

Press Release: American Classic and French Tragicomedy Take Stage at APT



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American Classic and French Tragicomedy Take Stage at APT

The Matchmaker and *The Chairs* Open Saturday at American Players Theatre

SPRING GREEN, WIS. — [American Players Theatre \(APT\)](#) is preparing to celebrate two more opening nights in their 2026 season this weekend. On Saturday, June 20 at 2:00 PM, Eugène Ionesco's absurdist tragicomedy [The Chairs](#), starring Core Company members Colleen Madden and James Ridge, opens in the Touchstone Theatre. Director Vanessa Stalling returns to the Touchstone Theatre with this theatrical and visceral production following her APT directorial debut in 2024 (*Constellations*).

Then in the evening, Thornton Wilder's high-adventure comedy [The Matchmaker](#), directed and choreographed by Brian Cowing, takes the Hill Stage at 8:00 PM. Starring Core Company member Tracy Michelle Arnold as the titular matchmaker-extraordinaire Dolly Gallagher Levi, *The Matchmaker* is led by an all-star cast including recent Core Company inductee Triney Sandoval as the lovably gruff Horace Vangergelder, Colin Covert, Trevyn Wong, Phoebe González, Ama J. Kuwonu, Josh Krause, Sam Luis Massaro and Brian Mani.

Production Photos

Production photos for *The Matchmaker* and *The Chairs* are now available. Photo credits are included with individual files.

The Matchmaker | Photos by Hannah Jo Anderson

Gallery: americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/thematchmaker2026

Password: dolly (case sensitive)

The Chairs | Photos by Michael Brosilow

Gallery: americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/thechairs2026

Password: ionesco (case sensitive)

Still to Come in June

The final two productions of APT's first rep will hold preview performances this week before opening next Saturday, June 27. In the Hill Theatre, Anton Chekhov's country drama [Uncle Vanya](#) receives a fresh adaptation by Core Company member Nate Burger and directed by Artistic Director Brenda DeVita. Canadian playwright Nick Green's moving [Casey and Diana](#), directed by Michael Herwitz, returns to the

Touchstone Theatre following a triumphant 2024 Winter Words reading, starring Core Company member La Shawn Banks.

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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

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

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

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.

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.*

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 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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