

2026–2027 SEASON

OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

An American Classic

August Wilson's MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM

SEPTEMBER 9 - OCTOBER 11, 2026

Co-produced with and performed at Round House Theatre in Bethesda

Directed by **Lili-Anne Brown**

Don't miss this explosive and thrilling "genuine American masterpiece" (Chicago Reader)—reuniting two Helen Hayes Award winners from our co-production of *Fela!*, director Lili-Anne Brown and actor **Melody A. Betts** in the title role—that takes a searing look at the racial exploitation at the heart of the music industry and celebrates the cathartic power of the blues. Set in 1920s Chicago and pulsing with rousing blues music, wry comedy, and poetic insight, August Wilson's acclaimed play follows trailblazing singer Ma Rainey and her band during a fraught recording session. As conflicts flare over art, power, and control, the struggle between the musicians and studio executives grows to a shattering finale.

Grand Opening!

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

SEPTEMBER 18 - NOVEMBER 8, 2026

BERNARD FAMILY THEATRE

Book by **Harvey Fierstein**

Music and Lyrics by **Jerry Herman**

Based on the play by **Jean Poiret**

Directed by **Jason Loewith**

Choreographed by **Carla Puno Garcia**

Music Direction by **Christopher Youstra**

Our first production in the brand-new Bernard Family Theatre is an immersive evening at St. Tropez's hottest drag club, La Cage Aux Folles! It is a big night for club owners Georges and his husband, Albin – their son Jean-Michel has just announced he's engaged! The only catch is that his prospective father-in-law is an infamous politician from the "Tradition, Family and Morality Party." And did we mention that Albin is not only Georges' husband, but also the club's biggest star, where they perform as the fabulous Zaza? When Jean-Michel requests that Zaza make herself scarce when his fiancée and her parents come for a visit, chaos and a reckoning ensue. Fierstein's book and Herman's songs feel just as relevant today as when the musical first premiered in 1983, or when its movie adaptation *The Birdcage* came out in 1996. Upgrade to cabaret-table seating, with champagne service available at every show!

Synetic Theater Company Production of SLEEPY HOLLOW

OCTOBER 7 - NOVEMBER 1, 2026

MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB

Directed by **Paata Tsikurishvili**

Choreographed by **Irina Tsikurishvili**

Adapted by **Nathan Weinberger**

Olney audiences were blown away in 2025, when we invited Synetic Theater to perform their award-winning, wordless version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Now their back, but this time they're tackling a story with classic American roots in the intimate confines of Olney Theatre Center's 150-seat Theatre Lab. This adaptation of *Sleepy Hollow* pulls together all the elements that made Synetic famous: gothic horror, iconic characters and imagery, and an emphasis on the surreal. The production explores and deconstructs the ideas of legend and myth, illuminating the story of a terrifying and well-known villain in a way that only Synetic's physical lexicon can.

A 40th anniversary production of Boubil and Schönberg's LES MISÉRABLES

OCTOBER 30, 2026 - JANUARY 31, 2027

ROBERTS MAINSTAGE

A musical by **Alain Boubil** and

Claude-Michel Schönberg

Based on a novel by **Victor Hugo**

Music by **Claude-Michel Schönberg**

Lyrics by **Herbert Kretzmer**

Original French Text by **Alain Boubil**

and **Jean-Marc Natel**

Adapted and originally directed by

Trevor Nunn and **John Card**

Directed by **Stephen Brackett** (A.D. 16)

Choreographed by **William Carlos Angulo**

Music Direction by **Christopher Youstra**

Modern classics don't come any bigger than *Les Misérables*, and Olney Theatre celebrates it for the first time in honor of the show's 40th anniversary. Based on Victor Hugo's sweeping 19th-century novel of redemption, revolution, and love, the songs of *Les Miz* conquered Broadway in the 1980s and continue to resonate in this third decade of the 21st Century. Follow Jean-Valjean from his beginnings as convict #24601 to life in hiding, to protector of Cosette, pursued all the while by the relentless Javert, culminating in the revolutionary passions of the 1832 Paris uprising. Join us at the barricade this holiday season, and be stirred by a musical unmatched by its lyrical humor, its calls for justice, and its portrayal of the sacrifices one can make in the name of love. Featuring: **Kevin S. McAllister** as Javert, **Alex De Bard** as Eponine, **Tracy Lynn Olivera** as Madame Thénardier, **Jordan Friend** as Thénardier, **Stephanie Waters** as Fantine, **Ben Clark** as Marius, and more to be announced soon.

The Artscentric Production of
CROWNS

JANUARY 28 - MARCH 7, 2027

BERNARD FAMILY THEATRE

By **Regina Taylor**

Adapted from the Book by **Michael
Cunningham** and **Craig Marberry**

Directed by **Kevin S. McAllister**

Generations of Black women in the American South, through good times and bad, at weddings and funerals, on regular Sunday mornings and at festive holiday services, have adorned themselves with a hat for each occasion. Yolanda arrives in the South from Brooklyn to stay with family and encounters a world full of traditions that she initially regards with skepticism. However, in this play by Regina Taylor, through music and movement, the stories of the women beneath these "crowns" become a usable heritage for Yolanda as she seeks to heal from her own trauma.

Lessons in Leadership

CHURCHILL

FEBRUARY 4 - MARCH 21, 2027

MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB

by **David Payne**

In the spirit of *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*, we're thrilled to present another dramatic encounter with a titan of 20th-century leadership. It is 1963, and Winston Churchill has just been awarded honorary American citizenship by President John F. Kennedy. In this one-man show, Daniel Payne plays Churchill in a role written and created by his father, David. The former two-time Prime Minister reflects on what this newest honor means to him, along with recounting his storied life, from the Boer War, to his relationships with a pair of powerful women, his wife, Clementine, and Elizabeth II. Charismatic, witty, and occasionally risqué, you'll really feel like you're spending a special evening with "The Old Lion" of Great Britain.

**TONY AWARD-WINNING
MUSICAL TBA**

MARCH 18 - APRIL 25, 2027

ROBERTS MAINSTAGE

We can't share the title of this production until after June 1, 2026. Until then, just trust us – like with our productions of *Waitress* and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, this award-winning, female-centered musical is one you won't want to miss.



Bring the whole family!

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER

APRIL 29 - JUNE 6, 2027

BERNARD FAMILY THEATRE

A Play by **Rick Elice**

Based on the novel by **Dave Barry** and **Ridley Pearson**

Directed by **Benjamin T. Ismail**

In this enchanting, immersive production, discover how Peter became Pan. Audiences of all ages will be whisked across the seas aboard the HMS Neverland with the brave and clever Molly, daughter of the mysterious Lord Aster, while on a secret mission for the Queen. When things go unexpectedly awry, Molly teams up with a nameless orphan boy in a fight to save the day from bloodthirsty (and often hilarious) pirates. Silly and serious, *Peter and the Starcatcher* harnesses the universal power of storytelling itself to create a totally unique theatrical experience that's perfect for kids or anyone who ever was a kid.

PLAY TBA

JUNE 2 - 27, 2027

MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB

Artistic Director Jason Loewith is soon to announce the perfect play to produce in the intimate confines of the Moltipz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab. Will it be a US Premiere of bold new voices, like *Red Pitch*? An innovative staging of a modern classic, like *Appropriate*? Or a heart-warming comedy like *Kim's Convenience*? Whatever it is, you'll want to be there.

A Legendary Night

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

JUNE 30 - AUGUST 22, 2027

ROBERTS MAINSTAGE

Book by **Colin Escott** and **Floyd Mutrux**

Original Concept and Direction by **Floyd Mutrux**

Inspired by **Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash,**

Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins

Directed by **Hunter Foster**

Music Direction by **Sam C. Jones**

On December 4, 1956, one man brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley to play together for the first and only time. His name was Sam Phillips... The place was Sun Records... That night they made Rock 'n' Roll history – history you get to relive in this rollicking juke box musical jam-packed with hits like "Blue Suede Shoes", "Folsom Prison Blues", "That's Alright", "Long Tall Sally", "I Walk The Line", and "Great Balls of Fire", to name only a few. Summer nights in the Roberts Mainstage promise to deliver a slice of rock 'n' roll heaven.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 27, 2026

MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB

Adapted and Directed by **Hallie Gordon**

This season, Ebenezer Scrooge gets a refreshed look in our brand-new adaptation of Charles Dickens' holiday classic that practically invented our modern understanding of the meaning of Christmas. The one-person performance stays true to the original's vision of a singular storyteller bringing ghosts, memories, and visions of the future to vivid life.