shows will wait for you!)

Onward,

*Michael Hollinger*  
Michael Hollinger  
Artistic Director, Villanova Theatre





# sometimes the rain, *sometimes the sea.*

by Julia Izumi  
directed by James Ijames



9/21 — 10/1

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN 2PM
9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24
9/28	9/29	9/30	10/1

All shows at 8pm unless otherwise noted

**Wildcard Wednesday: September 20**

*Invited dress rehearsal exclusive to our on-campus community*

**Tickets \$26-\$30**

Discounts for students, seniors, groups

Once upon a time, a giddy little rain cloud fell in love with a heartsick human. Julia Izumi's whimsical play reimagines Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved story, complete with mooing cows, wooing princes and brewing storms. With its hopeful and heartbreaking look at the lovelorn and what it truly means to be human, *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea* delightfully affirms our need for ever-new fables in an ever-changing world.

# Posterity

by Wendy MacLeod  
directed by Edward Sobel



In a captivating collage of stories – from the Civil War to 9/11 and up to the present moment – three families seek connection, meaning and solace through the modern miracle of photography. Award-winning playwright Wendy MacLeod brings to life intimate snapshots of parents, children, siblings and lovers, brilliantly capturing the universal longing to freeze time and cling to those we hold dear.

11/9 — 11/19

Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun 2pm
11/9	11/10	11/11	11/12
11/16	11/17	11/18	11/19

All shows at 8pm unless otherwise noted

**Wildcard Wednesday: November 8**

*Invited dress rehearsal exclusive to our on-campus community*

**Tickets \$26-\$30**

Discounts for students, seniors, groups



MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
GEORGE GERSHWIN & IRA GERSHWIN

BOOK BY KEN LUDWIG

CO-CONCEPTION BY KEN LUDWIG &  
MIKE OCKRENT

INSPIRED BY MATERIAL BY  
GUY BOLTON & JOHN MCGOWAN

DIRECTED BY  
REV. PETER M. DONOHUE, OSA, PHD

**2/15 - 2/25**

Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun 2pm
2/15	2/16	2/17	2/18
2/22	2/23	2/24	2/25

All shows at 8pm unless otherwise noted

**Wildcard Wednesday: February 14**  
*Invited dress rehearsal exclusive to our on-campus community*

**Tickets \$26-\$30**

Discounts for students, seniors, groups

Bobby Child, a reluctant uptown banker, dreams of dancing on Broadway—but instead of getting his foot in the door, it seems he’s always stepping on toes. When Bobby is sent to foreclose on a rundown theatre in Nevada, his luck takes an unexpected turn as he falls head-over-heels for the theatre owner’s daughter, Polly Baker. Set in the 1930s and scored with the infectious songs of George and Ira Gershwin, this firecracker of a musical showcases classic tunes like “I Got Rhythm,” “Embraceable You” and “Someone to Watch Over Me.” Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical, this madcap comedy “makes everything old feel new again” (*New York Times*).

# The Spanish Tragedy

by Thomas Kyd  
directed by Chelsea Phillips & Alice Dailey



Before *Game of Thrones*, before *Kill Bill*, before *Carrie* – even before *Hamlet* – there was *The Spanish Tragedy*, the great-granddaddy of modern revenge tales. Deprived of justice for the murder of his son, the loyal courtier Hieronimo abandons legal redress and, joined by the canny and resolute Bel-Imperia, sets out to seek blood for blood. With its intricate plotting and bold theatricality, Thomas Kyd’s timeless tragedy speaks to our present moment with its unflinching look at judicial inequity, legacies of violence and the all-too-persistent seduction of vengeance.

**4/11 ~ 4/21**

Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun 2pm
4/11	4/12	4/13	4/14
4/18	4/19	4/20	4/21

All shows at 8pm unless otherwise noted

**Wildcard Wednesday: April 10**  
*Invited dress rehearsal exclusive to our on-campus community*

**Tickets \$26-\$30**

Discounts for students, seniors, groups



# ABOUT VILLANOVA

About Villanova University: Since 1842, Villanova University's Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition has been the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. There are more than 10,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students in the University's six colleges—the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, the College of Professional Studies and the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. Ranked among the nation's top universities, Villanova supports its students' intellectual growth and prepares them to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them.



The Villanova University Department of Theatre offers a Master of Arts degree, a Master of Arts degree with a Certificate in Nonprofit Management, and a Graduate Certificate in Practical Theatre. Classes are taught by our award-winning faculty who have distinguished themselves through their scholarship and professional work in the theatre, through acting, design, directing, dramaturgy, playwrighting and producing.

Villanova's MA in Theatre program is rare in placing equal emphasis on scholarly and creative work. Students undergo a rigorous course of study that is a combination of academic, artistic and practical approaches to theatre. The comprehensive MA provides crucial tools for the developing theatre practitioner, educator or scholar.

Students matriculate into the program from a wide variety of undergraduate majors, spanning the humanities and the sciences. The result is a vibrant, diverse community of scholars with passion for theatre as a common denominator. The experience and knowledge our students gain in class, on stage and behind the scenes allows these well-rounded scholars to embark on careers as actors, directors, stage managers, playwrights, dramaturgs, administrators, teachers and critics.

# ABOUT THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT





# SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

A full-price subscription is \$100 and secures you one ticket to every show in the season. Villanova Faculty, Staff, Students, and MA in Theatre Alumni are entitled to \$60 discounted pricing. Contact the Box Office with any questions at [mullenboxoffice@villanova.edu](mailto:mullenboxoffice@villanova.edu) or 610-519-7474.

Name

Email Address

Mailing Address

**\$100** x  = **\$**   
Number of Subscriptions

# PAYMENT

## CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED PERFORMANCE BELOW

**Week 1** THURS 8PM ★ FRI 8PM ★ SAT 8PM ★ SUN 2PM  
Opening Night Speaker's Series Post-show

**Week 2** THURS 8PM ★ FRI 8PM ★ SAT 8PM ★ SUN 2PM  
Drinks with the Dramaturg Pre-show

Seating/Accessibility Needs

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Signature





Photos by Paola Noguera. Graphic Design by Yeshonté Brown.

Department of Theatre  
Mullen Center for the Performing Arts  
800 E. Lancaster Ave  
Villanova, PA 19085



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