

## SHOW SYNOPSES 2023-2024

**(9/29-10/14) RIPCORN** – David Lindsay-Abaire

### **SCRIPT**

A sunny room on an upper floor is prime real estate in the Bristol Place Senior Living Facility, so when the cantankerous Abby is forced to share her quarters with new-arrival Marilyn, she has no choice but to get rid of the infuriatingly chipper woman by any means necessary. A seemingly harmless bet between the old women quickly escalates into a dangerous game of one-upmanship that reveals not just the tenacity of these worthy opponents, but also deeper truths that each would rather remain hidden.

**(11/24 - 12/9) THE CHRISTMAS SCHOONER** – Book by John Reeger; Music and Lyrics by Julie Shannon

### **SCRIPT**

Take a ride on *The Christmas Schooner*! The whole family will enjoy this heart-warming story of the first Christmas tree ship and the family who risked their lives to fill Chicago with the Christmas spirit. This critically acclaimed musical features a powerfully moving story and an exquisite score of both original music and traditional holiday favorites.

Based on the historic Great Lakes voyages of Christmas tree ships during the late 1800s and early 1900s, *The Christmas Schooner* tells the true story of a Michigan shipping captain who braves the deadly winter weather to bring Christmas trees to homesick German-American families in turn-of-the-century Chicago. His voyages become a yearly tradition, despite his wife's misgivings – until a fateful voyage makes her realize the true importance of his mission.

A timely and stirring tale of love and loss, *The Christmas Schooner* reminds us of tradition, family and responsibility. This delightful holiday musical requires strong male talent and a sensibility for classically inspired material.

**(2/23 - 3/16) BEAUTY & THE BEAST** – Music by Alan Menken; Lyrics by Howard Ashman Tim Rice; Book by Linda Woolverton

### **SCRIPT**

The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity. This "tale as old as time" is filled with spectacular costume and set opportunities or, even more simply staged, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* offers a great opportunity to bring your entire community together for family theatre at its best.

**(3/29 - 4/7) RADIUM GIRLS – D.W. Gregory**

**SCRIPT**

PLEASE NOTE: *Because of the demands on the theatre with two large musicals on either side of it, RADIUM GIRLS will require a minimalist setting. Please make that part of your creative thinking and presentation.*

In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage—until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, Radium Girls traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder, an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumors could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case goes on, however, Grace finds herself battling not just with the U.S. Radium Corporation, but with her own family and friends, who fear that her campaign for justice will backfire. Written with warmth and humor, Radium Girls is a fast-moving, highly theatrical ensemble piece for 9 to 10 actors, who play more than 30 parts—friends, co-workers, lovers, relatives, attorneys, scientists, consumer advocates, and myriad interested bystanders. Called a "powerful" and "engrossing" drama by critics, Radium Girls offers a wry, unflinching look at the peculiarly American obsessions with health, wealth, and the commercialization of science.

**(5/3 - 5/25) THE WEDDING SINGER – Music byMatthew Sklar; Book byChad Beguelin Tim Herlihy; Lyrics byChad Beguelin Based on the New Line Cinema film written by Tim Herlihy**

**SCRIPT**

*The Wedding Singer* takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up and a wedding singer might just be the coolest guy in the room. Based on the hit Adam Sandler movie, *The Wedding Singer's* sparkling new score does for the '80s what *Hairspray* did for the '60s. Just say yes to the most romantic musical in twenty years.

It's 1985, and rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer. He's the life of the party until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own. Enter Julia, a winsome waitress who wins his affection. As luck would have it, Julia is about to be married to a Wall Street shark, and, unless Robbie can pull off the performance of a decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever.

*The Wedding Singer* features a large chorus with many featured roles for actors who sing, and dancers who act. This show works perfectly as a high school's featured musical or as the highlight of any regional season.

## POP-UP STUDIO PLAYS

(10/27-11/5) **MARIAN, OR THE TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD** - Adam Szymkowicz

### SCRIPT

A gender-bending, patriarchy-smashing, hilarious new take on the classic tale. Robin Hood is (and has always been) Maid Marian in disguise, and leads a motley group of Merry Men (few of whom are actually men) against the greedy Prince John. As the poor get poorer and the rich get richer, who will stand for the vulnerable if not Robin? What is the cost of revealing your true self in a time of trouble?

Modern concerns and romantic entanglements clash on the battlefield and on the ramparts of Nottingham Castle in this play about selfishness, selflessness, love deferred and the fight. Always the fight. The fight must go on.

(1/26 - 2/4) **CIRC:E MIRROR TRANSFORMATION** - Annie Baker

### SCRIPT

When four lost New Englanders who enroll in Marty's six-week-long community-center drama class begin to experiment with harmless games, hearts are quietly torn apart, and tiny wars of epic proportions are waged and won. A beautifully crafted diorama, a petri dish in which we see, with hilarious detail and clarity, the antic sadness of a motley quintet.

"Annie Baker's play is an absolute feast. CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION is the kind of unheralded gem that sends people into the streets babbling and bright-eyed with the desire to spread the word. The play traces the lives of a handful of small-town Vermont residents who gather each week for an acting class taught at the local community center. By the play's end we seem to see to the very bottom of these souls, and feel how the artificial intimacy of the acting class has shaped their lives in substantial ways."—NY Times. "