

Press Release: APT Announces Core Company Updates; Witch Extension



AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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For photos or interviews, please contact:
Jess Amend, 608-588-9240, jamend@americanplayers.org

APT ANNOUNCES CORE COMPANY UPDATES; WITCH EXTENSION

Three actors to join company; pivotal player Sarah Day celebrates APT retirement

SPRING GREEN, WIS. — American Players Theatre (APT) has announced the addition of three actors — La Shawn Banks, Casey Hoekstra and Triney Sandoval — to the theater’s Core Acting Company along with the retirement of veteran stage star Sarah Day after 40 seasons.

Established in 1999, APT’s Core Company was created with the mission of building an artistic home and culture for returning artists. Since then, the Core Company has expanded to 18 actors, the latest inductees being [Phoebe González](#), [Josh Krause](#), [Samantha Newcomb](#) and [Laura Rook](#) in 2024.

[La Shawn Banks](#) has performed at APT for over ten seasons, most recently appearing in the 2025 productions of ‘ART,’ *The Barber and The Unnamed Prince* and *The Winter’s Tale*. In 2026, Banks will lead the regional premiere of Nick Green’s *Casey and Diana*.

[Casey Hoekstra](#) has joined APT for over seven seasons, appearing last season as a tandem-Puck in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and as Daniel in *Tribes*. In 2026, Hoekstra will return in the new adaptations of *Uncle Vanya*, *The Two “Gentlemen” of Verona* and *Witch*.

[Triney Sandoval](#) enters his fifth season performing at APT, most recently as part of the 2025 season in ‘ART,’ (alongside Banks), *Picnic* and *Anna in the Tropics*. In 2026, Sandoval will be featured in the theater’s productions of *As You Like It*, *The Two “Gentlemen” of Verona*, *Witch* and as Horace Vandergelder in *The Matchmaker*.

Artistic Director Brenda DeVita said the following about the addition of Banks, Hoekstra and Sandoval: “Each of the Core Company members act as a leader within APT’s community, raising the bar with their talent and individual gifts. By example, each leads authentically. These newest members all have their own unique strengths. La Shawn is a high-impact human and artist, with a love of language and a commitment to putting his whole person into the process. Casey is a super hard worker and risk-taker who has an undeniable intensity and passion for the craft of acting. And Triney has a remarkable authenticity, a steadfast workmanship and deep confidence that quietly anchors a production. They all have their own ways into excellence and will be extremely valuable modeling their approach to the work for the company. Already, they resonate deeply with our audience, who I know will be excited to see them grow with us for years to come. I know I am.”

A Beloved APT Actor Retires

This season also marks the retirement of legendary actor [Sarah Day](#) from the Core Company. Day began acting at APT in the 1986 and has appeared in over 110 productions across 40 seasons – more than any other actor in the theater’s history.

While Day will not appear in the 2026 season, she intends to continue participating in play readings and other APT projects during her retirement. DeVita shares more about the foundational role Day has played in the legacy of APT. “Sarah Day is woven into the very fabric of APT. There are very few people I think should be called Dame in the United States, but if there was one person, it would be Sarah. Dame Day has made a life in the theater; she’s a voracious learner. I like to say she is the ‘quintessential apprentice.’ Her curiosity is boundless. I’ve had the privilege of having a front row seat to watch Sarah embody iconic, larger-than-life ladies like Queen Gertrude (*Hamlet*), Mrs. Malaprop (*The Rivals*) and Mrs. Hardcastle (*She Stoops to Conquer*), and I am deeply grateful for that. She’s an invaluable pillar to so much of what APT is, and watching her evolve and mature alongside this

organization, with purpose and grace, has been, in itself, an education. Over her 40 seasons, Sarah has learned how to be a brilliant artist as well as a remarkable human being. She has always been clear about being of service to the work, about devoting her life to something, and it is an inspiration and a gift to all of us who have been lucky enough to be in her orbit."

Day reflected on her APT career, sharing: "As I retire from APT, I want to emphasize my immense gratitude for everyone who has been a part of my experience. Having spent the majority of my career working at American Players Theatre and having spanned APT's three artistic directors, I'm deeply grateful to have worked with a community of talented artists, technicians, directors and actors, all dedicated to the work of theater. Above all, I am exceedingly grateful to the audience, whose lovely response and active listening has been essential to the spirit of APT from the start."

[Photo Gallery for La Shawn Banks, Casey Hoekstra and Triney Sandoval available here.](#)

[Photo Gallery for Sarah Day available here.](#)

Password for both galleries: **apt**

'Witch' to Extend Performance Run, and the 2026 Season

APT has also announced the extension of their ninth production of the season, [Witch](#) by Jen Silverman. Due to high demand, the play (featuring Nate Burger, Casey Hoekstra, Colleen Madden, Samantha Newcomb, Triney Sandoval & Trevyn Wong) will add a week of performances, extending the run, as well as the 2026 season, to Sunday, November 22. The added performances are expected to sell out, and interested parties are encouraged to purchase their tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Tickets for the 2026 season are currently on-sale to returning patrons. Ticket sales open to the general public on Monday, April 27. For more information on the 2026 season, please contact the APT Box Office at boxoffice@americanplayers.org or visit the APT website (americanplayers.org).

The 2026 Plays

In the Hill Theatre

As You Like It

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Laura Rook

Rosalind and Celia are best friends and cousins. But when Celia's father, the Duke, begins to see Rosalind as a threat to his daughter's future prosperity, the two women prepare disguises (with Rosalind pretending to be a boy named Ganymede) and escape to the Forest of Arden. Meanwhile, Orlando, a young gentleman who had previously fallen for Rosalind, is also forced to flee to that very same forest. There, he meets "Ganymede," who promises to teach him how to woo Rosalind. All that plus a band of merry forest-dwelling misfits make for a great Shakespearean comedy.

The Matchmaker

By Thornton Wilder

Directed by Brian Cowing

Prepare to be dazzled by Wilder's sparkling farce about love and class. At the heart of the story, the resourceful Dolly Levi, a professional meddler with a knack for arranging other people's lives (and she may just uncover a few surprises for herself while she's at it). When Dolly is called upon to find a wife for infamous curmudgeon Horace Vandergelder - hilarity ensues. Fueled by chaos and mistaken identity, with twists and turns a plenty, *The Matchmaker* celebrates the delightful messiness of human connection and the notion that everyone deserves a little adventure.

Uncle Vanya

By Anton Chekhov

Adapted by Nate Burger

Directed by Brenda DeVita

A crisp, entertaining new adaptation of Chekhov's timeless story about longing, regret and missed opportunities. On a quiet country estate, Vanya and his niece Sonya have worked the land for years to support Sonya's father Serebryakov, a self-important professor who now resides at the estate with his free-spirited new wife, Yelena. Tensions simmer and desires ignite among the denizens of this little plot of land, as they debate and needle; dream and love beneath the shadow of impending change. Contains adult themes and language.

The Two "Gentlemen" of Verona

By William Shakespeare

Adapted & Directed by Aaron Posner

Renowned playwright Aaron Posner breathes new life into one of Shakespeare's earliest comedies. Proteus and Valentine are childhood friends, but the time has come for them to set out to explore their future prospects. Proteus follows his heart toward Julia, while Valentine follows his to Milan to seek his fortunes. But when Proteus is forced by his father to follow Valentine to Milan, they both fall in love with Silvia. Promises will be broken and relationships tested, but with a little help from the ladies, a couple clowns, a charming dog and a group of outlaws, most may yet be put to rights. A lively coming-of-age story last seen at APT over a decade ago.

Sueño

Translated & Adapted by José Rivera

From the play by Pedro Calderón de la Barca

Directed by Marcela Lorca

A theatrical exploration of fate vs free will, Prince Segismundo is imprisoned from birth, based on a prophesy that claimed he grow into a tyrant. But as time passes, his father, King Basilio, has regrets. So he decides to release Segismundo to test if he's really all that bad. And if it turns out he is? They'll just return him to his prison and tell him his freedom was all a dream. Throw in a damsel in disguise, a salty servant and power-hungry couple with relationship issues, and you get a funny, absurd and strangely beautiful take on a 17th century classic. Contains adult themes and language.

In the Touchstone Theatre

Casey and Diana

By Nick Green

Directed by Michael Herwitz

In 1991, as the AIDS epidemic devastates the gay community and stokes global stigma, a Toronto hospice prepares for a remarkable visitor: Princess Diana. Her arrival offering a glimmer of hope for understanding and compassion. As patients and caregivers prepare for the big day, they share stories, fears, and moments of joy—reminding each other of their strength and humanity in the face of loss. A tender, unflinching drama about resilience, dignity and the small acts of grace that hold the power to change lives. Contains adult themes and language.

The Chairs

By Eugène Ionesco

Directed by Vanessa Stalling

It's been a few years since APT has had an absurdist on stage ([Exit the King, 2018](#)), and Ionesco is among the best of the genre. An elderly couple waits in a remote house for an Orator to lead a grand, scientific lecture. As the guests begin to "arrive," the couple scrambles to seat them all while holding increasingly surreal conversations. A "tragic farce" - clownish, quirky and existential – just the way we like our Theatre of the absurd. Featuring Colleen Madden and James Ridge, and directed by Vanessa Stalling ([Constellations, 2024](#)). Contains adult themes and language.

Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea

By Nathan Alan Davis

Directed by Tyrone Phillips

Dontrell is a teenager with a bright future and an ancestry haunted by water. As he prepares to leave for college, he's pulled inevitably toward his family's mysterious history, and an ancestor lost at sea long ago. Driven by dreams, Dontrell searches for connection to his past as his family attempts to anchor him in the present. A lyrical, funny and theatrical exploration of love, legacy and self-discovery. Contains adult themes and language.

Opening in October

Witch

By Jen Silverman

Directed by Keira Fromm

The Devil is making the rounds in Edmonton, trading favors for souls. And business is booming. Everybody wants something – love, power or just a little validation – and they're willing to pay dearly. But Scratch may have met his match in Elizabeth, a woman living on the outskirts of town who people believe to be a witch. As they play a flirty cat and mouse game, events in the village take on a life of their own. Jen Silverman's ([The Moors, 2022](#)) wickedly entertaining retelling of the story of The Witch of Edmonton, hitting the Touchstone just in time for spooky season. Contains adult themes and language

About the Theatre

American Players Theatre (APT) is a professional repertory theater devoted to great and future classics. Founded in 1979, APT continues to be one of the most popular and critically acclaimed outdoor classical theaters in the nation (2025 recipient of *Newsweek's* Best Outdoor Theater Performance.)

APT is located in Spring Green, Wis., on 110 acres of hilly woods and meadows above the Wisconsin River. The outdoor amphitheater sits within a natural hollow atop an oak-wooded hill surrounded by prairie. Under the dome of sky, world class artists perform for a house of up to 1,075. In 2009, APT opened an indoor space, the Touchstone Theatre, offering a different, more intimate play-going experience for 201 audience members.

To learn more, visit americanplayers.org

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