




**COLONIAL  
PLAYERS**

OF ANNAPOLIS



**2012/2013** season

# What happens when you subscribe to Colonial Players?

A photograph of two women on a stage, dressed in period costumes. The woman on the left is wearing a white headscarf and a dark blue dress, smiling as she clinks her golden wine glass with the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a dark green dress with a white lace collar and a dark jacket, also smiling. They are both holding golden wine glasses. The background is dark, suggesting a stage setting.

You ensure that you have the seats you prefer for every wonderful offering the theater is cooking up this season. You may plan to come with friends and enjoy dinner at one of our restaurant partners who give you discounts on your meal when you show them your tickets. (Discounts on top of the discounts subscribers enjoy over our single ticket prices!) When you subscribe, you provide the support for the friends and neighbors who make the theater what it is, creating the shows that enrich and enliven Annapolis' cultural feast. You become part of all that by pledging your presence and enthusiasm as the audiences who complete the circle of producer and partaker. The most wonderful recipes made by the best chefs are nothing if no one eats the resulting meal and pronounces it delicious! We need you to enjoy our menu of delights!

We start off with the beguiling period piece, *Bell, Book and Candle* by John van Druten, a story about witches and love in New York in the 50's. In October, in *Sunlight* by Sharr White, we watch as an idealistic, aging college president is dealing with the consequences of his outrageous attack on the dean of the law school because of his assistance in writing

the government's guidelines on enhanced interrogation. After December's *A Christmas Carol* (not a part of the season, but definitely part of Annapolis holiday tradition!) we launch an amazing tale of thirty years of death-defying adventure and swashbuckling performance in *Shipwrecked* by Donald Margulies. In February comes *Trying*, the amusing and memorable clash of two strong personalities in a play written by one of them, Joanna McClellan Glass, about herself and former US Attorney General Francis Biddle in the last year of his distinguished life. In March, *1776* roars into the theater, with our founding fathers at odds over independence but in harmony musically with uplifting and exhilarating song. In May comes Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room, or the Vibrator Play*, a tender Victorian love story between a wife and her husband and the amazing new powers of electricity. And in June, we show you how Alan Ayckbourn took on the challenge of staging a farce with slamming doors, two stair cases, a ghost and six hilariously addled people on three floors, *all on one level in the round* in *Taking Steps*, a comic dessert for the season. So tuck in! Support CP and plan to enjoy a full menu of entertaining, enlightening, delicious theater! *Bon appetite!*



## Bell, Book and Candle

*Written by John van Druten*

*Directed by Debbie Barber-Eaton*

This light hearted 50's comedy is about what happens when a witch in New York makes a lover of a very conventional man and then has to face the consequences when she really falls in love with him. Gillian Holroyd becomes interested in her upstairs neighbor and tenant and hexes him into falling in love with her. Shep Henderson, her quarry, is mystified, delighted and completely unaware that other worldly forces are at work. Despite the oddness of Gillian's aunt and brother, themselves an endearingly addled old witch and a fun-loving warlock, Shep is oblivious. He only knows that his life changed when he crossed over Gillian's threshold. When Gillian realizes that she is falling in love herself, she faces a dilemma: she will lose her considerable powers if she acts on her feelings. Will love prevail?

## Sunlight

*Written by Sharr White*

Matthew Gibbon, liberal lion and university president, may have finally gone too far in his battle against the politically conservative Dean of the law school - his son-in-law and former protégé Vincent. In a frustrated culmination of a steady program of undermining Vincent's position at the school, Matthew has vandalized his office and records. Caught between them, Matthew's daughter Charlotte is desperately trying to protect her father and negotiate a solution against a Board of Regents and faculty up in arms because of his actions. As the play progresses, the differences between the two men become as apparent as America before 9/11 and after. This family drama explores change and the abuse of power within a tight circle of people who, despite loving each other, are rocked by the convictions of their hearts.

“impressively acted and visually authentic.”

The Pasadena Voice

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2012

CIRCLE SHOW

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
SEPT.		14	15	16	M
	20	21	22	23	M M
	27	28	29	30	M
OCT.	04	05	06		

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 2012

CIRCLE SHOW

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
OCT.		26	27	28	M
NOV	01	02	03	04	M M
	08	09	10	11	M
	15	16	17		



Cinderella Waltz, 2012



The Spitfire Grill, 2012

## Shipwrecked! *The amazing adventures of Louis de Rougemont (as told by himself)*

*Written by Donald Margulies*  
*Directed by Ron Giddings*

The adventurous Louis de Rougemont invites you to hear his amazing story of bravery, survival and celebrity that left 19c Victorian England spellbound. With the help of two “volunteers,” who make all the costume changes and sound effects and play nearly 100 roles right before your eyes, the audacious autobiographer tells his incredible tale of life on the high seas, in the land of the aborigines and later when he returns home, what happens when he is attacked by scientists and skeptics who don’t believe his story can be true. Explore the elusive lines that waver between truth and good story telling in the setting of a Victorian vaudeville house and the mind of a quintessential spellbinder.

JANUARY 2013  
 ARC SHOW

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
JAN.		11	12	13	M
	17	18	19	20	TH
	24	25	26		

## Trying

*Written by Joanna McClelland Glass*  
*Directed by Darice Clewell*

This memorable play is about a strong young Canadian girl hired to be secretary to an irascible old Philadelphia aristocrat who served as Attorney General of the United States under FDR and was Chef Judge at the Nuremberg Trials. Judge Francis Biddle is trying to complete his memoirs within the year he has announced he will die. Sarah follows the fourth woman who has quit or been fired from her position. The author was the secretary in the true story. According to the original production notes: “*Trying* is set in 1967 when Biddle is 81 years old and trying to put his life in order. Elegant, but sharply cantankerous, he struggles with the inevitability of his age and failing health. His wife has forced upon him a new secretary named Sarah, who is all of 25 years old, and the two struggle to find a way to communicate. This richly scripted story illustrates how two strangers, at two dramatically different places in their lives, can unexpectedly and forever influence each other.”

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2013  
 CIRCLE SHOW

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



1776

*Music & Lyrics by Peter Stone*  
*Book by Sherman Edwards*  
*Directed by Beth Terranova*

The seminal event in American history blazes to life in this wonderful musical. It is the summer of 1776 and congress is ready to declare independence, if only our founding fathers can agree to it. John Adams, Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson alternately woo and rage at their fellow delegates as they wrestle with the details of the Declaration and what it will mean to their individual states – their “countries”. Much of the book of this musical is based on actual letters and notes from the convention, more historically accurate than you might think, and the humor, passion and glorious music will make it an indelible history lesson that will fill your heart with pride and joy.

**MARCH-APRIL 2013**  
**CIRCLE SHOW**

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MAR.		22	23	24	M
	28	29	30	NO SHOW	
APR.	04	05	06	07	M E
	11	12	13 M TH	14	M
	18	19	20		

## In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play

*Written by Sarah Ruhl*  
*Directed by Carol Youmans*

It is 1880, a time of wonder and scientific advancements. Edison is bringing the electric light to households and in the home and operating theater of Dr. Givings, his invention, an electric vibrator, is bringing relief from the symptoms of hysteria in both his female and some male patients. While he is a little cool and aloof, the scientist loves his young wife Catherine, now recovering from the birth of their first child and the disappointment of needing a wet nurse to supplement her own ability to feed her. Catherine is fascinated by the therapies in the next room and her curiosity and longing lead to discoveries that change and electrify their lives forever.

**MAY 2013**  
**ARC SHOW**

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MAY		03	04	05	M
	09	10	11	12	M TH
	16	17	18		

“a foolproof recipe for feel-good  
entertainment”

The Capital



*The Unexpected Guest, 2011*



Little Women, The Musical, 2011

## Taking Steps

JUNE 2013  
CIRCLE SHOW

*Written by Alan Ayckbourn*  
*Directed by Barbara Marder*

Alan Ayckbourn responded to a request for a door slamming farce for a theater in the round with this play which has the three floors of an old Victorian home placed on one level, stairways, closets and all.

In the course of one hectic night and morning, with continual running up and downstairs and in and out of rooms, two couples, a solicitor and realtor, each immersed in a personal problem, try to sort themselves out. All this happens in a highly ingenious and original setting in which all the rooms, passages and stairs are on a single level. Did we mention the ghost?!

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

## A Christmas Carol

*Play and Lyrics by Richard Wade*  
*Music by Dick Gessner*

**December 6-16, 2012**

Thursdays at 8 pm, Fridays at 7 pm and 9 pm

Saturdays at 2 pm, 4 pm and 8 pm

Sundays at 2 pm and 4 pm.

**Public Ticket Sale on November 17, 2012**

Colonial Players is pleased to present our ultimate traditional holiday show, *A Christmas Carol*. Warm your heart to the music, characters and story of Scrooge's redemption through the visits of the Ghosts of his Christmases Past, Present and Future. Travel with him through time and the streets of the London of 170 years ago to discover the true meaning of Christmas and rekindle your holiday spirit. While *A Christmas Carol* is not a part of the subscription season, subscribers who give at or above the level of Designer will be given the opportunity to purchase tickets to *A Christmas Carol* before the Public Sale on November 17.



Colonial Players has produced over 60 years of great

community theatre ... HAVE YOU HEARD...?



Chapter Two, 2012

Colonial Players has won numerous awards for the quality of our productions in competition with community theater groups in Maryland and the Washington area. CP has won first place honors in the state AACT one act play festival and has been honored 18 times by the Ruby Griffith Award competition for Washington-area theaters.

For many years, CP has contributed to the community: donations, scholarships, workshops, forums, and activities designed to develop new directors, actors and playwrights.

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. Thank You!

### 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 through the box office, rather than the web. 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.

**Ten-seat FlexTickets** are available for Adults for \$18.00 per seat and Seniors or Students for \$14.00 per seat.

**Senior/ Student FlexTickets** are limited to use by seniors or students. Save money, support the theater and enjoy the convenience and flexibility of FlexTickets.

## TICKETING AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### Show Times

<b>8:00 pm</b>	Thursday, Friday, Saturday
<b>2:00 pm</b>	Sunday
<b>7:30 pm</b>	Sunday evening (2nd week of run only)

### Box Office number: 410-268-7373

The Box Office is open one hour before curtain time on performance nights and matinees.

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](http://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.

**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 FlexTickets must be used by seniors or students.

**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. Flex-Tickets 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

\$ 20 Adults, \$ 15 Seniors 65+/ Students

**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. No exchanges and no refunds. Flex-Ticket 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. 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.

**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. **Donors at or above the level of Designer will be given the opportunity to purchase tickets to *A Christmas Carol* before the Public Sale on November 17, 2012.**

## 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.

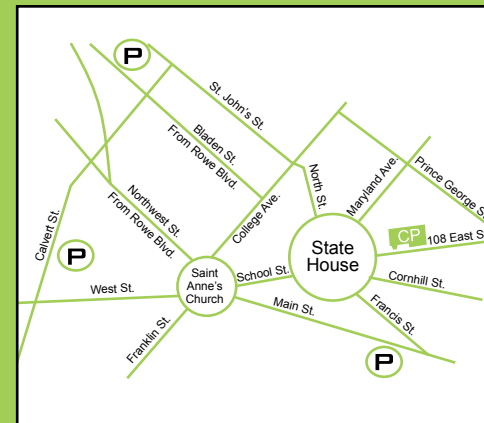
The theater's curtain first rose in 1949 with a production of James Thurber's slapstick comedy *The Male Animal*. Six years later, Colonial Players purchased an old car repair shop on East Street,

and through the years this site has been remodeled and expanded into the 180-seat arena theatre patrons and actors alike enjoy today.

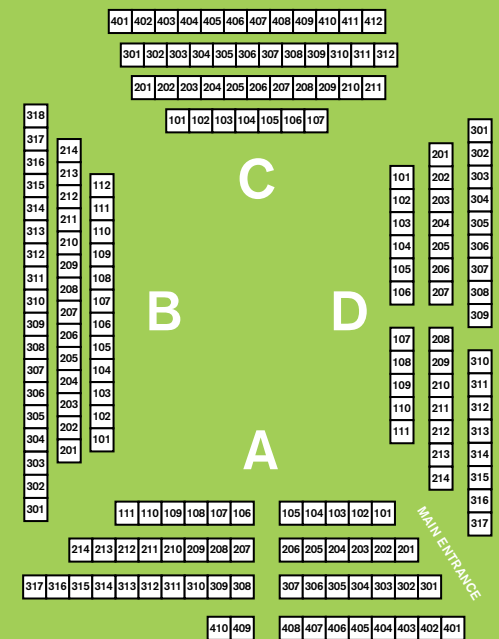
From Shakespeare to Noel Coward to Stephen Sondheim, Colonial Players audiences have enjoyed a wide range of performances. Experimental theater, theater for children, works by new playwrights, one-act play festivals, an array of workshops, and our annual Christmas production fulfill our mission to entertain, 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: Karen Grim in *The Shape of Things*, 2011

Design by Drama Queen Graphics, LLC

Photos courtesy of Colburn Images