

Press Release: Artistic Director Brenda DeVita to Retire in December 2029 after 35 Seasons



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Artistic Director Brenda DeVita to Retire in December 2029 after 35 Seasons APT to Launch Search for Successor in October 2026

SPRING GREEN, WIS: American Players Theatre's (APT's) visionary, long-time [Artistic Director Brenda DeVita](#) will retire at the end of the theater's 50th season in December of 2029. She has been on staff since 1995 and has been the Artistic Director since 2014. The Board of Directors will begin the search for her successor this fall.

About her upcoming retirement, Ms. DeVita said: "It's hard to believe it's coming up on 35 years that I've been at APT! It's been the greatest honor and challenge of my life to work here among all these brilliant, talented and hardworking people. APT has been my whole career, and it has been an incredible gift. I could not be more grateful to have had the chance to grow inside of this magical and miraculous place. I love APT and everyone involved in making this place work. I will miss them very much. But I truly believe it is a great time for APT to find the next passionate leader to move our community forward. It's the best job in the world."

Ms. DeVita began her APT career as company manager in 1995 and soon became an integral member of the artistic staff before joining the leadership team as Associate Artistic Director in 2004. She was appointed Artistic Director in 2014. During her tenure, she was instrumental in developing the Core Acting Company, the Voice and Text Program, the Acting Apprentice Program and the addition of the Touchstone Theatre in 2009. Her leadership was crucial in diversifying APT's acting company and artistic staff, as well as the play selection. She also led the \$8 million renovation of the Hill Theatre in 2017. She started The Language Project, a training program for early-career actors, which draws on APT's skills to analyze and perform poetic texts. Ms. DeVita received an honorary doctorate from Ripon College and is the recipient of the Arts Midwest Peter Capell Award for Midwestern Creativity and Entrepreneurship. Under her leadership, APT received the 2026 Regional Theatre Tony Award.

Ms. DeVita is a critically acclaimed director, having directed a dozen plays at APT, including *Uncle Vanya*, *Picnic*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Proof*, *Mary's Wedding*, among others. Before coming to APT, she spent eight years as a professional actor with credits across the Midwest.

Board President Robert Zellers said, "Brenda has been an extraordinary leader for our Theatre. She has earned great respect and affection from her actors and other theater artists, from her co-workers and from the APT Board of Directors. Her contributions to the growth and success of APT are numerous and lasting. We are grateful she has given us time to find a successor who will continue her dedication and commitment to APT's artists, staff and audience while leading us into our next chapter of growth. We look forward to celebrating her full legacy in 2029, APT's 50th year."

The Search for APT's Next Artistic Director

APT will soon begin the search process for their next Artistic Director. The position will be posted in October, with the interview process taking place throughout 2027. The Board of Directors expects to appoint an Artistic Director Designate to begin early in 2028. The theater has planned for significant overlap between Ms. DeVita and the Artistic Director Designate to allow for transfer of knowledge. APT is searching for a leader who will carry the APT vision forward, bringing their own curiosity and ideas to an organization with deep roots and strong community, as well as significant momentum. More information about the position and how to apply will be available on the APT website when the position is posted in October.

Ms. DeVita said, "I'm not sure what I'll do with all my time in retirement, but I am excited to spend some summer nights and weekends with my family – something I have not done much in the last 30 years! I love directing, and I hope to continue to direct at APT and elsewhere in the future. And of course, I'll continue to help APT in whatever way is appropriate and productive. My heart is full of gratitude."

Media Gallery

Find photos of Ms. DeVita throughout her career and production photos from her directorial projects in the gallery link below. Photo credits are included with individual files.

Brenda DeVita Retirement Gallery

Password: **devita** (case sensitive)

About American Players 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 and was named the recipient of the [2026 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre earlier this summer](#).

APT is located in Spring Green, Wisconsin, 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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