

A man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a patterned cardigan and jeans, is kneeling on a tan sofa in the foreground, arms raised in excitement. In the background, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue and green sequined dress, stands on a raised platform with her arms outstretched. The stage is lit with warm orange and red lights. A disco ball hangs in the upper right corner, casting light patterns on the wall. The text "VILLA NOVA THEATRE" is overlaid in large white letters.

VILLA NOVA THEATRE

SEASON '22 / '23

DEAR FRIENDS

We made it!

After a year's pandemic delay, we were finally able to mount our first Villanova Theatre season in our new home, the fabulous John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts. Among our offerings: three artfully produced shows in the flexible Court Theatre; concert readings of two Sue Winge Award-winning plays in the Smith Performance Lab; and the "topper" – a dazzling, sold-out musical run to inaugurate the elegant Topper Theatre.

If you were among those who joined us for one (or more!) of these events, we can't wait to welcome you back. And if you haven't yet witnessed what we're able to achieve in our state-of-the-art new performance venues, we hope you'll join us in the coming season and see what all the fuss is about!

We'll launch our season with *Men on Boats*, Jaclyn Backhaus's playful and pungent satire on an American odyssey – the "conquest" of the Colorado River following the Civil War. Next we'll mount *House of Desires*, a 17th-century romantic comedy of errors, cross-dressing and mistaken identities by Mexican nun Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. In February, we'll bring to life for the first time anywhere Kathryn Petersen's vibrant new play *Chrysalis*, in which a brilliant Swiss naturalist and her daughter grapple with science, religion and each other in a patriarchal world. And, for a finale, we'll return to the Topper Theatre to fulfill a long-deferred dream: staging Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's magnificent *Sunday in the Park with George*, with all the aural and visual splendor this groundbreaking musical inspires.

Get ready to embark with us on a season of theatrical adventures that spans centuries, countries and continents!

Michael Hollinger
Michael Hollinger
Artistic Director, Villanova Theatre



09/22-10/02

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN 2PM
09/22 ★	09/23 ★	09/24 ★	09/25
09/29	09/30	10/01	10/02

All shows at 8pm unless otherwise noted

Wildcard Wednesday: September 21st

Invited dress rehearsal exclusive to our on-campus community

MEN ON BOATS

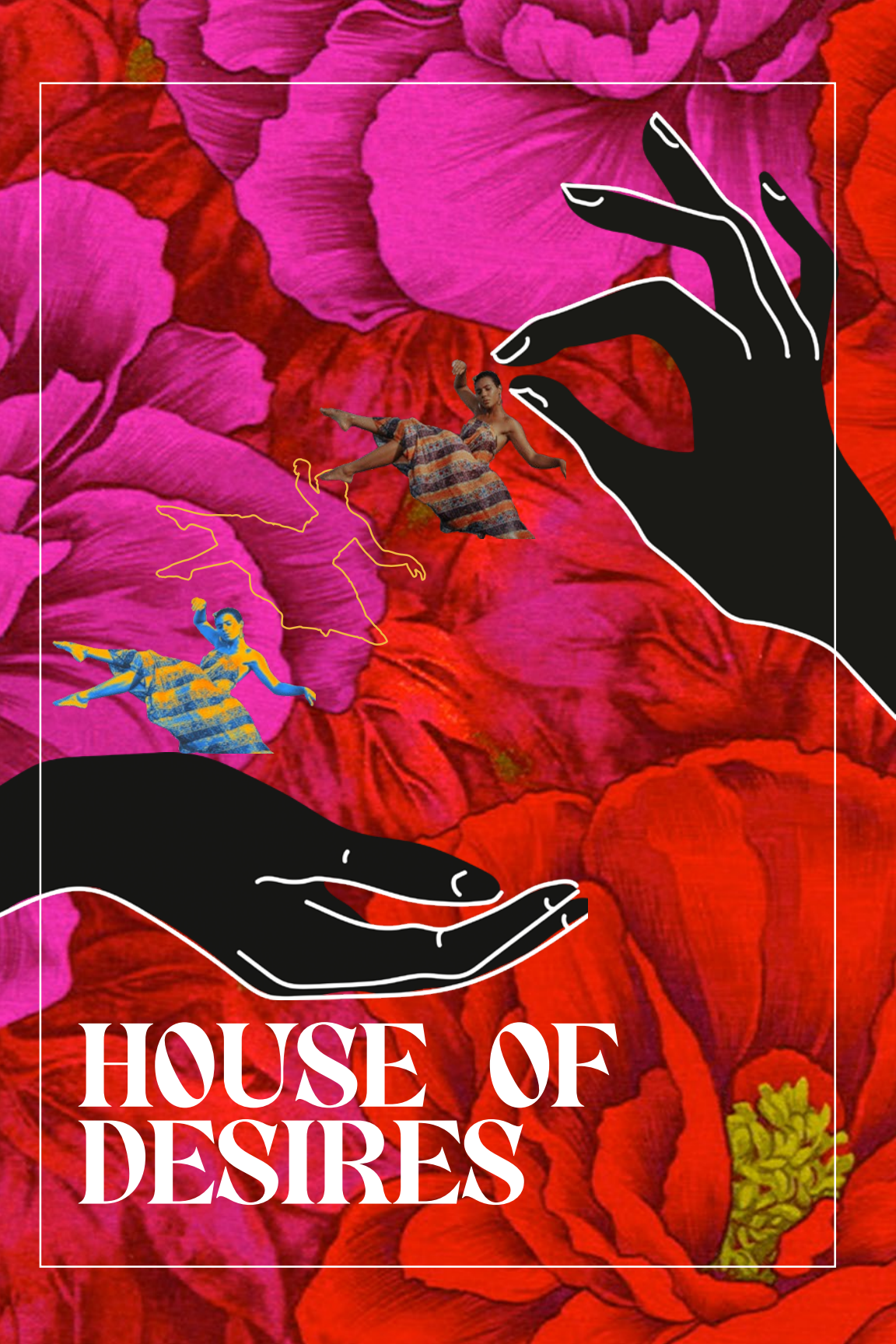
Written by Jaclyn Backhaus

Directed by Kristy Dodson

Ten explorers. Four boats. One Grand Canyon. This is the true(ish) history of an 1869 expedition, when a one-armed captain and a motley crew of loyal volunteers set out to chart the course of the Colorado River. Inspired by actual travel logs, Backhaus's nimble and ingenious script is provocative, laugh-out-loud theatre, performed by a diverse cast of non-male actors who infuse America's historic myths of male conquest with a sly blast of satire.

villanovatheatre.org





HOUSE OF DESIRES

11/10-11/20

THUR
11/10
11/17



FRI
11/11
11/18



SAT
11/12
11/19



SUN 2PM
11/13
11/20

All shows at 8pm unless otherwise noted



Wildcard Wednesday: November 9th

Invited dress rehearsal exclusive to our on-campus community

HOUSE OF DESIRES

WRITTEN BY SOR JUANA INÉS DE LA CRUZ

Translated by Catherine Boyle
Directed by James Ijames

In this tantalizing comedy of intrigue, Don Pedro pines for Doña Leonor, who is in love with Don Carlos, who is desired by Doña Ana, who is betrothed to Don Juan. This 17th-century romantic farce is a wild tale of confusion and mistaken identities complete with wily servants and witless nobles. Written by one of the few female playwrights of the Spanish Golden Age — a poet, nun and major Mexican literary figure — *House of Desires* offers intrigue and insight in equal measure.

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02/16-02/26

THUR		FRI		SAT		SUN 2PM
02/16	★	02/17	★	02/18	★	02/19
02/23		02/24		02/25		02/26

All shows at 8pm unless otherwise noted

Wildcard Wednesday: February 15th
Invited dress rehearsal exclusive to our on-campus community

Chrysalis

Written by Kathryn Petersen
Directed by Edward Sobel

Developed at Villanova in 2019 through the Sue Winge Award for Playwriting, *Chrysalis* explores the metamorphosis of Maria Sybilla Merian, 17th-century illustrator and naturalist, and her teenage daughter, Dorothea, as they redraw the lines of their personal and professional relationship. Determined to be taken seriously for her scientific discoveries in a male-dominated field, Maria embarks on a risky investigation that ultimately challenges how well she and her daughter know themselves and each other.

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Chrysalis

04/13-04/23

THUR

04/13
04/20

FRI

04/14
04/21

SAT

04/15
04/22

SUN 2PM

04/16
04/23

All shows at 8pm unless otherwise noted

Wildcard Wednesday: April 12th

Invited dress rehearsal exclusive to our on-campus community

Sunday in the Park *With George*

Music and Lyrics by *Stephen Sondheim*

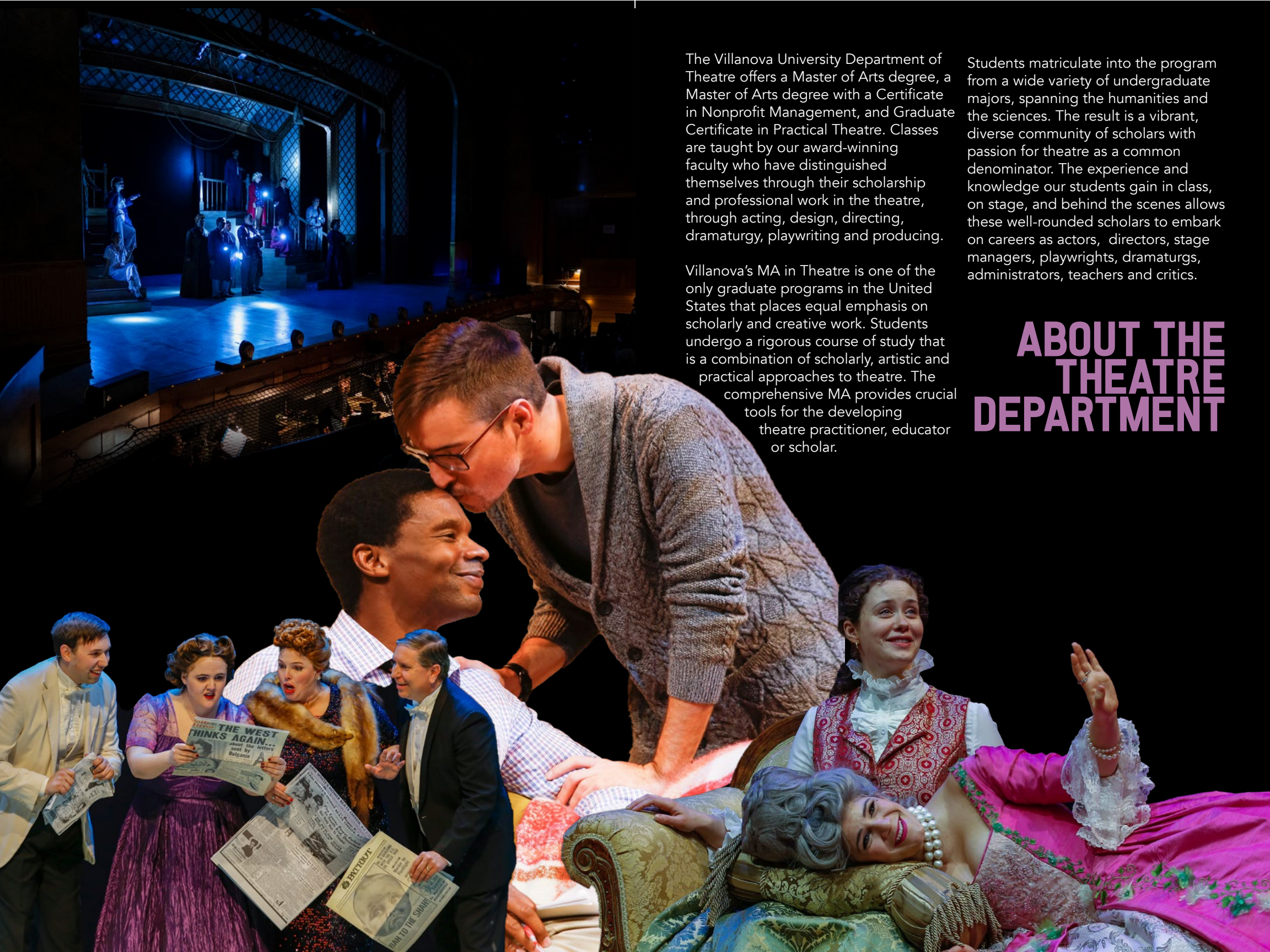
Book by *James Lapine*

Directed by *Valerie M. Joyce*

Inspired by the painting *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* by Georges Seurat, Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's stunning masterpiece merges past and present into beautiful, poignant truths about life, love and the creation of art. One of the most acclaimed musicals of our time, this moving study of the enigmatic painter won a Pulitzer Prize and was nominated for an astounding ten Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

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Sunday in the Park *With George*



The Villanova University Department of Theatre offers a Master of Arts degree, a Master of Arts degree with a Certificate in Nonprofit Management, and 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, playwriting and producing.

Villanova's MA in Theatre is one of the only graduate programs in the United States that places equal emphasis on scholarly and creative work. Students undergo a rigorous course of study that is a combination of scholarly, 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

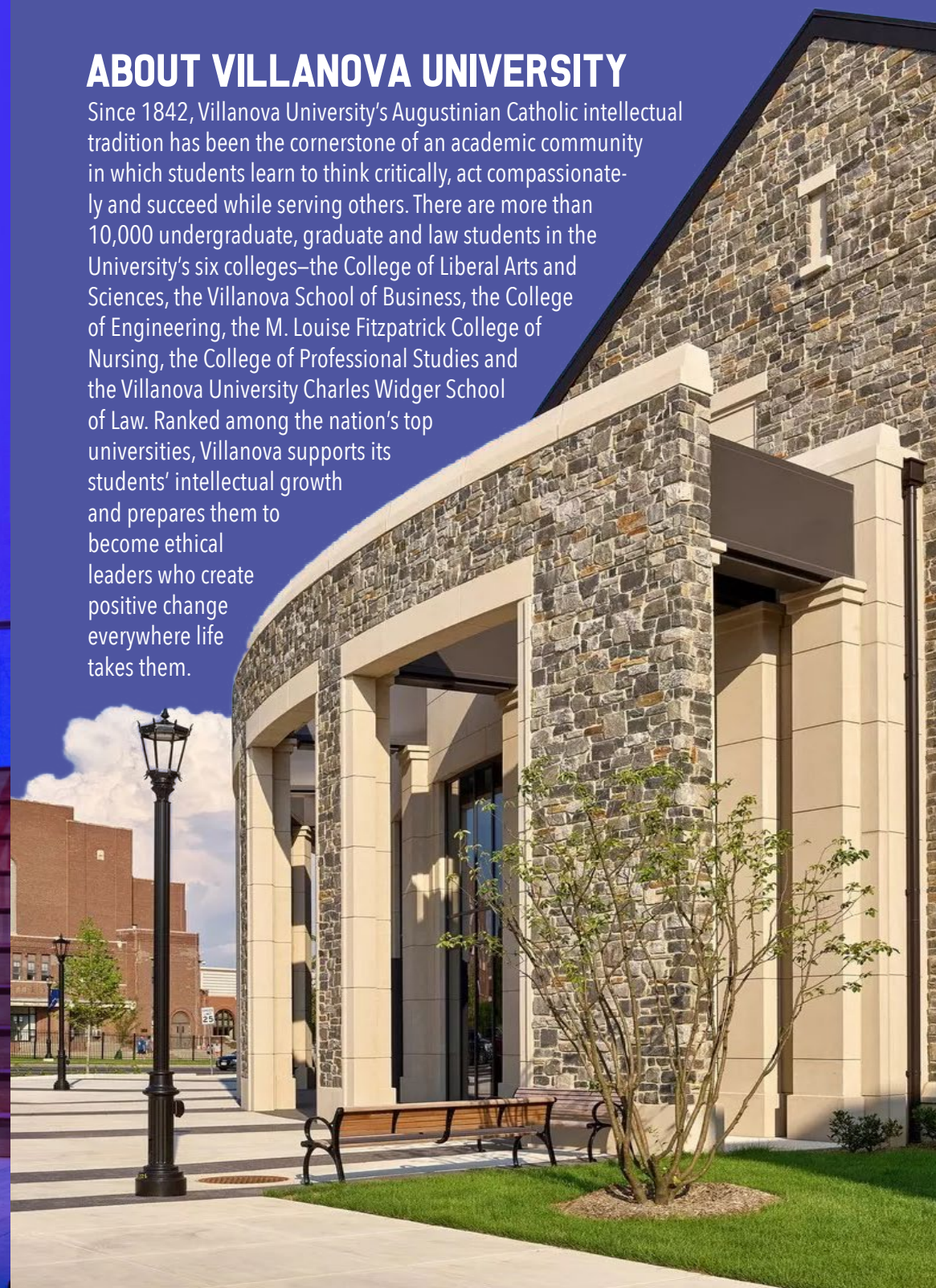
THE JOHN AND JOAN MULLEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

- ★ Villanova Theatre is now located in the beautiful John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts, an 85,000-square-foot hub for performances, creativity, engagement and exploration for the university's performing arts community.
- ★ Conveniently located at the intersection of Lancaster and Ithan Avenues on the Villanova University campus, parking is available in the I-1 Ithan Avenue Garage behind to the building, which can be accessed from both Ithan and Lancaster Avenues.
- ★ The Court Theatre is an open format 200-seat theater that features flexible seating, a balcony and technologically advanced lighting and sound equipment.
- ★ The Topper Theatre is a beautiful 400-seat proscenium-style theater with tailored acoustics, state-of-the-art theatrical lighting and a 30-member orchestra.
- ★ The Smith Performance Lab is an intimate 75-seat performance space that features flexible seating and first-rate theatrical technology.
- ★ The Reed Family Box Office is centrally located in the first-floor lobby.
- ★ The building features improved accessibility features and restroom facilities.
- ★ The first-floor portico and lobby serve as the primary reception and event space for the building via the main entrance, a second-floor balcony overlooks custom chandeliers, and the third-floor Belle Masque rooftop terrace provides indoor-outdoor ambience for special events.
- ★ SEPTA's Paoli/Thorndale and Norristown 100 trains stop every 30 minutes on campus.



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.



SUBSCRIBE

- ★ Four-show subscriptions cost just \$100 each - that's only \$25 a show!
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- ★ Subscribers enjoy discounts and early access to additional programming and events.

BENEFITS

- ★ 20% Savings on single ticket prices.
- ★ Exclusive exchange privileges for subscribers only.
- ★ Priority seating before single ticket buyers and students.





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 Alum are offered \$60 discounted pricing. Call the Box office at 610-519-7474 with any questions.

Name

Email Address

Mailing Address

CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED PERFORMANCE BELOW

Week 1	THURS 8PM Opening Night	★	FRI 8PM	★	SAT 8PM	★	SUN 2PM Speaker's Series Post Show
Week 2	THURS 8PM	★	FRI 8PM Drinks with the Dramaturg Pre-show	★	SAT 8PM	★	SUN 2PM

Seating/Accessibility Needs

\$100 X =
Number of Subscriptions

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