



THE  
COLONIAL  
PLAYERS

OF ANNAPOLIS



2019/2020 season

# OUR 71<sup>ST</sup> SEASON

## STEP OUTSIDE YOURSELF

Theater: the examination of life, history, and humanity. Funny or dark, introspective or sad - theater offers us a window into an experience outside our own. This season, join us through trips of the absurd, the sobering, the riotously funny, and, well...the freaky.

We start our season in 1940's New York with Joseph Kesselring's beloved comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace*. A pair of sweet elderly sisters have a little secret (or eleven) in their cellar. Comedy ensues when their nephew Mortimer discovers just what that secret is and what his aunts get up to when he's not at home.

Across the world, the 40's look very different. In *The White Rose*, by Lillian Garrett-Groag, a group of university students in Nazi-controlled Munich form an intellectual resistance. This true story examines the complex relationships that develop among a group of people all clinging to beliefs that ultimately cannot be fulfilled at this point in time.

Our holiday selection is the family friendly *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, based on the book by Barbara Robinson. The town's Christmas pageant has become boring and predictable over the years. This year looks to be a little

different, now that those awful Herdman kids are trying out. At its core, this festive and funny tale is about the meaning of Christmas.

Come January, our tone changes. In *The Children* by Lucy Kirkwood, two English nuclear scientists try to retain some normalcy in their lives after a disaster at the power station. When an old friend arrives unexpectedly, everything changes.

March gets a dose of mystery with Lanford Wilson's *Book of Days*. A small Missouri town is rocked by a violent and mysterious death. Suspicious, Ruth Hoch seeks the truth. Flowing with a surprisingly warm humor, *Book of Days* interweaves strong characters with themes of justice and truth.

Our spring musical is, in a word, FREAKY. *Freaky Friday*, that is. With music by Tom

Kitt, lyrics by Brian Yorkey, and book by Bridget Carpenter, this well-known tale of a mother and daughter who switch bodies gets a new energy. Riotous humor and music that will leave you humming!

Finally, come with us to Revolution-era France where a powerhouse group of women provide an evening of scintillating humor and biting commentary about violence, activism, and feminism against the background of 1793 Paris. Devastatingly funny, Lauren Gunderson's *The Revolutionists* is a show you will not want to miss.

## Arsenic and Old Lace

By Joseph Kesselring

Directed by Dave Carter

The Brewster family is a once-elite American bloodline that has now descended into homicidal insanity. Mortimer Brewster, a drama critic and the most ostensibly normal of his clan, is forced to cover up for his sadistic kin while being torn between family loyalty and his desire to marry the woman he loves. Exploring motifs of family loyalty, nature versus nurture, and whether we can ever truly break away from our family's influence, *Arsenic and Old Lace* is a dark, screwball comedy declared one of the funniest plays ever by the *New York Times*.

“...so funny that none of us will ever forget it” - *New York Times*

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2019

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
SEP.		13	14	15 <small>M</small>
	19	20	21	22 <small>M</small>
	26	27	28	29 <small>M</small>
OCT.	03	04	05	

## The White Rose

By Lillian Garrett-Groag

Directed by Alex Brady

Based on actual events, *The White Rose* tells the story of a group of students at the University of Munich who chose to actively protest the atrocities of the Nazi regime. They published their thoughts in anonymous leaflets, which they titled “The White Rose” and which were distributed throughout Germany and Austria during the summer of 1942 and the winter of 1943. When the students are eventually captured, the police inspector of the town is pressured to obtain a conviction. Will the inspector send the students to certain execution or try to save them? Complex and filled with loyalty and patriotism, *The White Rose* is an intense and devastating drama confronting a reality that should never be forgotten.

“Garrett-Groag has a real flair for the dramatic, writes strong, impassioned speeches that explore compelling issues. She writes about something.” - *LA Times*

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2019

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
OCT.		25	26	27 <small>M</small>
	31			
NOV.		01	02	03 <small>M</small>
	07	08	09	10 <small>M</small>
	14	15	16	



“...an uproarious production...”

— from the MD Theatre Guide review of *Rumors*, September 2018



“...has captured audiences and the players themselves.”

— from the Capital Gazette story about *A Christmas Carol*, November 2018

## The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

By Barbara Robinson

Directed by Erica Miller and Rowena Winkler

In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids – probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won’t believe the mayhem – and the fun – when the Herdmans collide with the Christmas story head on!

“An American classic.” - McCall’s Magazine

“One of the best Christmas stories ever - and certainly one of the funniest.” - The Seattle Times

HOLIDAY OFFERING

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
DEC.	05	06	07	08
	8 pm	8 pm	2 4:30 pm 8 pm	2 4:30 pm
	12	13	14	15
	8 pm	8 pm	2 4:30 pm 8 pm	2 4:30 pm

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever is not part of the subscription season and subject to special ticket pricing.

Tickets will go on sale August 26, 2019.

## The Children

By Lucy Kirkwood

Directed by Mary Watko

Two retired nuclear scientists reside in an isolated cottage by the sea as the world around them crumbles. Together, they are going to live forever on yogurt and yoga, until an old friend arrives with a frightening request. *The Children* raises profound questions about whether having children sharpens, or diminishes, one’s sense of social responsibility. Nominated for Best Play in 2018, this genuinely disturbing play asks what the baby boomers, if anything, owe the younger generations.

“...bristling with chills and suspense...” - New York Times

“a post-apocalyptic drama that I included on our lists of the year’s top 10 theatrical events.” - New York Times

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2020

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
JAN.		10	11	12
	16	17	18	19
	23	24	25	26
	30	31		
FEB.			01	

# Book of Days

By Lanford Wilson  
Directed by Shirley Panek

When murder roars through a small Missouri town, Ruth Hoch begins her own quest to find truth and honesty amid small town jealousies, religion, greed, and lies. This tornado of a play propels you through its events like a page-turning mystery and proves that there are no small roles in life. “An intriguing, prismatic and thoroughly engrossing depiction of contemporary small-town life with a murder mystery at its core.”

“...it sucks you into the cheese business, the monkey business, and the business of living...” - NY Magazine

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2020

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
FEB.		21	22	23	M
	27	28	29		
MAR.				01	M
	05	06	07	08	M
	12	13	14		

# Freaky Friday

By Bridget Carpenter  
Music and Lyrics by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey  
Directed by Kaitlin Fish

The new musical, **Freaky Friday**, based on the beloved 1972 novel by Mary Rodgers and the hit Disney films, features a book by Bridget Carpenter - the co-executive producer and writer on the beloved TV hits, “Friday Night Lights” and “Parenthood” - and music and lyrics by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey - the Pulitzer Prize-winning composers of **Next to Normal**. It’s a busy day in the Blake household...the day of both Katherine’s rehearsal dinner and her daughter Ellie’s chance to take part in the social event of the year, “The Hunt,” a scavenger hunt coordinated by the coolest guy at school, Adam. When the overworked mother and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right again. **Freaky Friday** is a heartfelt, comedic, and unexpectedly emotional update on an American classic. By spending a day in each other’s shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate one another’s struggles, learn self-acceptance, and realize the immeasurable love and mutual respect that bond a mother and daughter.

APRIL – MAY 2020

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
APR.		03	04	05	M
	09	10	11	DARK	
	16	17	18	19	M
	23	24	25	26	M
	30				
MAY		01	02	03	M



“This show demonstrates the power of theater.”

— from the DCMetro Theater Arts review of *Silent Sky*, January 2019



“...casting, staging, and vision are simply brilliant”

— from the TheatreBloom review of *Lucky Stiff*, March 2018

# The Revolutionists

By Lauren Gunderson  
Directed by Jennifer Cooper

Four beautiful, badass women lose their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution’s Reign of Terror. Playwright Olympe de Gouges, assassin Charlotte Corday, former queen Marie Antoinette, and Haitian rebel Marianne Angelle hang out, murder Marat, and try to beat back the extremist insanity in 1793 Paris. This grand and dream-tweaked comedy is about violence and legacy, art and activism, feminism and terrorism, compatriots and chosen sisters, and how we actually go about changing the world.

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MAY		29	30	31	M
JUNE	04	05	06	07	M
	11	12	13	14	M
	18	19	20		

“...truly riotous...” - DCMetro Theatre Arts

“Clever lines so hilariously delivered I felt compelled to write them down.”- DCMetro Theatre Arts

“...theater at its best.”

— from DCMetro Theater Arts

Colonial Players celebrates our 71<sup>st</sup>

Season of Great Community Theater



**In 2018, the Colonial Players had a remarkable 70th birthday with yet again another strong season.**

We explored difficult themes, celebrated life, and showed what ultimately brings us together: passionate, compelling art. 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 purchase CP's 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 may order their tickets by phone (410-268-7373), via email ([boxoffice@thecolonialplayers.org](mailto:boxoffice@thecolonialplayers.org)), or in person at the Box Office. 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.**

**“a beautiful and heartfelt production.”**

— from the DC Metro Theater Arts review of Casa Valentina, May 2018

## TICKETING AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### Show Times

**8:00 pm**      Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
**2:00 pm**      Sunday

### Box Office

**Phone: 410-268-7373**

**Email: [boxoffice@thecolonialplayers.org](mailto:boxoffice@thecolonialplayers.org)**

The Box Office is open one hour before curtain time on performance days.

The Box Office is also open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday before Opening Night from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Tickets may be purchased online at our website **thecolonialplayers.org** at any time or call us at 410-268-7373 and leave a message.

Tickets will be held for patrons at the Box Office until show time. Patrons may also have tickets mailed to them for a fee of \$1 or provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.

### Subscription/Flex Ticket Prices

\$19 Adults  
\$15 Seniors 65+ / Fulltime Students/Military

**FlexTickets** for 10 seats may be used for any combination of shows and seats until the end of the season. The Box Office will keep track of use and punch the FlexTicket as the seats are used. Ticket orders must be placed through the Box Office, not on the web. FlexTickets are transferable. Senior/Student/Military FlexTickets must be used by seniors, students, or Military patrons.

**Subscribers may exchange** their tickets in person, by phone, by mail, or email at [boxoffice@thecolonialplayers.org](mailto:boxoffice@thecolonialplayers.org). **In order to receive new tickets in exchange, the Box Office must be notified 48 hours before performance time.**

**Colonial Players does not issue refunds.** Unused tickets may be returned to the Box Office for a tax-deductible donation receipt. FlexTickets expire at the end of the season. There will be no refunds on unused seats of the FlexTicket.

### A NOTE TO OUR AUDIENCES:

As with most contemporary plays, many of our shows this season contain contemporary language and situations which Colonial Players believes should be viewed and heard as the playwright intended within the context of the scripted story. **The Colonial Players, Inc. reserves the right to change season offerings if necessary.**

### Single Ticket Prices

\$23 Adults  
\$18 Seniors 65+ / Fulltime Students/Military

**Single tickets** may be purchased in person at the Box Office, by mail, phone, or at our website, [thecolonialplayers.org](http://thecolonialplayers.org). Tickets ordered by phone or online must be purchased using MasterCard, Visa, or Discover credit cards. Checks and cash are also accepted at the Box Office by mail or in person. With the exception of Standby tickets, **all single (non-subscription) ticket purchases are final. Exchanges and refunds are not permitted on single ticket sales. FlexTicket reservations may not be changed within 48 hours of performance time.**

**Seats are guaranteed only until curtain time.** As we are a theater in the round, latecomers may have to wait to be seated until an appropriate break in the performance and at the discretion of the Stage Manager. A television monitor in the lobby allows late patrons to view the performance. Please allow plenty of time for parking in the crowded downtown area. It is very difficult for us to seat latecomers.

**Standby tickets** are sold one hour prior to performance time in person, on a first-come, first-serve basis. If standby seats are unavailable, purchasers' money will be returned immediately. FlexTicket holders may call on the same day of the show up to an hour before curtain time to reserve a priority standby seat.

**Wheelchair space** is available at most performances with advance notice. Order online or call the Box Office at 410-268-7373 at least one hour before curtain time.

**Gift certificates** for tickets are available at the Box Office.

### Become a supporter!

Subscribers providing additional support to Colonial Players are listed in each show's program. Thank you for your generous support.

## OUR HISTORY

Colonial Players was founded by a group of Annapolitans dedicated to bringing high quality theater to what was then a sleepy town on the Chesapeake. As Annapolis has grown, so has the theater, continuing to thrive with a dedicated corps of volunteers and a loyal subscriber base.

The history of Colonial Players is intertwined with the rhythms and pace of downtown Annapolis. From its humble beginnings in the old Annapolis Recreation Center near City Dock to its current home at the foot of State Circle, Colonial Players continues its mission to entertain and educate, bringing the dramatic arts to the heart of the city.

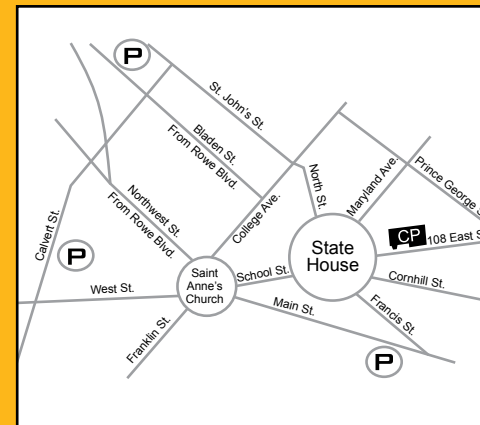
The theater's curtain first rose in 1949 with a production of James Thurber's slapstick comedy *The Male Animal*. Six years later, Colonial Players purchased an old car repair shop on East Street, and through the years this site has been

remodeled and expanded into the 180-seat arena theatre patrons and actors alike enjoy today.

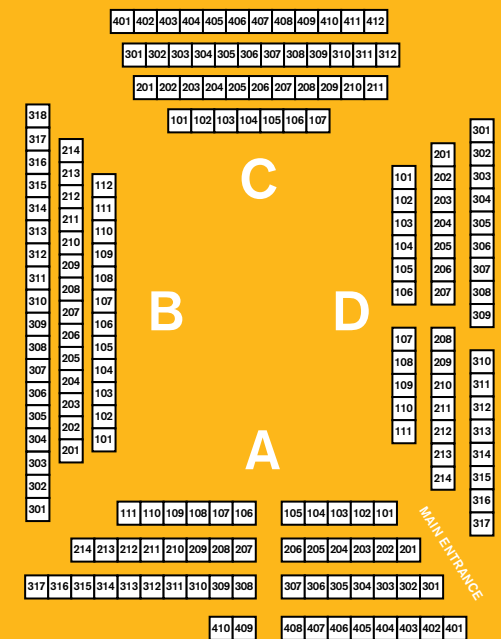
From Shakespeare to Noel Coward to Stephen Sondheim, Colonial Players audiences have enjoyed a wide range of performances. Experimental theater, theater for children, works by new playwrights, one-act play festivals, an array of workshops, and our annual Christmas production fulfill our mission to entertain, educate, and enrich our community through the dramatic arts.

Colonial Players is proud of its place in Annapolis history, and we invite you to take part. Whether as a theatergoer, subscriber, or volunteer, actor, director, or playwright, join us as we continue to make theater in 360° a vibrant part of Annapolis.

## WHERE WE ARE



## SEATING CHART



Cover Photo: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, 2019

Design by Drama Queen Graphics, LLC

Photos courtesy of Colburn Images





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Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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