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SUMMER 2019 THEATER HIGHLIGHTS

Chicago, IL – Celebrating 2019 as the Year of Chicago Theatre, Chicago will continue to produce some of the most exciting work in the country this summer. Offerings from the city's more than 250 producing theaters feature everything from the latest musicals to highly anticipated world premieres.

For a comprehensive list of Chicago productions including a Summer Theatre Guide, visit the League of Chicago website, ChicagoPlays.com. Half-price tickets are available at HotTix.org or at the two Hot Tix half-price ticket locations: across from the Chicago Cultural Center at Expo72 (72 E. Randolph) and Block Thirty Seven, Shops at 108 N. State. Hot Tix offers half-price tickets for the current week and some performances in advance.

"As we approach the halfway point of the Year of Chicago Theatre, I encourage every Chicagoan and visitor to attend a production by one of our 250 theater companies. This summer, there is a wide range of offerings, including an impressive number of musicals and world premieres. Simply, there is something for everyone," notes **Deb Clapp**, Executive Director of the League of Chicago Theatres.

The following is a selection of notable work playing in Chicago throughout the summer:

New works and adaptations include:

Lookingglass Theatre presents a new adaptation of *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. Mary Shelley's unsettling story crackles to life as Victor Frankenstein must contend with his unholy creation. From the brain of Lookingglass Ensemble Member David Catlin comes a new, visceral adaptation. Through Aug 4, 2019.

Steppenwolf Theatre Company premieres *Ms. Blakk for President*. See award winning playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney as Joan Jett Blakk, America's first black drag queen presidential candidate. Joan's story begins in Chicago; it's 1992 and, with the AIDS crisis at its height, Joan and the newly formed Queer Nation Chicago have big goals in mind. Through July 14, 2019.

Strawdog Theatre Company presents *Take Me*, a world premiere musical based on a true story. When her husband lapses into a coma, Shelly finds direction from voices she believes are aliens who instruct her to move to Roswell, NM and build an amusement park in their honor before awaiting further instruction. Through June 22, 2019.

Theater Oobleck presents the world premiere of *It Is Magic* at the Chopin Theatre. A mashup of *Macbeth* and *The Three Little Pigs*, *It Is Magic* is a sorrowful and hilarious meditation on the deep, ancient evil at the heart of the community theater audition process and an investigation into the mysteries of theatre-making itself. Through June 29, 2019.

Musicals include:

Come From Away plays at the Cadillac Palace Theatre. The remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. On 9/11, the world stopped. On 9/12, their stories moved us all. Runs July 30 - Aug 18, 2019.

Goodman Theatre presents the classic American musical ***The Music Man*** about the charming and charismatic con man Harold Hill who assumes he can easily fleece the citizens of staid River City, Iowa with the grand promise of a marching band. But the smooth-talking swindler can't tell a trombone from a treble clef—and Marian, the local librarian, knows it. Directed by Mary Zimmerman. Runs June 29 - Aug 4, 2019.

The wives of Henry VIII join forces for an electrifying pop-concert spectacle ***SIX*** playing at **The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare Theater**. The queens take the mic to reclaim their identities out of the shadow of their infamous spouse —remixing 500 years of historical heartbreak into an exuberant celebration of 21st-century female empowerment. Through June 30, 2019.

Teatro Vista and Collaboraction bring back the hit ***La Havana Madrid*** at The Den Theatre. *La Havana Madrid* is an immersive theatre experience, complete with live music, based on the true story of a 1960's Chicago nightclub. It also shares how and why Latinos originally migrated to the shores of Lake Michigan, only to be pushed further west – away from the lake – by the forces of gentrification and racism. Through June 22, 2019.

Marriott Theatre premieres ***Darling Grenadine*** about Harry, a charming songwriter whose fanciful view of the world rivals the Technicolor of any MGM classic, as he floats through the kind of Manhattan life that dreams are made of. He suddenly finds himself confronted with the idea that a dream may be exactly what it is. And reality isn't nearly as beautiful. Runs June 26 - Aug 18, 2019.

Notable comedies include:

Drunk Shakespeare plays in a hidden speakeasy located behind The Chicago Theatre. Hilarity and mayhem ensue while the four sober actors try to keep the script on track. Each show is different depending on who is drinking... and what they're drinking! 21+ only. Open Run.

The Infinite Wrench continues at **The Neo-Futurarium** with a mechanism that unleashes a barrage of two-minute plays for a live audience. Each play offers something different — funny, profound, elegant, disgusting, topical, irrelevant, terrifying, or put to song. Open Run.

Grinning from Fear to Fear runs at **The Second City e.t.c.** From psycho killers to big pharma, coming out to your family to coming undone in your nightmares, The Second City's fearless force of comedy commandos takes on everything that makes us all unflinchingly unique. Open Run.

Dramatic works include:

Something Clean opens in a co-production with **Sideshow Theatre and Rivendell Theatre** at Victory Gardens Theater. This breathtaking new drama follows one woman's struggle to make sense of her own grief, intimacy, culpability, and consent. Runs June 16 - July 21, 2019.

Windy City Playhouse's *The Recommendation* opens presented in an immersive style, as audiences are invited to (literally) walk a mile in these young men's shoes. This psychological thriller follows two friends through the trials and tribulations of life and tests just how far they will go to get what they want. Runs July 2 - Sept 22, 2019.

Definition Theatre premieres ***Ethiopianamerica***. If the American dream is a privilege, not a right, then Girma and Elizabeth Kifle have truly earned it. After emigrating from Ethiopia to the United States with nothing, the couple is poised to send their eldest son to college. But the ghosts of the life they left in Ethiopia threaten to destroy their American dream before it starts, and the Kifle sons reckon with being American in Ethiopian bodies. Through June 9, 2019.

Other notable works include:

Chicago Shakespeare Theater continues one of our city's favorite summer traditions! Now in its eighth year, the FREE FOR ALL Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks tour heads out to neighborhood parks across the north,

west, and south sides of the city with a 75-minute abridged production of Shakespeare's hilarious ***The Comedy of Errors*** for families and neighbors of all ages. Runs July 18 – August 18, 2019.

Teatro ZinZanni and Broadway In Chicago open ***Love, Chaos, and Dinner*** at Spiegeltent ZaZou in the Cambria Hotel. Enter a realm where reality and dreams converge — an experience unlike any other! Teatro ZinZanni is a whirlwind of international cirque, comedy, and cabaret served with a multi-course feast. Begins July 18, 2019.

Cirque du Soleil's VOLTA plays at Soldier Field. A captivating voyage of discovery that showcases never-before seen under the Big Top acrobatics in a visually striking world. Through July 6, 2019.

Physical Theater Festival Chicago plays at Stage 773 featuring nine whirlwind days of physical theatre programming including four shows from around the world, a hometown show, workshops with international guest artists, and a Scratch Night featuring new short works from local performers. Runs May 31 - June 8, 2019.

About Chicago theatre

Chicago theatre is the leader in the U.S. with more than 250 theaters throughout Chicagoland, comprising a rich and varied community ranging from storefront, non-union theaters to the most renowned resident theaters in the country, including 5 which have been honored with Regional Tony Awards, and the largest touring Broadway organization in the nation. Chicago's theatres serve 5 million audience members annually and have a combined budget of more than \$250 million. Chicago produces and/or presents more world premieres annually than any other city in the nation. Last year alone Chicago theatre companies produced more than 100 world premiere productions and adaptations. Each year Chicago theatres send new work to resident theaters across the country, to Broadway, and around the world.

About 2019 Year of Chicago Theatre

The Year of Chicago Theatre is presented by The City of Chicago and the League of Chicago Theatres. To truly fall in love with Chicago, you must go to our theatres. This is where the city bares its fearless soul. Home to a community of creators, risk-takers, and big hearts, Chicago theatre is a hotbed for exciting new work and hundreds of world premieres every year. From Broadway musicals to storefront plays and improv, there's always a seat waiting for you at one of our 200+ theatres. Learn More: <https://chicagoplays.com/year-of-chicago-theatre/>

The League of Chicago Theatres' Mission Statement

Theatre is essential to the life of a great city and to its citizens. The League of Chicago Theatres is an alliance of theatres, which leverages its collective strength to support, promote and advocate for Chicago's theatre industry. Through our work, we ensure that theatre continues to thrive in our city.

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