

PRESS RELEASE: APT Opens 2026 Season with 'As You Like It' Saturday Night



AMERICAN PLAYERS
THEATRE

American Players Theatre Opens 2026 Season with *As You Like It*

Theater celebrates 47th season and recent Tony recognition

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SPRING GREEN, WIS. — **American Players Theatre (APT)** will welcome audiences for the first official opening night of their 2026 season this Saturday, June 13 at 8:00 PM with an exuberant and romantic production of William Shakespeare's comedy *As You Like It*. Directed by Core Company member Laura Rook (*Once Upon a Bridge*, 2023) in her Hill Theatre debut, this delightful tale of friendship, poetry and finding love in the woods is led by Core Company member Samantha Newcomb as Rosalind, the largest female role in Shakespeare's cannon. Along on the adventure are actors Sola Thompson as best friend Celia, Elizabeth Ledo as wise-cracking clown Touchstone and Derrick Moore as lovesick Orlando.

Also featured in this lush storybook production are actors James Ridge, Rasell Holt, Sam Luis Massaro, Triney Sandoval, Gavin Lawrence, David Alan Anderson, Tim Gittings, David Daniel, Nate Burger and Josh Krause. *As You Like It* is an effusive and timeless tale, perfect for those looking to escape to the woods for an evening of entertainment.

Production Photos

Production photos for *As You Like It* are now available. Photo credits are included with individual files. Photos by Michael Brosilow.

Gallery: <https://americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/asyoulikeit2026>

Password: touchstone (case sensitive)

On Stage This Week

Two additional productions join the rotation of performances this week. In the Hill Theatre, Thornton Wilder's madcap *The Matchmaker* hosts its first preview Friday, June 12 at 8:00 PM, and the absurdist tragicomedy *The Chairs* by Eugène Ionesco takes the stage in the Touchstone Theatre also on Friday, June 12 at 8:00 PM.

APT at the 79th Tony Awards

American Players Theatre was honored to receive the [2026 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre](#) last Sunday, June 7 at the 79th Tony Awards Ceremony in New York City. The Regional Theatre Tony Award is presented to a company that has displayed a continuous level of artistic achievement contributing to the growth of theatre nationally, and is recommended to The Tony Awards Administration Committee (the American Theatre Wing and The Broadway League) by the American Theatre Critics Association (ATCA).

Artistic Director Brenda DeVita and Managing Director Sara Young accepted the award on behalf of the company, presented by City National Bank EVP – Head of Entertainment & Sports Banking Jahan Wang and Tony-nominee and APT alum Carrie Coon. Find their [full acceptance speech here](#).

The 2026 Plays

In the Hill Theatre

[As You Like It](#)

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Laura Rook

Best friends Rosalind and Celia don disguises and flee to the Forest of Arden. Orlando finds himself in the very same forest, learning how to woo Rosalind from a very wise instructor. All that, plus a band of merry forest-dwelling misfits, make for a great Shakespearean comedy. *June 6 – October 4.*

[The Matchmaker](#)

By Thornton Wilder

Directed by Brian Cowing

Fueled by the legendary Dolly Levi, with twists and turns aplenty, *The Matchmaker* celebrates the delightful messiness of human connection and the notion that everyone deserves a little adventure now and again. *June 12 – October 2.*

[Uncle Vanya](#)

By Anton Chekhov

Adapted by Nate Burger

Directed by Brenda DeVita

Tensions simmer and desires ignite among the denizens of a quiet country estate as they debate and needle, dream and love, beneath the shadow of impending change. *June 19 – September 5.*

[The Two “Gentlemen” of Verona](#)

By William Shakespeare

Adapted & Directed by Aaron Posner

Composer & Co-Lyricist Greg Kotis

Renowned playwright Aaron Posner breathes new life into one of Shakespeare's earliest comedies as we follow friends, first loves, outlaws and a charming dog on an adventure in Milan. *July 31 – October 3*

[Sueño](#)

Translated & Adapted by José Rivera

From the Play by Pedro Calderón de la Barca

Directed by Marcela Lorca

After a lifetime of imprisonment, Prince Segismundo is released to rule in a test of fate vs free will. Add a damsel in disguise, a salty servant, and a power-hungry couple with relationship issues, and you get a funny, absurd, and strangely beautiful take on a 17th-century classic. *August 7 – September 26.*

In the Touchstone Theatre

[The Chairs](#)

By Eugène Ionesco

Translated by Martin Crimp

Directed by Vanessa Stalling

An absurdist tragicomedy that manifests as vaudevillian slapstick — paradoxical, clownish and delightfully strange. Featuring Colleen Madden and James Ridge. *June 12 – September 27.*

[Casey and Diana](#)

By Nick Green

Directed by Michael Herwitz

Princess Diana's visit to a Toronto HIV/AIDS hospice offers a glimmer of hope as patients and caregivers prepare for the big day. A tender, unflinching drama about resilience, dignity and the small acts of grace that hold the power to change lives. *June 23 – September 24*

[Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea](#)

By Nathan Alan Davis

Directed by Tyrone Phillips

Choreography by Victor Musoni

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. *August 1 – September 25.*

Coming Fall 2026

[Witch](#)

By Jen Silverman

Directed by Keira Fromm

Jen Silverman's wickedly entertaining retelling of the story of *The Witch of Edmonton*, hitting the Touchstone just in time for spooky season. *October 22 – November 22.*

[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 and was recently [named the recipient of the 2026 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre](#).

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 hallow 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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