

Department of Theatre Production Season 2015-2016

Celebrating Transformation THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

If all the future is contained in the present moment, then our actions, words, and ideas of today are of utmost importance to shaping our future. As Lehigh University celebrates the accomplishments and accolades of its first 150 years, let us also focus attention on our future aspirations. What can we do today, here and now, to create the future we desire? What transformative seeds sown today will later bear fruit for the university community? If every present member of Lehigh University committed to making one adjustment, one investment, building one relationship for the future, what “shape” would our common vision form?

In our 2015-2016 season of plays, we investigate how transformation today can shape the future.

GOD OF CARNAGE

by Yasmina Reza

Directed by Kashi Johnson

October 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 2015

All comedy, no manners. Following a playground altercation between two 11-year-old boys, two sets of parents confront the situation...and each other. Civilized discussion quickly devolves into name-calling, screaming matches, tantrums and tears. And that's before they break out the rum! Winner of the 2009 Tony Award for Best Play, *God Of Carnage* is a hilariously disturbing look at what happens when people stop being polite, and start getting real.

VIOLET

Music by Jeanine Tesori, Book and Lyrics by Brian Crawley

Based on *The Ugliest Pilgrim* by Doris Betts

Directed by Pam Pepper

Musical Direction by William Whitney

A Virginia M. & Bernard R. Hale '30 Production

November 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 29, 21 2015

Straight from the Broadway production of 2014, *VIOLET* is the story of a woman's search for beauty and her place in the world. Physically scarred by a tragic childhood accident, Violet fervently desires the healing powers of an Oklahoma revivalist preacher. Her journey by Greyhound bus toward physical healing becomes so much more as she befriends two soldiers and discovers the true meaning of beauty, courage and love. With a musical score equally influenced by bluegrass, gospel and Broadway, and a backdrop of the American south during an era of great social change, this winner of the Drama Critics' Circle Award and Lucille Lortel Award for Best Musical of 1997 will inspire, challenge, and uplift.

BOOM

by Peter Nachtrieb

Directed by Augustine Ripa

February 26, 27, 28, March 2, 3, 4, 5, 2016

SEX TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF THE WORLD

A grad student's online personal ad lures a mysterious journalism student to his subterranean research lab under the pretense of "no strings attached" sex. But when a major global catastrophic event strikes the planet, their date takes on evolutionary significance and the fate of humanity hangs in the balance. And who is that woman pulling levers and playing the timpani?

GEM OF THE OCEAN

by August Wilson

Directed by Akin Babatunde, *Theodore U. Horger '61 Artist-in-Residence for the Performing and Visual Arts*

April, 8,9,10,13,14,15,16, 2016

Pittsburg, 1904—the eve of Aunt Esther's 287th birthday. A former slave, Aunt Esther is a keeper of tradition and a cleanser of souls. When Citizen Barlow comes to her home seeking asylum and redemption, she sets him off on a poetic and spiritual journey to find the City of Bones at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, a repository of the memory and tragedy of the Middle Passage. Gem of the Ocean is the ninth play in Wilson's ten-play Pittsburg Cycle that chronicles a century of African American life.