

2025–2026 SEASON



1 U.S. PREMIERE **RED PITCH**

MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB
SEPTEMBER 17–OCTOBER 19, 2025

By Tyrell Williams
Directed by Daniel Bailey

Starring: Ty'Ree Hope Davis (Bilal), Terrence Griffin (Joey),
Angelo Harrington II (Omz)

Winner of all five Off-West End Awards for Best New Play
Bilal, Joey, and Omz have been boys their whole lives, growing up together playing soccer on their small pitch outside their south London apartments. But change is coming. Professional teams are signing up prospects, and they all harbor dreams to be chosen. Moreover, the neighborhood is changing, with lots of new apartments and franchise coffee shops pushing out longtime residents and local favorites. Can their friendship survive the threatened demise of their beloved “red pitch” and all it represents? This engrossing new play was such a hit in its initial run at London’s Bush Theatre (the same theatre that premiered *Sleepova*) that it earned a West End transfer, playing to critical and popular acclaim.

“Tackling gentrification, change, and ambition, Tyrell Williams’s writing creates a convincing bond in a play that is fierce, affectionate and effortlessly funny.” — *The Guardian*

“So good ... It’s a brilliant bit of writing about gentrification, friendship, masculinity, and aspiration, without ever being heavy-handed.”
— *Time Out London*

2 **HELLO DOLLY!**

ROBERTS MAINSTAGE
NOVEMBER 6, 2025–JANUARY 4, 2026

Book by Michael Stewart
Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman
Based on the play The Matchmaker by Thornton Wilder
Original Production Directed and Choreographed by Gower Champion
Music Directed by Christopher Youstra
Choreographed by Eamon Foley
Directed by Kevin S. McAllister

Starring Nova Y. Payton as Dolly

Dolly Gallagher Levi is a woman on the make. And what’s she making? Whatever you need. A husband? A wife? Dance lessons? Pierced ears? There’s never been a more indefatigable figure in American musical theatre, and perhaps that’s why the role has served as a vehicle for some of our greatest stars, from Carol Channing to Barbra Streisand to Bette Middler. Now, the DMV’s reigning musical superstar, **Nova Y. Payton**, takes on the title role of a musical that churns out laughs, songs, and over-the-top antics as fast as humanly possible...and then goes a little faster. Audiences of all ages are guaranteed a great time at this classic musical about love, second chances, and the magic of an adventure to the big city!

3 WORLD PREMIERE **LITTLE MISS PERFECT**

ROBERTS MAINSTAGE
FEBRUARY 12–MARCH 15, 2026

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Joriah Kwamé
Directed by Zhailon Levingston
Music Supervisor & Music Director Patrick B. Phillips
In association with Straighten Your Crown Productions, Inc.

Joriah Kwamé became a viral TikTok star with his song “Little Miss Perfect,” which garnered millions of 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,” “Malaya’s Words,” and “Legendary,” are sure to go just as big.

4 TONY AWARD-WINNER **APPROPRIATE**

MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB
MARCH 18–APRIL 19, 2026

By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
Directed by Jason Loewith

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’ searing satire of a family digging through their recently deceased patriarch’s crumbling estate is both gut-splittingly funny and shocking in its confrontation of conveniently forgotten family history. DC-luminaries **Kimberly Gilbert** (*Angels in America*) and **Cody Nickell** (*Ink*) star as siblings battling over the possession and meaning of their father’s dark patrimony. As the rest of the family descends on the ancestral property in rural Arkansas, old rivalries and grudges are eclipsed by the moral weight of what they find. Staged in our black box Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab, this will be a unique staging of one of the most important American plays of the past 15 years.

5 WORLD PREMIERE
**I AND YOU—
THE MUSICAL**

ROBERTS MAINSTAGE
APRIL 23–MAY 24, 2026

Based on the play by Lauren Gunderson
Book by Lauren Gunderson
Music and Lyrics by Ari Afsar
Directed by Sarah Rasmussen

Co-produced with the McCarter Theater

In 2015, Olney Theatre produced the Rolling World Premiere of *I And You* by Lauren Gunderson, which went on to become one of the most-produced plays in America. Now, we’re bringing you the World Premiere of the musical adaptation of her hit play. Anthony turns up in Caroline’s bedroom one night bearing waffle fries, a beat-up book, and a homework assignment they’re supposed to do together: explore Walt Whitman’s poem “Song of Myself.” Chronically sick, Caroline hasn’t been to school in a while... and can’t even remember meeting some kid named Anthony, which dials up both her suspicions and her “snark-o-meter.” But as the two get to know each other, they finally learn of the deeper mystery that brought them together. Whitman’s powerful poetry inspires the music and lyrics by American Idol veteran Ari Afsar, which expands the magic of Gunderson’s remarkable story.

6 WORLD PREMIERE
**CARLA HALL: PLEASE
UNDERESTIMATE ME**

MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB
MAY 27–JULY 5, 2026

By Carla Hall, Lori Kaye & Leslie Thomas
Directed by

Starring the one and only Carla Hall
Star of Food Network’s *Baking Championships*,
ABC’s The Chew, *Top Chef* and more!

How does one go from being an awkward, gawky kid who was only comfortable at theater camp to being a celebrity chef beloved for her unrestrained joy and authenticity? International superstar chef (and MoCo resident!) Carla Hall invites her audience to take that deeply personal journey with her, from her Tennessee roots to Howard University, the runways of Paris, the white-hot spotlight of *Top Chef*, and ultimately, a career that’s about staying true to herself. Along the way, she confronts the expectations of Black excellence, the sexism of the entertainment industry, and her own self-doubts. In this quirky, insightful, and inspiring World Premiere, Carla reveals the secret ingredients to her greatest creation: herself.

“We can all catch some measure of
[Carla Hall’s] infectious energy and
exceptional joie de vivre.” – Marie Clare

7 **A GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE
TO LOVE AND MURDER**

ROBERTS MAINSTAGE
JULY 2–AUGUST 23, 2026

Music by Steven Lutvak
Lyrics by Steven Lutvak and Robert L. Freedman
Book by Robert L. Freedman
Music Directed by Christopher Youstra
Choreographed by Ashleigh King
Directed by Eleanor Holdridge

This Tony Award winner for Best Musical is a hilarious and lyrical satire of money, manners, morals, and, yes, murder. After his mother’s death, Monty Navarro is shocked and delighted to learn that she had a secret: she’s related to the absurdly wealthy and aristocratic D’Ysquith family. And if, at first, Monty hoped his new relations might provide a sorely needed cash infusion, as eighth in line to the title of Earl of Highhurst, there isn’t much hope for him inheriting the family treasure. When Monty’s reunion with one of his long-lost kinfolk suddenly results in him moving into seventh place, he wonders to himself, “Why stop there?” Thus begins one of the funniest and most outrageous murder sprees in musical theatre history. Even better, in this production, *all* seven ill-fated D’Ysquiths are played by DMV-favorite **Tom Story** (Mrs. Trunchbull in *Matilda*).

“Bloodlust hasn’t sung so sweetly, or provided
so much theatrical fun, since *Sweeney Todd* first
wielded his razor” – *The New York Times*

SPECIAL
EVENT

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL:
A GHOST STORY OF
CHRISTMAS**

MULITZ-GUDELSKY THEATRE LAB
NOVEMBER 28–DECEMBER 28, 2025

By Charles Dickens
Originally Conceived, Adapted, and Staged by
Paul Morella
Directed by Hallie Gordon

Michael Russotto returns to star for a second holiday season in this solo show that is a masterclass in theatrical storytelling. As he portrays nearly 50 different characters from the Charles Dickens classic, you’ll find yourself swept up in a story that is funnier, more timely, and far more familiar to our modern-day circumstances than you could ever imagine. Even more impressive, Paul Morella’s beloved adaptation stays true to Dickens’ original language—making this perhaps the most authentic *Christmas Carol* out there. There’s a reason our audience has made this part of their holiday tradition for the past 16 years.

