

# Press Release: 'Uncle Vanya' and 'Casey and Diana' complete first rep in APT season



AMERICAN PLAYERS  
THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026, AT 10:00 AM

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## Spotlight on Emotional Performances in Final June Openings

*Uncle Vanya* and *Casey and Diana* complete first rep in APT season

**SPRING GREEN, WIS.** — [American Players Theatre \(APT\)](#) is setting the stage for their final two June productions to open this weekend. Today, June 27 at 2:00 PM, Nick Green's [Casey and Diana](#), directed by Michael Herwitz, opens in APT's Touchstone Theatre. This intimate and empowering story chronicles the days leading up to Princess Diana's historic visit to Casey House, the first HIV/AIDS hospice in Canada. Captained by Core Company member La Shawn Banks' breakthrough performance as Thomas, *Casey and Diana* also features Dee Dee Batteast, Elizabeth Ledo, Colleen Madden, Joe Meyer and Hannah Ruwe.

This evening in the Hill Theatre, Nate Burger's new adaptation of Anton Chekhov's influential [Uncle Vanya](#) premieres under the direction of Artistic Director Brenda DeVita. Burger, an APT Core Company member, first previewed this adaptation during a Winter Words reading in 2023. This production is included in [World Premiere Wisconsin's](#) 2026 festival of new plays around the state. Starring Core Company member Marcus Truschinski as the titular Vanya, the Russian family drama is supported by an ensemble of exceptional players — Leslie Brott, Maggie Cramer, David Daniel, Casey Hoekstra, Tracie Lane, Brian Mani and Karen Janes Woditsch.

### Production Photos

Production photos for *Uncle Vanya* and *Casey and Diana* are now available. Photo credits are included with individual files.

#### **Uncle Vanya | Photos by Michael Brosilow**

Gallery: [americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/unclevanya2026](https://americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/unclevanya2026)

Password: vodka (case sensitive)

#### **Casey and Diana | Photos by Michael Brosilow**

Gallery: [americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/caseyandidana2026](https://americanplayerstheatre.zenfolio.com/caseyandidana2026)

Password: princess (case sensitive)

### **Still to Come this Summer**

With the first five productions of the season officially open, APT will turn their attention to constructing and rehearsing the next three shows, set to open this August. Nathan Alan Davis' flowing [Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea](#) will complete the Touchstone Theatre's summer production lineup, while Aaron Posner's new adaptation of [The Two "Gentlemen" of Verona](#) along with [Sueño](#), translated and adapted by José Rivera, will play the Hill Theatre.

## 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 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](http://americanplayers.org)

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