



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Spectacular Theatre Slated for the FAC's 2018-2019 Season**

*COLORADO SPRINGS (March 30, 2018)* — The Fine Arts Center Theatre Company has announced the blockbuster line-up for the 2018-2019 theatre season. The FAC is overjoyed to bring regional premieres of award-winning theatre productions such as *Shakespeare in Love*, *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*, and *Anna in the Tropics* to the Pikes Peak region in the upcoming season – which kicks off in September, 2018.

### **2018-2019 Mainstage Theatre Season**

- *Shakespeare in Love* Sept. 27-Oct. 21, 2018
- *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* Dec. 6, 2018-Jan. 6, 2019
- *Anna in the Tropics* Feb. 7-24, 2019
- *Hands on a Hardbody* March 28-April 14, 2019
- *Barnum* May 23-June 16, 2019

### **2018-2019 Family & Studio Series Theatre Season**

- *Go, Dog. Go!* Sept. 14-Oct. 14, 2018
- *Church & State* Nov. 2-25, 2018
- *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush* March 8-April 7, 2019
- *Bad Dates* April 26-May 19, 2019

### **MAINSTAGE SAGAJI THEATRE**

All mainstage productions are performed in the FAC's beautifully restored 400-seat SaGaJi Theatre. Season subscriptions start at \$86 and are on sale now. Single tickets start at \$20 and will be available for purchase starting July 26, 2018. Additionally, tickets for select Wednesday evening performances are only \$20 and available for *Shakespeare in Love*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, and *Barnum* (subscription options do not apply). For more information call (719) 634-5583, or visit [www.coloradocollege.edu/fac](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/fac).

***Shakespeare in Love*****Sept. 27-Oct. 21, 2018**

Based on the screenplay by Marc Norman &amp; Tom Stoppard

Adapted for the stage by Lee Hall

Music by Paddy Cunneen

Directed by Scott RC Levy

**Regional Premiere!** *Shakespeare in Love* is a play with music, adapted for the stage from the 1988 film by Tony and Olivier Award-winning writer Lee Hall, based on the screenplay by Academy Award-winning writer Marc Norman, and Tony, Olivier, and Academy Award-winning writer Tom Stoppard.

A romantic piece of historical fiction, the story centers around a young Will Shakespeare as he struggles to find his inspiration. Enter the feisty aristocratic Viola de Lesseps, who longs to be an actor. The relationship they forge serves as inspiration for Will's greatest play – *Romeo and Juliet*. This stage adaptation employs tactics commonly found in plays of the Elizabethan age: cross-dressing disguises, mistaken identities, suspicions of adultery, sword fighting, a comedic nurse, and even visions of ghosts are all present, as is the enduring “play-within-a-play” convention that Shakespeare fondly adopted for many of his works. Overall, *Shakespeare in Love* delivers a delightfully crowd-pleasing, deeply romantic, and highly adventurous tale of love and drama in Renaissance-era England.

*“...it makes for a very warm, accessible and enjoyable night at the theater.” –Chicago Tribune*

***Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*****Dec. 6, 2018-Jan. 6, 2019**

Book by Dennis Kelly

Music &amp; lyrics by Tim Minchin

**Regional Premiere!** The story of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

Inspired by the twisted genius of author Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* is a captivating masterpiece that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination, and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life.

Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence, and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly loveable Miss Honey. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

*Above all it's an exhilarating tale of empowerment, as told from the perspective of the most powerless group of all...little children.” –The New York Times*

***Anna in the Tropics***

By Nilo Cruz

**Feb. 7-24, 2019**

**Regional Premiere!** Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama! *Anna in the Tropics* is a poignant and poetic play set in 1929 Florida in a Cuban-American cigar factory, where cigars are still rolled by hand, and “lectors” are employed to educate and entertain the workers. The arrival of a new lector is a cause for celebration, but when he begins to read aloud from *Anna Karenina*, he unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners, for whom Tolstoy, the tropics, and the American dream prove a volatile combination.

*“The words of Nilo Cruz waft from a stage like a scented breeze. They sparkle and prickle and swirl, enveloping those who listen in both a specific place and time—and in timeless passions that touch us all...In ANNA IN THE TROPICS, Cruz claims his place as a storyteller of intricate craftsmanship and poetic power...[Cruz] has turned out many wonderful plays—but none more shimmeringly beautiful than ANNA IN THE TROPICS.” –Miami Herald*

***Hands on a Hardbody***

Book by Doug Wright

Music by Trey Anastasio & Amanda Green

Lyrics by Amanda Green

Directed and choreographed by Nathan Halvorson

**March 28-April 14, 2019**

**Regional Premiere!** Nominated for three Tony Awards, including Best Original Score, 2013. Inspired by true events, and infused with a “fresh roots-rock vibe,” this is the hilarious, hard-fought contest where only one winner can drive away with the American dream. Ten contestants. Four days. One truck.

For 10 hard-luck Texans, a new lease on life is so close they can touch it. Under a scorching sun for days on end, armed with nothing but hope, humor, and ambition, they'll fight to keep at least one hand on a brand-new truck in order to win it. In the hilarious, hard-fought contest that is *Hands on a Hardbody*, only one winner can drive away with the American dream. Inspired by the true events of the acclaimed 1997 documentary of the same name.

*“You can hear the sound of America singing in this daring new musical.” –The New York Times*

*“Hands down it's musical theatre heaven!” –New York Magazine*

***Barnum***

Book by Mark Bramble

Music by Cy Coleman

Lyrics by Michael Stewart

Directed by Scott RC Levy

**May 23-June 16, 2019**

**Regional Premiere!** P.T. Barnum, the Greatest Showman on Earth, combines razzle-dazzle with charm and brass to sell “humbug” to cheering crowds. A joyful and moving musical portrait of the 19<sup>th</sup> century’s greatest show-biz legend, *Barnum* is a colorful, dynamic spectacle with heart. Cy Coleman and Michael Stewart’s rousing score includes “There’s a Sucker Born Every Minute,” “Join the Circus,” “The Colors of My Life,” and “Come Follow The Band.”

*“Barnum is a wonderful musical, full of excitement, joy, and smashing tunes.” –Live Theatre UK*

## **FAMILY & STUDIO SERIES in the MUSIC ROOM**

All Family & Studio Series productions are performed in the FAC’s gorgeously intimate 108-seat Music Room. Tickets for each performance are \$20 for non-members, \$18 for FAC members, and \$10 for kids 12 and under (family theatre shows only).

### ***Go, Dog. Go!* – FAMILY SERIES**

**Sept. 14-Oct. 14, 2018**

By Steven Dietz & Allison Gregory

Music by Michael Koerner

Based on the book by P.D. Eastman

**Regional Premiere!** P.D. Eastman’s classic children’s book comes to life on stage in an exploration of movement, color, and space. The dogs delve into life with gusto, creating a visual spectacle for the audience to feast upon. They snorkel. They howl at the moon. They ride a Ferris wheel. They sing and dance and climb trees. This is a rollicking free-for-all of chicanine-ery. A big and little musical world of doggy fun. Like a pop-up book that comes to life – and never stops.

*“With its gentle, bouncy humor and familiar situations, Go, Dog. Go! would make a fitting introduction to theater for even the youngest children, and has enough sly wit to satisfy older children and parents.” –The Columbus Dispatch*

### ***Church & State* – STUDIO SERIES**

**Nov. 2-25, 2018**

By Jason Odell Williams

**Regional Premiere!** Three days before his bid for reelection, in the wake of a school shooting in his hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina, a Republican U.S. senator makes an off-the-cuff comment to a blogger that gets leaked on “the Twitter,” calling into question the senator’s stance on guns and God. As his devoutly Christian wife and liberal Jewish campaign manager try to contain the damage, this look at how religion influences politics and how politics has become a religion is simultaneously funny, heartbreaking, and uplifting.

*"[CHURCH & STATE] is surprisingly subtle and gripping entertainment...a sophisticated dialectic that presents both sides of the gun debate...Williams avoids demonizing his conservative Southerners, who are winning, strikingly intelligent, and above all, sincere in their beliefs." –Los Angeles Times*

*"A crackling script. Feels very of the moment. An enjoyable, thought-provoking and, I promise, humorous piece of theatre. I wish every member of Congress would see it!" –National Public Radio*

***Ben and the Magic Paintbrush* – FAMILY SERIES**

**March 8-April 7, 2019**

By Bathsheba Doran

**Regional Premiere!** Megan and Ben are orphaned siblings alone in the world. She earns pennies as a human statue – painted silver – while her little brother draws marvelous portraits with only a stubby pencil. One fateful day, his artwork catches the eye of the malicious Mrs. Crawley, who has a scheme to make millions with a magic paintbrush. When she captures Ben and puts him to work, it's up to Megan and their new friend Pierre to help him escape, discovering the value of kindness and bravery along the way. An enchanting story from olden times comes to life in this modern-day fairy tale.

*"It will have the kiddies cheering its heroes and (on occasion) jeering one of youth theater's most deliciously detestable villains." –The Daily Pilot*

***Bad Dates* – STUDIO SERIES**

**April 26-May 19, 2019**

By Theresa Rebeck

**Regional Premiere!** Restaurant manager and shoe connoisseur Haley Walker is finally ready to re-enter the dating world. From the privacy of her bedroom, she relates a series of hilarious tales while preparing for, and recovering from, one dreadful date after another. Theresa Rebeck's sweet and sharp comedy will be the hottest date night in town, and a triumphant night out for women of all ages!

*"...a crowd-pleasing, one-woman comedy with a scrappy, magnetic narrator..." –The Boston Globe*

**SPECIAL THEATRE EVENTS**

Subscription options do not apply toward special theatre events, ticket prices vary, see website for details.

**PIE****Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2018**

By Theater Grottesco (special touring production)

**North American Tour Premiere!** *PIE* is a layman's exploration of what happens when you don't know what to do next, inspired by the Carl Sagan quote, "If you want to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe." Santa Fe-based Theater Grottesco's take on this is a deeply relevant and moving journey across the universe, down the Grand Canyon, and into a world of questions about societal pressures, identity, hopelessness, greed, and the toxic muddy trickle at the end of a once raging river. Grottesco uses its broad stylistic palette to create surprise and wonder as it holds up a mirror to the current state of the planet and its people, while sneaking up on life's great questions.

In 2017, Theater Grottesco's *PIE* was one of six recipients of the prestigious National Theatre Project award from New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), with major funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

*"The performance defies description... superb in its execution and imagination..." –Talkin' Broadway*

**An Evening with Paul Reiser****Aug. 17, 2018**

Comedian, actor, television writer, author, and musician, Paul Reiser has spent the last 30+ years acting in Oscar and Emmy award-winning movies and TV shows. He was voted one of Comedy Central's "Top 100 Comedians of All Time."

**An Evening with Paula Poundstone****Nov. 1, 2018**

With smart, observational humor and a legendary spontaneous interaction with the crowd, Paula Poundstone is one of our country's pre-eminent comedians.

**Happy Hour Stand-Up 2018: July 6, Aug. 3, Dec. 7 | 2019: Jan. 4, Feb. 1, June 7**

Featuring different comedians each show, this gut-busting stand-up comedy hour will have audiences laughing all night.

**FINE ARTS CENTER THEATRE SCHOOL**

The Fine Arts Center Theatre Company offers innovative and comprehensive professional theatre training programs for students age 5-adult. Musical theatre, design, acting, play analysis, dancing, and stand-up comedy, are just a sampling of the rich curriculum offered by an award-winning professional staff of instructors.

**Go, Dog. Go! Day Camps**

Saturdays, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2018

***Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical Day Camps***

Saturdays, Dec. 8, 2018-Jan. 5, 2019

***Ben and the Magic Paintbrush Day Camps***

Saturdays, March 9-April 6

***Barnum Day Camps***

Sundays, May 26 & June 9 & Saturdays, June 1 & 15

**Adult Women's Dance Class**

Mondays, Jan. 21-March 11

**Adult Acting Class**

Mondays, March 18-May 6

**Youth Repertory Spring Session**

Wednesdays, Jan. 16-March 20

**Emerging Artists Spring Session**

Saturdays, Feb. 9-April 13 & April 9-12

**Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College**

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit [www.coloradocollege.edu/fac](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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