



# 2017-2018 CALENDAR

## A Season of Groundbreakers at RLT!

The shows comprising our Groundbreakers Season depict characters who find themselves in new territories, facing obstacles that test their limits and beliefs. From lovers who must decide whether to remain silent for their own safety or stand to oppression, to a woman fighting for a chance to break into a male dominated field, to a man who must stand up to the monster he created in the name of love, their stories ask how far we will go for what we believe in. Like last season, 9 of the 11 plays have never been produced here before, and we are excited to premiere a new adaptation of Tim Tyson's *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Mike Wiley. We hope you'll join us in the conversations started by each one of these incredible plays.

-Patrick Torres, Artistic Director

### SUTTON SERIES

- Crowns** Gospel Musical  
August 25 - September 10 **RE** **ST**
- Little Shop of Horrors** Musical Comedy  
February 9 - 25 **RE** **ST**
- Don't Dress for Dinner** Comedy  
June 8 - 24 **RE** **ST**

### FAMILY SERIES

- Grace for President** Musical  
October 13 - 22 **GA** **NC**
- Beanstalk! The Musical!**  
March 16 - April 1 **GA** **GG**
- Alice @ Wonderland** Musical  
April 13 - 22 **RE** **ST**

### CITY SERIES

- Perfect Arrangement** Dark Comedy  
October 27 - November 12 **RE** **ST**
- What We're Up Against** Comedy  
January 12 - 28 **GA** **GG**
- Blood Done Sign My Name** Drama  
May 11 - 27 **GA** **GG**

### HOLIDAY MUSICAL

- Cinderella** Musical  
December 1 - 17 **RE** **ST**

### TEENS ON STAGE/TEENS BACKSTAGE

- The Tempest** Classic Musical  
July 21 - 30 **GA** **GG**

- GA** General Admission
- RE** Reserved
- ST** Cantey V. Sutton Theatre
- GG** Gaddy-Goodwin Teaching Theatre
- NC** North Carolina Museum of History

JULY 2017						
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AUGUST 2017						
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SEPTEMBER 2017						
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OCTOBER 2017						
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NOVEMBER 2017						
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DECEMBER 2017						
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JANUARY 2018						
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FEBRUARY 2018						
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MARCH 2018						
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APRIL 2018						
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MAY 2018						
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JUNE 2018						
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## SUTTON SERIES

FOR GENERAL AUDIENCES *Thursday - Saturday at 8PM, Sunday at 3PM*

### *Crowns Gospel Musical*

By Regina Taylor. Adapted from the book by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry.

A moving and celebratory musical play in which hats become a springboard for an exploration of Black history and identity is seen through the eyes of a young black woman who has come down South to stay with her aunt after her brother is killed in Brooklyn. Hats are everywhere, in exquisite variety, and the characters use the hats to tell tales concerning everything from the etiquette of hats to their historical and contemporary social functioning. There is a hat for every occasion, from flirting to churchgoing to funerals to baptisms, and the tradition of hats is traced back to African rituals and slavery to the New Testament and current fashion.

### *Little Shop of Horrors Musical Comedy*

Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman. Music by Alan Menken.

Based on the film by Roger Corman; screenplay by Charles Griffith.

The meek floral assistant, Seymour Krelborn, stumbles across a new breed of plant that he names "Audrey II" after his coworker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down-and-out Krelborn, as long as he keeps feeding it BLOOD.

Over time, though, Seymour discovers Audrey II's out-of-this-world origins and intent toward global domination!

### *Don't Dress for Dinner Comedy*

By Marc Camoletti.

Bernard is planning a romantic weekend with his mistress in his charming converted French farmhouse, while his wife, Jacqueline, is away. He has arranged for a Cordon Bleu cook to prepare gourmet delights, and has invited his best friend, Robert, along to provide the alibi. It's foolproof. What could possibly go wrong? Well... Suppose Robert turns up, not realizing quite why he has been invited. Suppose Robert and Jacqueline are secret lovers and consequently determined that Jacqueline will not leave for the weekend. Suppose the cook must pretend to be the mistress, and the mistress is unable to cook. Suppose everyone's alibi is confused with everyone else's. An evening of hilarious confusion ensues as Bernard and Robert improvise at breakneck speed.

## CITY SERIES

FOR MATURE AUDIENCES *Thursday - Saturday at 8PM, Sunday at 3PM*

### *Perfect Arrangement Dark Comedy*

By Topher Payne.

It's 1950, and new colors are being added to the Red Scare. Two U.S. State Department employees, Bob and Norma, have been tasked with identifying sexual deviants within their ranks. There's just one problem: Both Bob and Norma are gay, and have married each other's partners as a carefully constructed cover-up. Inspired by the true story of the earliest stirrings of the American Gay Rights Movement, madcap classic sitcom-style laughs give way to provocative drama as two "All-American" couples are forced to stare down the closet door.

### *What We're Up Against Comedy*

By Theresa Rebeck.

Set in a highly competitive architecture firm, this play is an explosive and hilarious look at the complicated battle of the sexes raging across Cubicle Land. A funny, yet insightful, view of what it means to be female in a male-dominated career and one woman's response when she tires of slamming into the glass ceiling.

### *Blood Done Sign My Name Drama*

By Mike Wiley. Adapted from the novel by Tim Tyson.

In this world premier version, Mike Wiley brings to life the recollections of author Tim Tyson surrounding the 1970 murder of Henry "Dickie" Marrow in Oxford, NC, and the events that followed. Marrow, who was black, was chased from a local store by three white men after reportedly making a crude remark to one of the men's wives. They brutally beat Marrow, and then killed him with a bullet to the head in view of multiple witnesses. Despite the eyewitness reports, an all-white jury acquitted the men. The town's black community responded to the events with an uprising that destroyed downtown businesses and several tobacco warehouses that held at least a million dollars in harvested crops. Tyson, who was 10 at the time, recounts how the conflagration of events shaped his life. He offers us an opportunity to examine our own roles in the complex and often confusing racial fabric of America.

## FAMILY SERIES

FOR ALL AGES

*Thursday & Friday at 7:30PM, Saturday & Sunday at 1 & 5PM*

### *Grace for President Musical*

Presented at Daniels Auditorium in partnership with the North Carolina Museum of History (5 East Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh)

Based on the book by Kelly S. DiPucchio.

Book illustrations by LeUyen Pham. Book, music, and lyrics by Joan Cushing.

One day in class, Grace Campbell discovered that there has never been a female president.

"Where are the girls?" she asked, as her third-grade teacher rolls out a poster of all 44 U.S. presidents. Frustrated by the lack of female faces in the White House, Grace decides she wants to be president and inspires a school election. She seems the likely winner until the most popular boy runs against her. Through the throes of campaigning and pep rallies, service projects and posters, Grace and her classmates discover what it takes to be the best candidate and find the fun and hilarity in the wonderful world of politics!

### *Beanstalk! The Musical!*

Book by Ross Mihalco and Donna Swift. Music by Linda Berg. Lyrics by Ross Mihalco.

Exactly like nothing that you've ever seen before, not even in a book! This fun, family show follows the adventures of Jack, a young boy with his head in the clouds and his nose in a book of fairy tales. Filled with hilarious characters, toe-tapping tunes, and more twists than a climbing vine, this is one show that's guaranteed to grow and grow and grow right into your heart.

### *Alice @ Wonderland Fairytale*

Book by Jonathan Yukich. Music and additional lyrics by Bill Francoeur.

Lyrics by Scott DeTurk

The folly of the 21st century collides with the madness of Wonderland in this rockin' new musical adaptation that remains fairly faithful to Lewis Carroll's original tale. Alice is a texting, tweeting, and googling girl of the modern digital era, but she finds herself in the Wonderland of old. With all of the characters that you know and love including the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, and the Queen of Hearts, this musical imagines a present-day Alice encountering the Wonderland that so many of us treasure. Meanwhile, the younger generation will appreciate and relate to the many references to the digital age.

## HOLIDAY MUSICAL

### *Cinderella Holiday Musical*

Based on the fairy tale by Charles Perrault. Adaptation and lyrics by Jim Eiler.

Music by Jim Eiler and Jeanne Bargy.

*Thursday & Friday at 7:30PM*

*Saturday & Sunday at 1PM & 5PM*

This musical comedy is a holiday sugarplum for the whole family. Just the right mixture of comedy and romance can add the sparkle of magic to your holiday season. This visually stunning musical combines elegant costumes and scenery with singing, dancing, conniving step relatives, and resourceful fairy folk.

## TEENS ON STAGE / TEENS BACKSTAGE

*Friday & Saturday at 7:30 PM*

*Sunday at 3PM*

### *The Tempest Classic Musical*

By William Shakespeare. Adaptation, music, & new lyrics by Todd Almond.

Conceived by Lear DeBessonet.

Originally commissioned and produced by The Public Theatre.

Marooned and left to die on a remote island, Prospero can command spirits, create apparitions, and manipulate the elements. By using his magic, he assembles his enemies to take revenge on them, and in the process, awakens in Miranda, his teenage daughter, her first experience of love. The premiere production showcased 200 New Yorkers from all five boroughs, who shared the stage with professional actors and community partners.