
Dear Educator,

Greetings! We are delighted to introduce A.C.T.'s 2016-17 Student Matinee (SMAT) Program. Whether you're new to A.C.T. or have made our productions a regular part of your school year for decades, we invite you and your students to experience our insightful, engaging, and transformative upcoming season. Read on for your exclusive opportunity to order advance tickets.

One of the first companies in the nation to offer low-cost performance tickets to schoolchildren, A.C.T. has brought the power of live theater to hundreds of thousands of students since the company's arrival in San Francisco in 1967. Each year, our SMAT Program introduces the joy of theatrical storytelling to young audiences from all over the Bay Area and beyond, many of whom would not otherwise attend theater. Join us for the highest-quality productions and unique ACTsmart workshops customized for your students—all at very affordable prices. Only at A.C.T. can you experience theatrical storytelling in its most dynamic expression as we strive to bring you large-scale, multidisciplinary productions of our culture's greatest classic and contemporary dramatic literature.

This season we celebrate A.C.T.'s 50th anniversary with a repertoire of timeless classics and bold new contemporary work that will stretch your students' imaginations while exploring potent issues of history, politics, science, and culture. Together we will examine the moral obligations of 21st-century monarchy in the neo-Shakespearean Broadway hit *King Charles III*; the intersection of war—both ancient and modern—and family in Peter Brook's poetic *Battlefield* and Khaled Hosseini's moving *A Thousand Splendid Suns*; the complex relationship between addiction and artistic genius in Robert Lepage's kaleidoscopic *Needles and Opium*; the search for spiritual meaning in modern science in Tom Stoppard's brilliantly witty *The Hard Problem*; the mysteries of haunted history in Annie Baker's eerie *John*; and, of course, the joyous spirit of the holidays in Dickens's literary masterpiece *A Christmas Carol*. In addition, A.C.T.'s acclaimed Master of Fine Arts Program will make its not-to-be-missed Shakespearean debut on the Strand mainstage in a rollicking production of the Bard's debate- and laugh-provoking *The Taming of the Shrew*. This is a season you and your students simply must see!

My five seasons as A.C.T.'s director of education and community programs have been filled with profoundly inspiring experiences, as I have enjoyed watching and discussing great theater with you and your students. I am deeply impressed by your untiring dedication and the intelligence and openness of your young learners. It is a privilege to attend performances with all of you, and I look forward to the deepening of our relationship as A.C.T.'s arts education programs continue to evolve. Together, I know that we can and will create unforgettable theatrical experiences for you and your students.

THANK YOU for being such a vibrant and integral part of the A.C.T. community. If you have any questions about our ACTsmart education programs, please don't hesitate to call me at 415.439.2475 or email me at ebrodersen@act-sf.org. See you at the theater!

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Brodersen
Director of Education & Community Programs

The following student matinees are scheduled for the 2016-17 season.

Sep 23, 2016, at 1 p.m.
A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

GRADES 8-12

2015 OLIVIER AWARD WINNER FOR BEST NEW PLAY

KING CHARLES III

by **Mike Bartlett**

Directed by **David Muse**

With its bold, blank-verse storytelling and witty echoes of Shakespearean drama, Mike Bartlett's brilliant contemporary work of speculative history blurs the boundaries of truth and tragedy. Queen Elizabeth is dead. Prince Charles ascends to the throne, but what kind of ruler will he make for this once-united kingdom? Flanked by wife Camilla and sons William and Harry, Charles challenges a power-hungry Parliament, but it is his daughter-in-law, ruthless Princess Kate, who shows real ambition for the sceptered isle. Is Charles the man who would be king, or was he born to succeed only in name? Hailed as "fresh, thrilling, and fearlessly comic" (*Entertainment Weekly*), this imaginative glimpse of future history is a theatrical event of crowning achievement. **Contains adult language.**

Oct 28, 2016, at 1 p.m.
A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

GRADES 8-12

WEST COAST PREMIERE OF TOM STOPPARD'S NEWEST WORK

THE HARD PROBLEM

by **Tom Stoppard**

Directed by **Carey Perloff**

Tom Stoppard continues his long-term collaboration with A.C.T. and Artistic Director Carey Perloff on his first new play in nearly a decade, *The Hard Problem*, a provocative drama about science, faith, and supercomputing. Razor-sharp psychology grad Hilary wins a prestigious brain research position that forces her to confront her boyfriend (and math tutor) in a fight to defend the soul, altruism, and even God from modern science. But as she competes for funding against a rival project racing to unlock the mathematical secrets behind stock market risk, Hilary realizes that her biggest threat is closer to home—her own genetic secret. From one of theater's greatest voices, *The Hard Problem* shows Stoppard at his best as he dives deep into this compelling conflict of mind versus matter.

Contains adult language.

Nov 29, 2016, at 1 p.m.
Nov 30, 2016, at 1 p.m.
Dec 1, 2016, at 1 p.m.
A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

GRADES K-12

THE HOLIDAY CLASSIC

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by **Charles Dickens**

Adapted by **Carey Perloff** and **Paul Walsh**

Music by **Karl Lundeberg**

Choreography by **Val Caniparoli**

Directed by **Domenique Lozano**

Based on the original direction by **Carey Perloff**

Featuring a lively cast of dozens, gorgeous costumes, and those deliciously spooky ghosts, the Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition returns with a sparkling, music-infused production of *A Christmas Carol*. Check your "humbugs" at the door!

Feb 10, 2017, at 1 p.m.
A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

GRADES 9-12

WORLD-PREMIERE THEATRICAL ADAPTATION OF THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL

A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

Based on the novel by **Khaled Hosseini**

Adapted by **Ursula Rani Sarma**

Original music written and performed by **David Coulter**

Directed by **Carey Perloff**

The epic story of three generations of Afghan women and their remarkable resilience, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is set amid the war-torn streets of modern-day Kabul. Beautiful Laila, unmarried and pregnant, is forced to marry her older neighbor when her family and home are torn apart. After she forges an extraordinary and unlikely friendship with Mariam, her husband's first wife, the two women find the hope and strength to raise a new generation in a stunning new production featuring live music from renowned composer and saw player David Coulter. "Hosseini's writing makes our hearts ache, our stomachs clench, and our emotions reel" (*USA Today*). **Depicts violence and mature themes.**

Apr 7, 2017, at 1 p.m.
A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

GRADES 8-12

ROBERT LEPAGE'S VISIONARY HIT PLAY

NEEDLES AND OPIUM

Written and Directed by **Robert Lepage**

Jazz legend Miles Davis travels to Europe in 1949 to discover the pleasures of Paris, unlock his creativity, and find his heroine in Juliette Gréco. At the same time, French filmmaker Jean Cocteau embarks on his own opium-fueled journey to New York. Individually, the stories are thrilling and heartbreaking, but what elevates this production is the extraordinary storytelling. Visionary Canadian director Robert Lepage mounts his set inside a vast suspended cube, with which he frames interlocking scenes from the different journeys. The result is not only a breathtaking dive into art and exile but also a spellbinding mix of stagecraft and visual storytelling. **Depicts mature themes.**

Apr 18, 2017, at 1 p.m.
A.C.T.'s Strand Theater

GRADES 8-12

THE LATEST HIT FROM THE 2014 PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT

JOHN

by **Annie Baker**

Directed by **Ken Rus Schmoll**

A haunting story that took off-Broadway by storm, *John* is the latest hit from American theater's hottest new voice—2014 Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Baker (*The Flick*). Jenny and Elias show up at an old bed-and-breakfast in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania—he wants to tour the historic battlegrounds; she wants to be left alone. But in the creaking house they find something unsettling. Is it the spirits of the Civil War dead? The smiling dolls that line the rooms? Or their curious landlady, Mertis, who switches their bedroom because "the Jackson Room can be a little temperamental"? A delicious nerve-jangler hailed as "a true masterpiece!" (*Slate*), this is a visceral ghost story with a millennial twist that will haunt the intimate Strand Theater. **Contains adult language.**

May 5, 2017, at 1 p.m.
A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

GRADES 6-12

LEGENDARY DIRECTOR PETER BROOK RETURNS TO A.C.T.

BATTLEFIELD

Based on *The Mahabharata* and the play by **Jean-Claude Carrière**
Adapted and Directed by **Peter Brook** and **Marie-Hélène Estienne**

Following his stunning worldwide success with *The Suit*, which played to standing ovations and sold-out houses at A.C.T. in 2014, legendary director Peter Brook is back. Thirty years after Brook's groundbreaking adaptation of the Indian epic *The Mahabharata*, the director has created an intimate new interpretation and staging of this timeless tale in perhaps his finest work. A newly crowned king surveys a postwar battlefield—his army has won him the crown, but at what price? Written almost 2,500 years ago, *The Mahabharata's* magical story of finding tranquility in the midst of war and destruction has striking connections to modern times, and has inspired some of Brook's most beautiful images and most transformative theatrical moments. "Like a zen master, Peter Brook refines and concentrates his theater ever more. He offers us a play that resembles a perfect and suspended movement, light as a breath" (*Le Monde*).

Master of Fine Arts Program Performances

The top-ranked A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program offers a rigorous, three-year course of training designed for the most promising young actors. Celebrated alumni include Annette Bening, Elizabeth Banks, Benjamin Bratt, and Denzel Washington. Join us for the following productions, which bring your students up close to these young artists for masterful performances and lively postshow chats.

Sep 29, 2016, at 1 p.m.
A.C.T.'s Costume Shop

GRADES 8-12

THE CREATED MOVEMENT PROJECT

Directed by **Lisa Townsend**

Bay Area choreographer Lisa Townsend uses innovative techniques to guide M.F.A. Program students in devising unconventional new work drawn from their own experiences.

May contain adult language.

Oct 6, 2016, at 1 p.m.
The Rueff at The Strand

GRADES 8-12

LOVE AND A BOTTLE

by **George Farquhar**

Adapted by **Declan Hughes**

Directed by **Nancy Benjamin**

George Farquhar, the Irish playwright who would make his name with *The Beaux' Stratagem*, cut his teeth with this racy Restoration comedy, one of the first plays produced in the new United States (in 1783 at the Baltimore Theatre). The story is set in eighteenth-century London, where playwright Lyrick struggles to write a story, until he conjures up the fictional libertine Roebuck. But no sooner is the play taking shape than Lyrick's characters, including the bed-hopping hero and a coterie of powerful women, seize control of his narrative. Restoration comedies often featured women as subordinates, so this sexy story of strong women turning the tables on the men offers a fresh (and surprising!) perspective.

Oct 19, 2016, at 1 p.m.
Oct 20, 2016, at 1 p.m.
Oct 21, 2016, at 1 p.m.
A.C.T.'s Strand Theater

GRADES 8-12

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

by **William Shakespeare**
Directed by **Stephen Buescher**

Shakespeare's classic comedy of love and deception has enjoyed a polarizing reputation. Some critics have viewed its story of tough love (Petruccio putting Kate through a grueling romantic bootcamp) as misogynistic. But its feisty heroine also offers a key to different perspectives. At a time when discussions on gender top political agendas nationwide, *The Taming of the Shrew* (the first Shakespeare play that will be staged at the new Strand Theater) is packed with timely and provocative questions. How do contemporary attitudes to feminism compare to the story presented in the play? What really happens beyond the "happily ever after" in a relationship? And what societal expectations do young women face today?

Mar 6-17, 2017

WILL ON WHEELS SHAKESPEARE TOUR

ROMEO AND JULIET

by **William Shakespeare**

Our popular annual Shakespeare tour to schools continues in the 2016-17 season! If you would like information about availability for this year's tour, please email education@act-sf.org.

Additional M.F.A. Program productions will be announced in August.

Act Now

Student matinee performances sell out quickly, so act now to guarantee your seats.

Reserve seats by mailing in the enclosed order form, faxing it to **415.749.2291**, or emailing it to smat@act-sf.org.

Stay Tuned

Information about other productions presented by the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program will be forthcoming in August.

Remember

When submitting your form, please include your email address to be the first to receive updated programming and schedule information.

STUDENT MATINEE INFORMATION

- Student matinees begin at 1 p.m. Following each performance there will be a brief, lively conversation between the cast and students (attendance is optional).
- Student tickets are just \$15 each (\$20 for *A Christmas Carol*; \$10 for M.F.A. Program productions). A.C.T. provides one complimentary ticket for every ten tickets purchased.
- **Except for performances of *A Christmas Carol*, and performances at The Strand Theater, A.C.T. does not require a deposit or purchase order to secure your order.** Spaces will be reserved upon receipt of your ticket request.
- You will receive a confirmation invoice within two weeks of receipt of your ticket request. **Seating priority is based on receipt of full payment.** Full payment is due no later than three weeks before the given performance, except in the case of *A Christmas Carol* (see below). No refunds will be given on paid tickets.
- For performances of *A Christmas Carol*, a 25% nonrefundable deposit is required three weeks after you receive confirmation of your order. **Full payment must be received by October 17 or you will receive the number of seats covered by your deposit ONLY.** The remainder of your requested seats will be released for sale to others after October 17.
- Teachers receive an electronic copy of *Words on Plays* approximately two weeks before the scheduled performance. A.C.T.'s performance guides are packed with information and study questions about the world of the play, the playwright, and the production.
- If the student matinee you request is sold out, orders may be placed on a waiting list. Waiting list orders will be confirmed at least two weeks before the performance. Payment must accompany waiting list orders but will not be processed unless your seats are confirmed.
- A.C.T. also offers low student-group rates for regular performances of all of the season's plays, including the holiday favorite *A Christmas Carol*.

A.C.T. also offers theater workshops!

A.C.T. offers innovative workshops, led by master teaching artists, designed to enhance your student matinee experience. Whether you want to introduce your students to a play's plot and characters in advance, connect its themes to your classroom curriculum, or prompt discussion and debate after the show, we can create a workshop that addresses your particular classroom needs. Reasonably priced workshops (discounted for Title I schools) are available for groups of up to 30 and can take place at an A.C.T. venue or in your school.

Student matinees sell out quickly. Avoid disappointment and order now!

415.439.2383 | smat@act-sf.org

A.C.T. 2016-17 SEASON | STUDENT MATINEE ORDER FORM

A.C.T. provides one complimentary ticket for every ten tickets purchased.

PLAY	DATE	PRICE	# OF PAID TICKETS	# OF COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS	TOTAL TICKETS
<i>King Charles III</i>	Fri, Sep 23, 1 p.m.	\$15	_____	_____	_____
Created Movement Project (M.F.A.)	Thu, Sep 29, 1 p.m.	\$10	_____	_____	_____
<i>Love and a Bottle</i> (M.F.A.)	Thu, Oct 6, 1 p.m.	\$10	_____	_____	_____
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (M.F.A.)	Wed, Oct 19, 1 p.m.	\$10	_____	_____	_____
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (M.F.A.)	Thu, Oct 20, 1 p.m.	\$10	_____	_____	_____
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (M.F.A.)	Fri, Oct 21, 1 p.m.	\$10	_____	_____	_____
<i>The Hard Problem</i>	Fri, Oct 28, 1 p.m.	\$15	_____	_____	_____
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Tue, Nov 29, 1 p.m.	\$20	_____	_____	_____
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Wed, Nov 30, 1 p.m.	\$20	_____	_____	_____
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Thu, Dec 1, 1 p.m.	\$20	_____	_____	_____
<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	Fri, Feb 10, 1 p.m.	\$15	_____	_____	_____
<i>Needles and Opium</i>	Fri, Apr 7, 1 p.m.	\$15	_____	_____	_____
<i>John</i> (Strand Theater)	Tue, Apr 18, 1 p.m.	\$15	_____	_____	_____
<i>Battlefield</i>	Fri, May 5, 1 p.m.	\$15	_____	_____	_____

For performances of **A Christmas Carol** and all performances at **The Strand Theater**, a 25% nonrefundable deposit is required three (3) weeks after we have confirmed your order or seats will be released. Full payment must be received by October 17 for *A Christmas Carol* and three (3) weeks before performances at The Strand Theater. Seating priority is based on receipt of full payment.

Please indicate any wheelchair accessible seats or other accommodations your group requires.

- Please contact me with more details about the **Will on Wheels Shakespeare tour (March 6-17, 2017)**.
- I'm interested in learning about **ACTsmart theater workshops** offered by A.C.T.

PAYMENT INFO

For *A Christmas Carol*, payment is due by October 17.
 For all other productions, payment is due three (3) weeks before your performance.
 If a credit card number is provided, the full amount of the order will be charged when the order is confirmed unless otherwise requested.
Seating priority is based on receipt of full payment.

Payment Type

- _____ Check payable to A.C.T.
 _____ Credit Card (MasterCard/Visa/AmEx)

CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____
 NAME ON CARD _____ CARD SECURITY CODE _____

PATRON INFORMATION

TEACHER NAME _____ CELL PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
 GRADE LEVEL _____ SUBJECT (FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL) _____
 TEACHER ACCOMPANYING STUDENTS (IF DIFFERENT) _____ CELL PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT (IF DIFFERENT) _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
 SCHOOL NAME _____ SCHOOL PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Photo/Video Release

A.C.T. occasionally photographs and/or videotapes portions of student matinee performances and workshops for use in promotional, archival, or fundraising purposes, or for use in social media and/or on our website. We realize this can be a sensitive issue. Please indicate below if you and your students may be photographed and/or taped at workshops and/or performances. A.C.T. will inform you if your performance will be recorded in any way.

- _____ **YES**, photos and/or video are fine.
 _____ **NO**, my school will not allow it.

Please mail this form to:
A.C.T. Student Matinee Program
30 Grant Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94108-5834

You may also email your form to smat@act-sf.org, or fax your order to 415.749.2291.

Please contact SMAT Representative Elizabeth Halperin at 415.439.2306 with **any questions**.

A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER
 ACT-SF.ORG/SMAT