

The Quill

The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival Newsletter • Fall 2007

2008
Season

June to August

King Lear

by William Shakespeare

Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare

Cyrano de Bergerac

by Edmund Rostand

Dracula: The Journal of Jonathan Harker

by Jim Helsing
from the novel by Bram Stoker

The Jungle Book

Books & Lyrics by
April-Dawn Gladu
Music & Lyrics by
Daniel Levy

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PSF Announces 2008 Season

THE STUFF OF LEGENDS

Lear. Cyrano. Dracula.

All are literary legends that will come to life on PSF's stages next summer. The 2008 season features Shakespeare's piercing masterpiece *King Lear* and beloved comedy *Twelfth Night*, as previously announced. *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Dracula: The Journal of Jonathan Harker* are new to the season line-up, though they have long topped a 'short list' of masterworks considered by Producing Artistic Director Patrick Mulcahy and Associate Artistic Director Dennis Razze. For the children's show, a musical adaptation of *The Jungle Book* has been selected.

The process of choosing the plays for each season always begins with PSF's mission: to enrich, inspire, engage, and entertain. Mulcahy says that along the way to providing some great entertainment, the 2008 season "will explore the primal fault lines between the heart and the ego: humanity's innate desire for love and connection collides with an equally powerful quest for supremacy and sway." Each of these plays delves into this territory, and

each through its own lens illuminates this profound and immutable struggle, within and between us.

King Lear, considered one of Shakespeare's greatest masterpieces, tells the story of an aging king of Britain who divides his kingdom amongst his daughters, whose betrayals, real and imagined, lead to the destruction of family and kingdom.

While Shakespeare's exploration of human frailty juxtaposed with insatiable hunger for power and adulation is wrenching in its destructiveness, in this play, "Shakespeare's art is at its apex, exquisitely executed, unmistakable in its beauty," Mulcahy says. "It is no accident this is considered one of the greatest plays ever written."

On a different note, opening with one of Shakespeare's most lyrical lines—"If music be the food of love, play on"—*Twelfth Night* offers a vibrant counterpoint to *King Lear*. Mulcahy says, "Balance is a key to every successful season: romance, comedy, tragedy.

continued on page 3



Anthony Lawton, pictured right, in *The Winter's Tale*. Photo by Lee A. Butz.

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The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

16TH SEASON CELEBRATES THE JOYS OF DISCOVERY AND RENEWAL

The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival received a resplendent bouquet of accolades from patrons over the course of the 2007 summer season. "It is impossible to compliment PSF enough," wrote one patron attending *The Taming of the Shrew* on the audience survey. "Every year is better than the last. Your productions are stupendous. Your comedians are masters of their art. Keep up the fine work."

"Unlike a statue or painting," says Patrick Mulcahy, producing artistic director, "the art object we create is not complete until it resonates in the hearts and minds of our patrons. So, it is a joy to hear that resonance reflected in words so complimentary to our efforts." A total of 150 artists and artisans from 20 states were employed by the Festival, and 176 volunteers contributed 3,375 hours. In nine weeks, from June 2 through August 4, PSF offered 91 performances of four plays, plus 42 Green Show performances and 46 performances of the children's show.

Two of the Festival's 23 Equity actors, Christopher Patrick Mullen and Greg Wood, performed in their twentieth productions. Mullen, who played multiple roles in *Irma Vep*—"an extraordinary comedic talent" according to Philadelphia critic Jim Rutter—once again astonished audiences with his skills. Wood performed as King Leontes in *The Winter's Tale* and as Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, winning raves in both productions.

Thanks in large part to an 18% increase in subscription sales over 2006, the 1,543

subscriptions represented the highest number of subscriptions sold in five years. Attendance for the season totaled 28,500. "High attendance, a company of artists proud of their work, a balanced budget and excellent reviews point to the Festival's overall success," Mulcahy says. "But it is the individual experiences and stories people tell us that let us know we're on the right track."



Grace Gonglewski as Katherina in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Photo by Lee A. Butz.

"Thank you for the truly life-saving work of the arts community!"

- Audience Survey Respondent

The individual stories are often told through PSF's bi-annual audience survey. "The commitment of the PSF actors is unparalleled. They return year in and year out to light up the stages at Labuda; they give 150% always," according to a respondent attending *The Mystery of Irma Vep*. "Thank you for the truly life-saving work of the arts community!"

The 2007 season featured several additions in programming, including the introduction of Prologues, free pre-show talks with a member of the artistic staff held prior to every performance of a Shakespeare play. An estimated 1,200-1,500 patrons attended the Prologues for *The Winter's Tale* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. "We were very encouraged by the high level of participation," says Mulcahy.

PSF also initiated a "Season Kick-Off" event featuring scenes and songs performed by members of the company in advance of the season opening. "We expanded our programming based on responses from the survey we conducted in 2005," says Casey William Gallagher, general manager. Conducted bi-annually, the survey "gives the audience an opportunity to tell us what's working and what we can improve on, and gives us the opportunity to respond in our programming," he says. □



Aaron Galligan-Stierle as Hortensio and Rachel Joffred as Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Photo by Lee A. Butz.

And the tragic *King Lear* balances perfectly with the hilarious and poignant *Twelfth Night*.” Another work of genius from the Bard, *Twelfth Night*, for so many, is a treasured favorite. Its humor stems from the ridiculous antics of some very colorful characters, warbling over unrequited love. Along the way, the insights into human follies are refreshing and compelling,” says Mulcahy.

Sublime and poetic, the quintessential romance *Cyrano de Bergerac* has inspired films, ballets and operas. Based on the life of an actual 17th century French nobleman and soldier, the play was written in 1897 by Edmund Rostand. “The first time I read this play as a young student, I wept at the end, it was so beautiful,” says Associate Artistic Director Dennis Razze. “Like so many, I fell in love with the character of Cyrano and I have wanted to direct the play ever since. I am thrilled that our audiences will get to



Steve Burns in the title role of *Amadeus*. Photos by Lee A. Butz.



Brad DePlanche (left) as Lady Enid and Christopher Patrick Mullen as Lord Edgar in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*.

experience the magnificent poetry, adventure, and romance of this work of genius.”

Adapted from Bram Stoker’s novel by Jim Helsing— a long-time PSF director and actor—*Dracula: The Journal of Jonathan Harker*, is a one-actor tour-de-force. Originally performed by Helsing in 1995 and 1996 at the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre where he serves as artistic director, and subsequently revived there with Christopher Patrick Mullen in the role, the play won raves for its originality, literary tradition and inventive theatricality. “Jim’s adaptation eliminates all the silliness of flying bats and cuts straight through to the chilling center of this great story. It’s very suspenseful, a wonderfully stimulating evening of theatre,” according to Mulcahy.

Subscription tickets for 2008 will go on sale to members and renewing subscribers in December. Look for more on PSF’s upcoming season on the website at pashakespeare.org.

A Change of Season

With the shift from summer to fall came a shift in PSF’s plans for 2008. We were very happy with the season we originally announced, which included *The Fantasticks* and *Shakespeare Unleashed*. These are exciting plays and we will return to them shortly.



Our new season reflects some significant developments here at the Festival: our new strategic plan took its final shape at summer’s end and gave us the encouragement to make some very bold choices. *Cyrano* and *Lear* have been on the short list for years. Given the scale of these magnificent plays, tackling both in the same season speaks volumes about the Festival entering its full maturity.

Please look forward to an opportunity to see *Shakespeare Unleashed* in workshop form in 2008 with an anticipated opening in 2009. The irresistible musical *The Fantasticks* will also be back another season. We could not be more excited about sharing the season to come with you.

Patrick Mulcahy
Producing Artistic Director

Reviews from Your Neighbors

She’s traveled the world and seen Shakespeare performed at the National Theatre in London, at Stratford in Ontario and in Central Park in New York City. Prior to her career as a psychologist, Dr. Sharon Elwell was a trained classical singer who had been attending productions of Shakespeare since high school. She told us: “The acting in *Amadeus* and *The Winter’s Tale* is the best I’ve ever seen, and the most powerful.”

A subscriber for the past two seasons since moving to Allentown in 2006, Dr. Elwell says, “Attending [the Shakespeare Festival] is aesthetically enriching and ful-

filling. Going to Shakespeare is one of the ways I keep balance in my life.”

She is not alone in her assessment. One patron attending *Irma Vep* wrote: “The surroundings of the theater are calming and stimulating, respectively. The quality of the performance was superb.”

Someone attending *The Taming of the Shrew* commented: “This was our son’s first live theater and first Shakespeare—he enjoyed it thoroughly, and so did we. We’ll return next year.”



Greg Wood as King Leontes and Deanne Lorette as Hermione in *The Winter’s Tale*.

PSF BOARD: News & Notes

By Sally Reith

On a balmy September evening, PSF's Board of Directors toasted the completion of another record-breaking season. Patrick Mulcahy, producing artistic director, borrowing a page from David Letterman, enumerated his "Top 10 Celebratory Items" of 2007, including: a new ticket revenue record, great press and audience survey responses, new staff members and expanding WillPower programs.

PSF's success owes much to the enthusiastic support of DeSales University President Bernard O'Connor, OSFS, who continuously champions the Festival. Describing the 2007 season as "magnificent" and the new Gala format as "great work," Father concluded "I loved it all!" and thanked the Board for their care, support, and stewardship of the Festival.

Indeed, PSF has much to be thankful for where the Board is concerned. Currently, the Board consists of 21

members, including the elected officers: President, Vice President and Secretary. Plans are underway to grow the Board significantly over the next several years. Members serve on committees: Executive, Marketing, Recruitment, Endowment, or Gala, in addition to attending full board meetings held five times a year. New board members in 2007 include Joel Gilley, President of Promus Financial; Christine Perrucci, Esq., Of Counsel at Florio Perrucci Steinhart & Fader in Bethlehem; and June Schlueter, Ph.D., retired provost of Lafayette College, Easton, and former co-editor of the *Shakespeare Bulletin*, a peer-reviewed journal of performance criticism and scholarship.

Board members assist in establishing and implementing policies and objectives; engage in fund-raising, promote the activities, goals and mission of the Festival, advise the Producing Artistic Director, and assist with budget and business affairs.

An example: the PSF Strategic Plan for 2008-2010, approved by the Board at September's meeting, is the working road map for staff and Board members, and is designed to continue to elevate the artistry and increase attendance. It's an ambitious plan, but one that Father O'Connor termed an "excellent next step."

The September meeting culminated in the presentation of personalized gifts to outgoing, term-limited officers: Paul Domalakes, Esq. (President), James P. McFadden (Vice President) and Timothy Charlesworth (Secretary), whose combined service to PSF totals 42 years! Paul thanked Father Schubert for "his vision in forming the Shakespeare Festival which continues to sustain it." PSF is blessed to have energetic and discerning incoming officers: President Harry Dimopoulos, Vice President Gregory A. Honeyman and Secretary Joan Moran.

**"The heavens thank them for it."
- The Tempest**

Guild Tidings: Volunteers Make PSF Experience a Dream

By Timothy Walling

Picture this: You pull into the Labuda Center for the Performing Arts parking lot on the way to see a performance of *The Taming of the Shrew*, but something is amiss. You walk into the lobby. "That's funny," you think. No one is at the Will Call table, and the line at the Box Office window is the longest you've ever seen it. Looking around, you notice that there are no souvenirs—and you were counting on finally getting one of those stuffed Shakespeares. You go to concessions to get a delicious cookie, but the stand is closed.

You enter the theatre after sifting through the ticket envelopes at the Will Call table, and find confused patrons trying in vain to find their seats. No one is there to greet you with a warm smile and a hearty "Welcome!" You manage to get yourself seated, and when the lights come down, you realize you are in the wrong theatre! Christopher Patrick Mullen and Brad DePlanche are in dresses. This can't be *The Taming of the Shrew*...and it's not!

Sound like a bad dream? Luckily, because we are blessed with a wonderful group of volunteers, it's a dream that will never come true.

"Many hands make light work..." is a mantra for anyone associated with PSF's

volunteer organization, known affectionately as The Guild. With nearly 30,000 patrons walking through the lobby each summer, PSF is truly thankful for the Guild members' generous gift of their time—which totaled 3,375 hours in 2007.

Thanks to the Guild, patrons are greeted as friends. The souvenirs and concessions—from the "Little Wills" and Shakespeare Afghans to the delectable cookies and beverage choices—are all managed and supervised by the Guild. The Guild ensures that the PSF experience is comfortable and enjoyable.

If you would like to join the Guild, and be a part of the tremendous experience of the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, please call Timothy Walling at 610-282-WILL, ext. 8.

Guild members we will miss: Thank you to Tony, Eileen and Alyssa Sleva, who are moving. We are immensely grateful for all that you have done for PSF! Good luck in Oregon!

Congratulations are in order to Cynthia Workman, Guild board member, who recently received the Distinguished Service to the Community Award by the Alumni Association of Northampton Community College.

PSF STAFF

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Producing Artistic Director

DENNIS RAZZE
Associate Artistic Director

CASEY WILLIAM GALLAGHER
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Director of Development JEANNE L. BITLER

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Founder

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What a Night! Gala 2007

Who would think that a “walk-on” role in *The Taming of the Shrew* would elicit the kind of fireworks characteristic of Kate and Petruchio? The “battle of the board members” was on as Mary Bongiorno and Terry Seymour outbid one another for the prize during the live auction proceedings at the annual Gala in early June. In a surprise last-minute twist, both won the part—for the benefit of PSF.

Led by professional auctioneer Eric Zettlemoyer of Zettlemoyer’s Auction House, the live auction gained unstoppable momentum and delivered some fabulous prizes...and a few surprises. Long-time Festival patron and photographer Lee Butz scaled the heights of lively bidding to win a week’s stay at the winter homestead of the Schubert family in Vail, Colorado. His long-time friend, PSF founder Gerard J. Schubert, OSFS, was astonished to hear that he had never been to Colorado. “I’ll bring my cameras, that’s for sure,” said Lee.

PSF board member and incoming board secretary Joan Moran again generously donated a week for two at a villa in Tuscany, which was won by retiring board president Paul Domalakes, who quipped the vacation would help him recover from his 16 years of service on the PSF board. Ms. Moran won the landscape painting donated by internationally known artist and fellow PSF board member, Ben Marcune. Philanthropist and board member Linny Fowler will take a walk along Sunset Beach while staying in North Carolina, compliments of board member Jay McFadden and his wife Blair.

The silent auction generated its fair share of drama, too. The “Party with *Winnie the Pooh* and Friends” was a sweet prize for Bob and Mary Ann Gorman, who enjoyed

the show and post-show party with their extended family and friends. Mykhaylo and Pauline Kulynych braved the opposition to win “Noshing with the Stars,” a pre-show dinner with Kate and Petruchio prior to a performance of *The Taming of the Shrew*. “It was a wonderful evening,” Pauline wrote later. “The dinner was excellent, the performance was fabulous, and Grace (Gonglewski) (and) Greg (Wood)...were the epitome of hospitality.”

Held in the new Gerald A. White Pavilion in the DeSales University Center, the Gala also featured entertainment by PSF artists, including a comic ditty by Wayne S. Turney, who delighted audiences as Col. Pickering in *My Fair Lady* in 2006; a preview of Leontes from *The Winter’s Tale* by Greg Wood; and a song, “When I Look at You” by Marnie Schulenburg, a former PSF intern now appearing on “As the World Turns” in a regular role. The entertainment portion of the evening closed with a beautiful rendition of “In My Own Lifetime,” sung by Producing Artistic Director Patrick Mulcahy, dedicated to Fr. Schubert.

“The 300+ people attending the Gala really enjoyed the new format,” says General Manager Casey Gallagher, who oversees the event along with Director of Development Jeanne Bitler. “The wide variety of auction items, the delicious butlered hors d’oeuvres during the cocktail hour, the main entrée, and entertainment created a wonderful event.” All proceeds from the Gala benefit PSF’s education and artistic programs.

Mark Thy Calendar
GALA 2008
 Saturday, June 7

PRISCILLA PAYNE HURD RECEIVES 2007 WILL SHAKESPEARE AWARD



Patrick Mulcahy presents the Will Shakespeare Award to Priscilla Payne Hurd.

By turns eloquent and humorous, philanthropist Priscilla Payne Hurd accepted the 2007 Will Shakespeare Award, PSF’s annual honor, at the Gala in June. All were delighted by the personal stories she shared about her history with the Bard—how she dreaded rote memorization of Shakespeare at boarding school and how once she saw Shakespeare performed live on stage, she was enchanted.

Given to a person who exemplifies PSF’s core principles, the Will Shakespeare Award recognizes one who “enriches the world by sharing his or her gifts, inspires others through luminosity of spirit, and engages with society in a way that leaves an indelible and beautiful impression.”



Photos clockwise from top, left to right: Gayle Cicchocki, Steve Burns, and Tom Cicchocki; Dottie Coughlin, DSU President Bernard O’Connor, OSFS, and Jean Maurer; Lauren Bauer, Caitlin Kinsella, Christopher Brossman, and Evan Meiers (at the “Party with Winnie the Pooh”); Marnie Schulenburg, Al Iacocca, and Mary Maurer. Gala photos by Phil Tartaglione.



Meet PSF's Education Director, Erin Mullen

I am so blest, grateful, and excited to introduce myself to you as PSF's full time Education Director. I began my new position in May, but I am well-acquainted with both PSF and DeSales. DeSales has been



“home” for me since I entered as a freshman theatre major in 1995. Each time I returned from working and living away from the Festival, I felt a sense of relief, because I knew the work would be stellar, and excitement for the chance to work with artists I admired and called friends. I knew PSF was where I belonged and where I wanted to be. It is a gift to be here!

This past summer marked my eighth season with the Festival: four as an actress,

three as a choreographer, and most recently, as a director. This summer I also led the free “Prologues” before each performance of a Shakespeare play. Personal highlights for me were the 1997 production of *Snow White*, directed by Patrick Mulcahy, and *Charley's Aunt*, which sparked the romance between my husband, Chris, and me.

One of my duties as Education Director is working with the acting intern company, directing them in The Green Show and, in 2007, *Winnie the Pooh*. At press time in mid-September, I am in rehearsals directing *Macbeth*, the Linny Fowler WillPower Tour production that travels to schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

I look forward to sharing news about PSF's many programs with you, and I am grateful for the chance to come home!

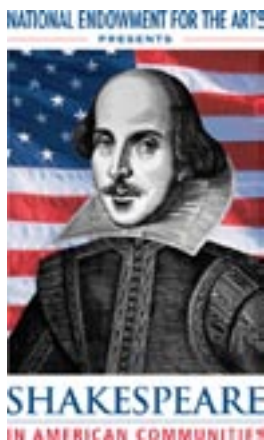
Macbeth Takes a Ride

PSF's annual Linny Fowler WillPower tour, the cornerstone of the company's educational outreach program, has served 15 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties since the tour was founded in 2000.

The current fall tour of *Macbeth* is fully booked, and scheduled to be performed for 15,000 students at 45 schools in the Lehigh Valley region, central and western PA, and New Jersey. Most of the students will see the production at their school; some will attend performances at DeSales University.

A \$25,000 NEA grant will allow PSF to take *Macbeth* to a maximum of 12 new rural or

inner city schools in 12 Pennsylvania counties previously unreachable by the NEA's program, *Shakespeare in American Communities/ Shakespeare for a New Generation*, with an emphasis on western and central Pennsylvania.



“WillPower is dedicated to providing greater access to the arts by bringing live, professional productions of Shakespeare's plays to the next generation,” says Patrick Mulcahy, producing artistic director. “We have a track record for reaching underserved student populations in underfunded schools that serve a culturally diverse, economically challenged student body. This grant allows us to extend our reach considerably.”

Outside of Class

Back from the Road

After an estimated 3,600 miles, when the tour of *Macbeth* returns to Center Valley, the entire set will move into Southern Lehigh High School for PlayPower, a new residency program. SLHS Performing Arts Club students will be cast in the roles, rehearse the play and then perform it on the PSF set at their school. The public will be invited. Check our website for the date and performance information.

Shakespeare Competition

PSF's inaugural Shakespeare Competition for high school students will launch this coming spring. Designed to inspire young minds and give individual students professional feedback on Shakespearean monologues and scenes, the competition will be held in March at DeSales University. Education Director Erin Mullen is adjudicating the Utah Shakespearean Festival's annual competition in October in preparation for PSF's event. Check PSF's “Education” section on the website at www.pashakespeare.org for updates.

Summer Cool

Summer school meant more than overheated classrooms for about 165 students from five area schools and programs—it meant Shakespeare, live (and air-conditioned). PSF provided complimentary tickets to *The Taming of the Shrew* for the students and their chaperones as a part of the FreeWill program, this year underwritten in part by our NEA grant.

**“Be not afraid of greatness:
some are born great,
Some achieve greatness,
and some have greatness
Thrust upon them.”**
Twelfth Night (II, v, 159)



**“Pray you now,
forget and forgive.”**
King Lear (IV, vii, 84)



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Give to PSF...Bring Inspiration to the Community!

By Julie Grega

What price can you put on enchantment, splendor, awe?

The PSF experience may be priceless, but the materials we use are not: \$100 for a custom-made pink wig added to Mozart's manic energy, pulsing through *Amadeus*; \$250 for leather boots lent Petruccio his swagger in *The Taming of the Shrew* and \$500 worth of paint transformed a blank black floor into the luminous pastel checkerboard you saw in *The Winter's Tale*.

From bolts to breeches and paint to petticoats, the elements of theatrical magic come alive with the support of our generous friends in the community. The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival could not be one of the leading Shakespeare theatres in the United States without you.

As the leading not-for-profit professional theatre company in this region, PSF relies on donations from

our loyal patrons as well as foundations and corporations for almost half of our total income. In 2006-2007, we were pleased to add 103 new members to the PSF family for a 30 percent increase in total membership over 2005-2006. On the whole, donations to the Festival increased by 12 percent, allowing PSF to continue to elevate the artistry in its many productions.

How can you become a part of the PSF family?

The easiest way is to donate online by going to www.pashakespeare.org and clicking on Support PSF. You can also call us at (610) 282-9455 ext. 2, or send back the pledge card with our annual membership mailing.

By contributing to PSF, you are giving us the means to provide you with first-rate professional theatre at a reasonable price and making possible what one audience member hailed as "the truly life-saving work of the arts community."

**Support PSF...
help us make
each season
better than
the last!**



William Elmsman as Salieri in *Amadeus*. Photo by Lee A. Butz.

Who needs New York when you have PSF? Join today!

Our annual membership brochure will be arriving by mail in mid- to late October. For those of you who already enjoy the benefits of being a part of the PSF family, please encourage a friend or relative to contribute to the beauty and exhilaration of the PSF experience by becoming a member!

GIVING LEVELS:

NOBLE KINSMEN SOCIETY \$5,000 AND ABOVE

- A private dinner party for 8 with two of our actors and the Producing Artistic Director prior to a performance
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- All "Revelers' Company" benefits

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S SOCIETY \$2,500 TO \$4,999

- A private dinner party for 8, with the Producing Artistic Director, before a performance
- All "Revelers' Company" benefits

ROSE SOCIETY \$1,000 TO \$2,499

- 4 tickets to one opening night performance and Meet-the-Artists champagne reception
- All "Revelers' Company" benefits

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- All "Revelers' Company" benefits

FOREST OF ARDEN SOCIETY \$250 TO \$499

- 2 half-price tickets to one production
- All "Revelers' Company" benefits

REVELERS' COMPANY \$100 TO \$249

- 2 tickets to the Children's Show
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- All "Players' Company" benefits

PLAYERS' COMPANY \$50 TO \$99

- Recognition in Festival program
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If you wish to waive your benefits, 100% of your donation will be tax-deductible.

2007 in Review

The Winter's Tale

"Sterling stagecraft... a powerhouse cast..."

- *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"Satisfying beyond all expectation."

- *The Reading Eagle*

Amadeus

"Sheer joy and a gem of theatrical beauty.... Masterful.... Riveting."

- *The Morning Call*

The Mystery of Irma Vep

"*Irma Vep* is all about the laugh (there are scores of them), and in this deliriously silly staging every one is earned."

- *The Reading Eagle*

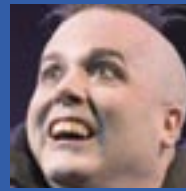
The Taming of the Shrew

"Fascinating. A laff-riot."

- *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Photos, left to right: Greg Wood, Chris Fair, Christopher Patrick Mullen, Erin Partin, Brad DePlanche.

Photos by Lee A. Butz.



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Malvolio

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