



**THE
COLONIAL
PLAYERS**

OF ANNAPOLIS



2018/2019 season

OUR 70TH SEASON REACHES THE STARS...

“a beautiful work of
art from the design
to the direction”

— from the TheatreBloom review of
Shiloh Rules, September 2017

Get ready to travel with Colonial Players! Our first season begins innocuously enough at a dinner party in New York, where we participate in an evening of comedic mayhem and mystery with Neil Simon's *Rumors*. From there, travel down the coast to the 1960's town of Levittown, Long Island to meet a creative writing teacher in Richard Greenberg's *Babylon Line*. By Christmas, we'll be in London in 1843, for our biennial classic *A Christmas Carol* to join Ebenezer Scrooge on his journey of spirit and redemption. Next we'll be shooting for the stars, with the true story of Henrietta Leavitt, the Harvard astroligist who mapped the sky in 20th century Boston, in Lauren Gunderson's *Silent Sky*. Hang on, because it's time to head to the 80's in William Shakespeare's comedy, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Not the 1580's, the 1980's, where we give the Bard a Reagan-style makeover. In spring, we visit Gordon Schwinn in the hospital in the 1990's, in our comedic musical *A New Brain*, with music and lyrics by William Finn, and book by Finn and James Lapin. We wrap up in the seaside town of Gull's Point in 1944, in the compelling mystery by Agatha Christie, *Towards Zero*. Join us for a season of music, mystery and marvel. This isn't one to miss!



Rumors

SEPTEMBER 2018

Written by Neil Simon
Directed by Atticus Boidy

At a large, tastefully-appointed Sneden’s Landing townhouse, the Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of Farce. Gathering for their tenth wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in the other room, and his wife is nowhere in sight. His lawyer, Ken, and wife, Chris, must get “the story” straight before the other guests arrive. As the confusions and mis-communications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
SEP.		07	08	09
	13	14	15	16
	20	21	22	23
	27	28	29	

“Has nothing on its mind except making the audience laugh.” — The New York Times

The Babylon Line

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018

Written by Richard Greenberg
Directed by Jennifer Cooper

Levittown, 1967. It’s the first night of an adult-ed creative writing course at the local high school. The teacher, Aaron Port, lives in Greenwich Village and reverse commutes once a week on the Long Island Rail Road’s Babylon line. His students are a bit of a mixed bag: so many potential writers, so many tales to be told. Aaron is, of course, the storyteller-in-chief, and it is his wry and rueful recollections of that season in Levittown that frame the proceedings. As the actors take on multiple roles as characters in each other’s stories, the audience is gifted with an engaging tableau of love, loss, and the yearning for understanding in 1960s suburbia. Mr. Greenberg allows all his characters their moments in the authorial spotlight, with narratives that inevitably become more and more self-revealing, as no one’s story is as simple as it first might seem.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
OCT.		19	20	21
	25	26	27	28
NOV.	01	02	03	04
	08	09	10	

“...the quiet, funny script resonates with the evergreen themes of community, desire, and self-discovery. It’s a memorable ride.” — Entertainment Weekly



“...transport you to an era gone by”

— from the MD Theatre Guide review of *It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, December 2017



“...hits all the right comic notes”

— from the DC Metro Theater Arts review of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, May 2017

A Christmas Carol

HOLIDAY OFFERING

By Rick Wade and Dick Gessner
Directed by Sarah Wade

The beloved Annapolis tradition returns to brighten up your holiday season!

This classic production takes place, as Mr. Dickens himself would have it, in the streets of Victorian London and in the counting house and bedchamber of Ebenezer Scrooge. In the revelations of his visitors and in his memory, we are transported to times and places of Scrooge’s past, present, and future. This musical version of the beloved Dickens classic, with music and lyrics by Annapolitans Dick Gessner and Richard Wade, respectively, has been produced by Colonial Players since 1981. Now presented biennially, it is the hottest ticket in town at Christmastime.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
DEC.	06 8:00	07 7:00, 9:00	08 2:00, 4:00, 8:00	09 2:00, 4:00
	13 8:00	14 7:00, 9:00	15 2:00, 4:00, 8:00	16 2:00, 4:00

Our Holiday Offering is not part of the subscription season. Tickets will go on sale on November 17, 2018.

“...Still dazzling after 35 years” — Bay Weekly

Silent Sky

JANUARY 2019

Written by Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Gwen Morton

When Henrietta Leavitt begins work at the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s, she isn’t allowed to touch a telescope or express an original idea. Instead, she joins a group of women “computers,” charting the stars for a renowned astronomer who calculates projects in “girl hours” and has no time for the women’s probing theories. As Henrietta, in her free time, attempts to measure the light and distance of stars, she must also take measure of her life on Earth, trying to balance her dedication to science with family obligations and the possibility of love. The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman’s place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women’s ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Social progress, like scientific progress, can be hard to see when one is trapped among earthly complications; Henrietta Leavitt and her female peers believe in both, and their dedication changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth. A “Hidden Figures” for the 19th century.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
JAN.		11	12	13
	17	18	19	20
	24	25	26	27
	31			
FEB.		01	02	

“...shines with the luminous joy of re-centering women whose achievements have been too long overlooked by the telescope of history.” — Chicago Tribune

The Merry Wives of Windsor

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2019

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Steve Tobin

Let me now take you to a time and place - not of the doublets, corsets and pumpkin pants of Ye Olde England - but of the shoulder pads, big hair, and Izod shirts of the bedroom community of 1980s Windsor....Connecticut. The well-to-do Page and Ford families are beset by problems typical of the upwardly mobile classes - they're just trying to keep up with their neighbors and fit in. Enter Falstaff, a down-on-his luck Wall St. trader who is looking for other sources of income. He hatches a plan to ensnare these "Real Housewives of Windsor Connecticut." However, the mistresses Ford and Page discover his plan, and they put into play a plan of their own! Hilarity ensues. This Shakespearean comedic farce will feature all the music, fashion, and cultural references of the 1980s, but with the language and characters that we love. Shakespeare and Shtick. After over a 20-year absence from Colonial Players... The Bard is Back!

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
FEB.		22	23	24	M
	28				
MAR.		01	02	03	M
	07	08	09	10	M
	14	15	16	17	M
	21	22	23		

A New Brain

APRIL – MAY 2019

Music and Lyrics by William Finn, Book by William Finn and James Lapine

Directed by Alicia Sweeney

A New Brain is an autobiographical musical by William Finn, of Falsettos and Spelling Bee fame, concerning his bout with an arteriovenous malformation in his brain and the healing power of art through the character of songwriter Gordon Schwinn. The show opens with Gordon working at his piano to meet a deadline, irritated because he must write a song about spring for a children's television host, Mr. Bungee, who dresses as a frog. At lunch with best friend and agent, Rhoda, Gordon collapses face first into his meal and is taken to the hospital. Gordon's greatest fear is dying with his best songs still unwritten. Descending upon his hospital room are a hilariously absurd cast of characters: his oppressive mother, his supportive lover, hospital staff, and a wise homeless woman and a hallucination of his haranguing, amphibian boss. Facing his own mortality and awaiting brain surgery, Gordon wrestles with the person he has been, the legacy he will leave behind, and ultimately, the person he will be if he survives.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
APR.		12	13	14	M
	18	19	20	DARK	
	25	26	27	28	M
MAY	02	03	04	05	M



“A funny, and often thought provoking journey”

— from the Bay Weekly review of Sex with Strangers, February 2018



Towards Zero

Written by Agatha Christie
Directed by TBD

When a house party gathers at Gull’s Point, the seaside home of Lady Tressilian, Neville Strange finds himself caught between his old wife Audrey and his new flame Kay. In this nail-biting thriller with Superintendent Battle, the play probes the psychology of jealousy in the shadow of a murder.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MAY		31			
JUNE			01	02	M
	06	07	08	09	M
	13	14	15	16	M
	20	21	22		

“...brought this piece to life with passion”

— from the TheatreBloom review of *33 Variations*, October 2017

Colonial Players celebrates our 70th

Season of Great Community Theater



“...delightful way
for Colonial Players
to start off the
new year”

— from the DC Metro Theater Arts review of
Quartet, January 2018

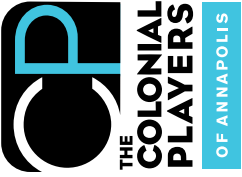
In 2017, the Colonial Players had a remarkable 69th birthday with yet again another strong season.

We explored difficult themes, celebrated life, and showed what ultimately brings us together: passionate, compelling, art. From the battlefield of Shiloh, to Monte Carlo, to Vienna, Austria, we told stories that resonated with our audiences and we couldn't be prouder. CP is 100% volunteer and we welcome your support and participation, whether onstage, working backstage, ushering, staffing the box office or buying tickets! Our patrons' financial support pays the bills and their applause makes our hard work worthwhile.

Have you heard about the **Colonial Players FlexTicket?**

For the same cost per seat as a subscription, you may now purchase CP's new FlexTicket, which you may use for any combination of shows and seats you choose through the end of the season. They are transferable, so that your friends and kids may use yours. FlexTicket users must order their tickets by phone, in person through the box office (410-268-7373), or online. When shows are sold out, FlexTicket holders have the added advantage of being able to order standby tickets by phone, on the same day as the show, up to an hour before curtain time. FlexTicket Standbys who have ordered by phone will be seated before regular standby ticket holders.

FlexTickets, are available for Adults for \$19 per show and for Seniors/Students and active Military for \$15 per show.



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