Pick Your Plays

The Taming of the Shrew

by William Shakespeare
February 15 – November 3
Directed by David Ivers

A tale of two sisters

Sweet-tempered daddy's girl Bianca can have her pick of suitors—but not until her sister, the acid-tongued Katherine, can be married off. Rising to the challenge is rockabilly musician Petruchio, but can he match Katherine jab for jab? In this fresh reimagining of Shakespeare's comedy, a delirious tangle of masquerades and misdirection plays out against a backdrop of beach boardwalks and rock 'n' roll. And in the end, the surprising love story dares to ask what roles we play . . . and, underneath, who we really are.

My Fair Lady

Book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, music by Frederick Loewe
February 17 – November 3
Directed by Amanda Dehnert

The perfect musical

Professor Henry Higgins loves language. Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle yearns to speak like a lady. Sparks fly when his curiosity and her passionate determination launch a daring social experiment designed to turn a lower-class ugly duckling into a high-society swan—with unexpected results for both of them. Lerner and Loewe's effervescent adaptation of Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* is one of the most exquisite musicals ever written. This intimate, two-piano version, approved by composer Frederick Loewe, promises to illuminate the story in ways you haven't heard before.

Two Trains Running

by August Wilson
February 16 – July 7
Directed by Lou Bellamy

At the crossroads of a revolution

It's 1969, and change is in the air. But for the owner of a threadbare diner in a dying Pittsburgh neighborhood, the civil rights movement may just be an impractical dream. Torn between whether to gamble on an urban-renewal buyout or sell his building to a predatory businessman, he finds himself caught between idealism and brutal reality. August Wilson's searing portrait of African-American life in the '60s tells a complex story of the inner lives of ordinary people at a turning point in American history.
(Strong language)

A Streetcar Named Desire

by Tennessee Williams
April 17 – November 2
Directed by Christopher Liam Moore

Steamy showdown

Southern aristocrat Blanche, down on her luck, is reduced to living with her sister Stella and Stella's pugnacious blue-collar husband, Stanley. Life with them in their tiny tenement apartment is unbearable until a kindly suitor appears and seems to offer Blanche a ticket to a better life. But Stanley, bristling at Blanche's high-handed dismissal of him, sets out to dismantle her genteel façade, hurtling them toward an epic battle in Williams' Pulitzer Prize–winning classic.

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Angus Bowmer Theatre

The Tenth Muse

by Tanya Saracho
July 24 – November 2
World Premiere
Directed by Laurie Woolery

Discovering a dream

In a lively 18th-century convent in colonial Mexico, young nuns and servants unearth a hidden play written by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a nun and famous intellectual who died 20 years earlier after falling out of favor with the church. At night, behind the back of the Mother Superior, they act out Sor Juana's ribald farce, revealing her blazing talent . . . and discovering their own complex bonds of sisterhood. OSF is delighted to present this commission by a rising Mexican playwright.

Ashland's Lithia Park

Lisa Wolpe and Armando Durán, *Seagull* (2012)

King Lear

by William Shakespeare
February 21 – November 3
Directed by Bill Rauch

Ambition is thicker than blood

King Lear is ready to turn his realm over to his three daughters. His plan is simple: Give the biggest piece to the daughter who loves him most. But honeyed words and hubris blind Lear to the true motives of those around him, plunging king and kingdom into a hell of treachery, madness and unspeakable acts—with consequences that reveal the worst and best in human nature. This contemporary staging of Shakespeare's greatest tragedy features two actors playing Lear at alternating performances.

The Unfortunates

by 3 Blind Mice (Jon Beavers, Ramiz Monsef and Ian Merrigan) and singer-songwriter Casey Hurt; additional material by Kristoffer Diaz
March 27 – November 2
World Premiere
Directed by Shana Cooper

Don't lose the song

Facing death during wartime, five soldiers sing to keep terror at bay. Through a variety of American musical genres, they re-enact the story of Big Joe, a tough bartender who is transformed by his love of Rae, an armless courtesan—and risks everything to save her from a deadly plague. This astonishing, homegrown OSF creation combines the heat of a gospel revival with the sweet sorrow of the blues to convince us that any untenable life situation can be faced with dignity, grace and compassion.

The Liquid Plain

by Naomi Wallace
July 2 – November 3
World Premiere
Directed by Kwame Kwei-Armah

Plunging beneath the surface

On the docks of late 18th-century Rhode Island, two runaway slaves find love and a near-drowned man. With a motley band of sailors, they plan a desperate and daring run to freedom. As the mysteries of their identities come to light, painful truths about the past and present collide and flow into the next generation. Acclaimed playwright Naomi Wallace's newest work brings to life a group of people whose stories have been lost in history. Told with lyricism and power, *The Liquid Plain* was commissioned through OSF's *American Revolutions: the United States History Cycle*.

Christopher Livingston, *Party People* (2012)

Cymbeline

by William Shakespeare
June 4 – October 11
Directed by Bill Rauch

An action-adventure fairy tale

Princess Imogen's stepmother wants to kill her. Her father, King Cymbeline, is no help. Meanwhile, Imogen's love, Posthumus, thinks she's cheating on him. What's a wronged royal to do? Swap the skirts for pants and run away disguised as a boy into the magical wilds of Shakespeare's ancient Britain, that's what. In true fairy-tale style, the improbable becomes probable in an epic, adventurous romance filled with kind strangers, dastardly villains, ghosts, gods and lost princes. The high road to happily-ever-after awaits.

The Heart of Robin Hood

by David Farr
June 5 – October 12
U.S. Premiere
Directed by Joel Sass

Can a hood become a hero?

All is not well in Nottingham. A cruel prince is terrorizing the countryside, the poor are up to their quivers in taxes, and Robin Hood has learned to steal from the rich—but hasn't figured out the other part. To the rescue comes a sword-wielding, sharp-witted Maid Marion, who sets out to show Robin and his scary men that there *can* be honor among thieves. David Farr's funny, fast-paced swashbuckler will surprise you with a new spin on a story you think you know.

Animal Crackers (2012)

Elizabethan Stage/ Allen Pavilion

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare
June 6 – October 13
Directed by Christopher Liam Moore

School's out!

Hermia loves her schoolmate Lysander, but her father wants her to marry Demetrius—who's also the heartthrob of her best-friend-forever, Helena. Threatened with death or a convent if she doesn't do what Daddy wants, Hermia and Lysander ditch school and head for the woods. With Helena and Demetrius in hot pursuit, they—and some well-meaning, artistically challenged faculty members—run right into a magical free-for-all between Oberon, the Fairy King, and Titania, his Fairy Queen. It's a wild night for lovers and lunatics, swirling with Elizabethan flourishes, in this family-friendly comedy.

"For the soul who equally embraces the pleasures of mind and body, Ashland is like a dream . . . quite simply the biggest little town you'll ever see and wish you never had to leave."

—Washington Post