

2024–2025 SEASON

OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

1 THE NEW LOS ANGELES REPERTORY COMPANY PRODUCTION OF

EISENHOWER: THIS PIECE OF GROUND

SEPTEMBER 27–OCTOBER 20, 2024
THE MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB

by Richard Hellesten
Directed by Peter Ellenstein

Tony Award winner John Rubinstein (*Pippin*, *Children of a Lesser God*) stars as President Dwight D. Eisenhower in this candid and fascinating fictional eavesdropping on the 34th President at his Gettysburg, Pennsylvania farm. It is 1962 and *The New York Times Magazine* has published its first list ranking the American Presidents in order of greatness, and poor Ike is ranked 22nd of 31. Enraged at being called “mediocre,” he mounts a defense of his life and career—his Kansas upbringing, his decorated Army career, his victories in World War II, and his two terms as President—contemplating the qualities and adversities that make an American President great. *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground* is adapted from a vast array of General Eisenhower’s memoirs, speeches, and letters animated by a bravura performance by one of our great actors.

“A perfectly cast John Rubinstein brings our 34th president back to life.” *L.A. Times*

2 Disney’s FROZEN

The Broadway Musical

OCTOBER 24, 2024–JANUARY 5, 2025
ROBERTS MAINSTAGE

Book by Jennifer Lee
Originally directed on Broadway by Michael Grandage
Based on the Disney film written by Jennifer Lee and directed by Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee
Originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions
Music Direction by Christopher Youstra
Choreography by Kelly Crandall d’Amboise
Directed by Alan Muraoka

Disney has asked a select few regional theaters to take a shot at their own productions of this animated classic, and it’s no surprise that Olney Theatre Center got the call! Just as we’ve done with other Disney favorites like *Mary Poppins* and *Beauty and the Beast*, our production will deliver everything families love about the adventures of Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, and Olaf, along with a unique production you won’t experience anywhere else. Sesame Street’s Alan Muraoka (proprietor of Hooper’s Store and director of Olney Theatre’s *South Pacific* and *The King and I*) directs our biggest musical ever. So get your tickets early; this promises to be a show so epic you won’t want to “Let It Go.”

“The film’s original creative team—composers Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez and writer Jennifer Lee—aren’t reinventing the snowman, but they’ve certainly built a better *Frozen*.” *Entertainment Weekly*

3 WAITRESS

FEBRUARY 13–MARCH 30, 2025
ROBERTS MAINSTAGE

Book by Jessie Nelson
Music and Lyrics by Sara Bareilles
Based upon the motion picture written by Adrienne Shelly
Music Direction by Christopher Youstra
Directed and Choreographed by Marcia Milgrom Dodge

The beloved musical by Grammy Award-winner Sara Bareilles (“Brave” “Lovesong”) is yet another Olney Theatre Center Regional Premiere. Tony-nominated director Marcia Milgrom Dodge returns to the Roberts Mainstage (*Disney’s Beauty and the Beast*, *Once*) for a new serving of one of the most mouth-watering American musicals of the century. Jenna is stuck in a lousy marriage and dreaming of an escape while she bakes pies and waits tables at her small town’s local diner. But it “Only Takes a Taste” of something different to spark some drastic changes—but are they for better or worse? With the help of her fellow waitresses and a cast of colorful characters, Jenna learns the winning recipe’s been hers from the start.

“Bareilles’s enduring wonder of a score... skillfully melds a pop melodicism rooted in the 1970s with the narrative demands of musical theater.”

The New York Times

4 AMERICAN PREMIERE SLEEPOVA

MARCH 26–APRIL 27, 2025
MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB

By Matilda Feyişayo Ibini
Directed by Paige Hernandez

Nominated for an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Affiliate Theatre
Winner of the Critics’ Circle Award for Most Promising Playwright

This fringe hit from London makes its U.S. Premiere in the Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab! Whether or not sleepover parties with friends were part of your upbringing, you’re invited to join Elle, Shan, Funmi, and Rey at theirs. These four Black British teenagers are growing up fast, each coping with their unique challenges of disability, sexuality, religion, and family. Their sleepover parties are a complex dance of adolescent bluster and aspirational performance, interspersed with moments of intimate honesty that seem to take them all by surprise. Most of all, *Sleepova* is a testament to the joys of friendship, centering a quartet of young women tentatively making their way in the world.

“All the clumsiness and wide-eyed excitability of the best coming-of-age dramas... an exhilarating tableau of imperfect young friendship and you leave wanting an invite to their next party.”

The Guardian

“I know a good time when I see one, and ‘Sleepova’ surely is that.” *Time Out London*

“You can’t help but fall in love with this joyous, exuberant show” *The Evening Standard*

5 **WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL**
LITTLE MISS PERFECT

MAY 15–JUNE 22, 2025
ROBERTS MAINSTAGE

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Joriah Kwamé
Directed by Zhailon Levingston
In association with Straighten Your Crown

Joriah Kwamé became a viral TikTok star with his song “Little Miss Perfect,” which garnered over ten million views and launched this new musical with Broadway aspirations. High school kids today are under a lot of stress. Just ask Noelle, the daughter of a prominent local deacon who has lived up to local expectations of social and academic excellence all her life. But now it’s senior year, and she’s barely holding on. Her GPA is in the dumps, college applications are looming, and now an exchange student from the Philippines living under her roof has her questioning her sexuality. Can Noelle make it to graduation, achieve her dreams, and still stay true to herself? Can anyone? *Little Miss Perfect* distills her experience with earworms aplenty and genuine warmth for even its most calculating characters. Along with the title song, Joriah’s hit, “Ordinary,” figures in the show, and his newest songs—like “Black Girl Magic,” “Built For You,” and “Something Big” are sure to go just as big.

In addition to viral fame, Joriah Kwamé is the 2020 recipient of the ASCAP Cole Porter Award and the Harold Adamson Lyric Award.

6 **KIM’S CONVENIENCE**

JUNE 25–JULY 27, 2025
MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB

By **Ins Choi**
Directed by **Aria Velz**

The inspiration for the hit Netflix series of the same name, Ins Choi’s award-winning comedy, introduces us to the Kims, a Korean immigrant family whose foibles belie serious tensions between assimilated daughter Janet and her parents. Located in Toronto’s rapidly gentrifying Roger’s Park, Appa has been offered a lucrative buy-out for his store. With Janet more invested in her photography career and his son Jung long-estranged, it may be his only option. Choi leavens the clash of old ways and new opportunities with a heavy dose of humor as Appa, Umma, Jung, and Janet attempt to heal old wounds.

“The biggest single laugh I’ve had in a theatre in ages.” *National Post of Canada*

“Appa’s sacrifices... seem like something quite real, not just a comic premise. The actors were crying. I cried, too.” *The New York Times*

7 **OLNEY THEATRE CENTER PRESENTS**
THE SYNETIC THEATER PRODUCTION OF
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM

JULY 17–AUGUST 10, 2025
ROBERTS MAINSTAGE

By William Shakespeare
Adapted by Ben Cunis and Paata Tsikurishvili
Directed by Paata Tsikurishvili
Choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili

For over twenty years, in-the-know DC audiences have thrilled to the magic of wordless Shakespeare from Synetic Theatre, called by the *Washington Post* “the region’s premier troupe for physical theater.” Now, Olney Theatre Center introduces Maryland audiences to Synetic’s thrilling, kinetic performances with one of their most acclaimed, groundbreaking productions! Love-drunk teens stumble upon a troupe of wannabe actors and find themselves caught in a war between the Fairy King and Queen...and that’s before one wily sprite intent on mischief-making sprinkles a little fairy dust. What could possibly go wrong?! This playful adaptation of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* features Synetic’s trademark wordless storytelling and is the winner of two Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Resident Play and Outstanding Ensemble.

“Synetic reimagines one of Shakespeare’s most popular plays with wordless elegance. A decade after first attempting that delicate dance, this “Midsummer” still knows how to cast a spell.”

The Washington Post

**SPECIAL
EVENT**

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
A Ghost Story of Christmas

NOVEMBER 29–DECEMBER 29, 2024
MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB

By Charles Dickens
Adapted and Performed by Paul Morella

Every year since 2009, before the Thanksgiving dishes are even dry, audiences have flocked to Olney Theatre Center to see award-winner Paul Morella in his bravura one-person performance of *A Christmas Carol*. What separates Paul Morella’s version from all others is its faith in Dickens’ singular genius, by sticking to his original text for 99% of this acclaimed solo performance. That’s why our audiences have made this *Ghost Story of Christmas* an Olney tradition now in its 15th year.

