

EQUITY PRINCIPAL AUDITIONS for the 2026 PSF Summer Theatre Series

Productions Breakdown

SHOWS:

- **THE PIANO LESSON**
 - **MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET**
 - **ABRIDGED WORKS OF JANE AUSTIN**
 - **ROMEO AND JULIET (REP)**
 - **MORIARTY (REP)**
 - **CORIOLANUS**
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THE PIANO LESSON

Playwright: August Wilson

Performance Space: Schubert Theatre

Director: James Ijames

Important Dates:

- Rehearsals Begin: May 5, 2026
- Spacing: May 20, 2026
- Tech Begins: May 22, 2026
- Final Dress: May 26, 2026
- Previews Begin: May 27, 2026
- Opening: May 29, 2026
- Closing: June 7, 2026

Synopsis:

Set in 1936 Pittsburgh, *The Piano Lesson* follows the Charles family as they struggle over an heirloom piano carved with the faces of their enslaved ancestors. Boy Willie arrives determined to sell it to buy land, while his sister Berniece refuses, believing the piano must be preserved as a testament to their history. Their conflict reveals wounds of the past and questions of inheritance, sacrifice, and the price of progress.

Character Breakdown:

Boy Willie – THIS ROLE IS CAST. Black, 30s, impulsive, ambitious, brimming with energy and charisma. Determined to seize opportunity and make his mark.

Berniece – Black, late 20s–30s, Boy Willie’s sister. Strong, guarded, carrying grief and responsibility. Fiercely protective of her daughter and her family’s history.

Doaker Charles – Black, 40s–60s, uncle to Boy Willie and Berniece. A railroad cook, pragmatic, observant, and steady. Serves as storyteller and keeper of family history.

Maretha – Black, 11–14, Berniece’s daughter. Innocent, impressionable, and learning about her family’s legacy.

Lymon – Black, 20s–30s, Boy Willie’s friend. Good-natured, less driven, longs for stability and companionship.

Avery Brown – Black, 30s, preacher and suitor to Berniece. Idealistic, earnest, offers visions of faith and hope for the future.

Wining Boy – Black, 50s–60s, Doaker’s brother. A wandering, once-successful musician. Charismatic, humorous, reflective, carrying regret and wisdom.

Sutter’s Ghost – White, apparition of the former slave owner. A haunting presence, symbolic of unresolved history.

Production Note: The rehearsals will be in Philadelphia, and with the spacing and performances at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival.

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

Book: Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux

Performance Space: Main Stage

Director: Jim Helsing

Important Dates:

- Rehearsals Begin: May 19, 2026
- Tech Begins: June 5, 2026
- Final Dress: June 9, 2026
- Previews Begin: June 10, 2026
- Opening: June 12, 2026
- Closing: June 28, 2026

Synopsis:

Inspired by the famous 1956 recording session at Sun Records, *Million Dollar Quartet* brings together Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins for one unforgettable night of rock ’n’ roll. The show captures the spirit of an era, the power of music, and the personalities that shaped rock history.

Character Breakdown:

Elvis Presley – 20s, the “King of Rock ’n’ Roll.” Charismatic, sexy, and confident, with star power that fills the room. Strong vocals in Presley style, guitar skills a plus. Actor must play guitar.

Johnny Cash – 20s–30s, a quiet but commanding presence with a distinctive bass-baritone voice. Guitar playing required. Actor must play guitar.

Jerry Lee Lewis – Late teens–20s, brash, eccentric, and wildly talented pianist. Comic timing, high energy, and dynamic physicality required. Must play piano.

Carl Perkins – 20s–30s, rockabilly musician, songwriter of “Blue Suede Shoes.” Straightforward, hardworking, with strong guitar skills.

Sam Phillips – 30s–40s, founder of Sun Records. Shrewd, charming, visionary music producer with a strong sense of presence.

Dyanne – 20s, Elvis’s girlfriend. Confident, magnetic, with powerful vocals (sings standards and ballads).

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF JANE AUSTEN, ABRIDGED

Playwrights: Jessica Bedford, Kathryn MacMillan, Charlotte Northeast, and Meghan Winch

Performance Space: Schubert Theatre

Director: Jessica Bedford

Important Dates:

- Rehearsals Begin: June 2, 2026
- Tech Begins: June 19, 2026
- Final Dress: June 23, 2026
- Previews Begin: June 24, 2026
- Opening: June 26, 2026
- Closing: July 12, 2026

Synopsis

A whirlwind tour through Jane Austen's beloved novels, this fast-paced and witty comedy condenses *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, *Persuasion*, and more into a single evening of hilarity and heart. With three actors tackling Austen's heroines, heroes, cads, and clowns, the play captures Austen's wit, satire, and romance while poking fun at pop culture adaptations and fan obsessions. Irreverent, energetic, and full of playful theatricality, this show celebrates Austen's timeless voice and the enduring passion of her fans.

Character Breakdown

(Names may be changed to those of the performers, per the author's note)

Jessica – THIS ROLE IS CAST. Plays high-energy roles such as Jane Bennet, Kitty Bennet, Mr. Bingley, Emma Woodhouse, Harriet Smith, Lady Susan, and Marianne Dashwood. Spirited, versatile, capable of both satire and sincerity.

Charlotte (“Chuck”) – THIS ROLE IS CAST. Plays Lizzy Bennet, Mary Bennet, Lydia Bennet, Mr. Collins, Elinor Dashwood, John Dashwood, and others. Dry wit, strong comic timing, able to anchor scenes while heightening the humor.

Trevor (“Harry”) – THIS ROLE IS CAST. Plays Mr. Bennet, Mr. Darcy, Mr. Wickham, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Edward Ferrars, Willoughby, Colonel Brandon, and more. Quick-shifting, charismatic, and adept at parodying romantic archetypes.

ROMEO AND JULIET

Playwright: William Shakespeare

Performance Space: Main Stage (Repertory with *Moriarty*)

Director: Jason King Jones

Important Dates:

- Rehearsals Begin: June 5, 2026
- Design Runs: June 28, 2026
- Tech Begins: July 3, 2026
- Final Dress: July 7, 2026
- Previews Begin: July 8, 2026
- Opening: July 10, 2026
- Closing: August 2, 2026

Synopsis:

Shakespeare's timeless tragedy of young love and ancient hate. In Verona, two star-crossed lovers defy their feuding families with a secret marriage and an unshakable devotion that will lead to both passion and heartbreak. *Romeo and Juliet* explores youth, fate, and the costs of love in a divided world.

Character Breakdown:

Romeo Montague – Male, late teens–20s. Romantic, impetuous, earnest, with a passionate emotional range.

Juliet Capulet – Female, teens (16–20s). Intelligent, strong-willed, capable of youthful innocence and deep resolve.

Friar Laurence – Male, 40s–70s. Compassionate and thoughtful mentor, but prone to risky schemes.

Mercutio – Male, late teens–20s. Charismatic, witty, unpredictable, with quicksilver energy.

Tybalt – Male, late teens–20s. Fiery, aggressive, proud defender of Capulet honor.

Benvolio – Male, late teens–20s. Level-headed peacemaker, loyal cousin to Romeo.

Lord Capulet – **THIS ROLE IS CAST.** Male, 40s–60s. Juliet’s father. Powerful, authoritative, but capable of tenderness.

Lady Capulet – Female, 30s–50s. Elegant, status-conscious, conflicted mother.

Nurse – Female, 30s–60s. Warm, humorous, practical, Juliet’s confidante.

Prince Escalus – Male or Female, 30s–60s. Ruler of Verona, authoritative and commanding.

Paris – Male, 20s–30s. Noble suitor to Juliet, courteous but entitled.

Supporting Roles – Various ages. Servants, citizens, musicians, watchmen. Flexible ensemble casting.

MORIARTY: A NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURE

Playwright: Ken Ludwig

Performance Space: Main Stage (Repertory with *Romeo and Juliet*)

Director: Matt Pfeiffer

Important Dates:

- Rehearsals Begin: June 5, 2026
- Design Runs: June 28, 2026
- Tech Begins: July 11, 2026
- Final Dress: July 15, 2026
- Previews Begin: July 16, 2026
- Opening: July 18, 2026
- Closing: August 2, 2026

Synopsis:

London is in peril, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are on the case, and the villainous Professor Moriarty is lurking in the shadows. With Ken Ludwig’s trademark blend of suspense and comedy, *Moriarty* pits Holmes against his greatest adversary in a high-stakes game of cat and mouse. Full of disguises, danger, and delight, this new Sherlock Holmes adventure captures the Victorian world of Conan Doyle while delivering modern theatrical fun. This is a 5-person cast with quick change as a requirement.

Character Breakdown:

Sherlock Holmes – **THIS ROLE IS CAST.** Male, 30s–50s. Brilliant, eccentric, fiercely intelligent detective with dry wit and keen observation skills.

Dr. Watson – **THIS ROLE IS CAST.** Male, 30s–50s. Holmes’s loyal friend and companion. Warm, affable, with a steady presence.

Moriarty (King Otto & Others) – Male, 40s–60s. Holmes’s arch-nemesis. Charismatic, calculating, and menacing, with intellectual power to rival Holmes. Quick change required.

Irene Adler (Mrs. Hudson, & Cartwright) – Female, 20s–40s. Independent, clever, and resourceful. A formidable foil and ally. Quick change required.

Daisy, Mrs. Barabas, Hilda Klebb, & Others – Female, 20s-40s. Quick change required.

CORIOLANUS

Playwright: William Shakespeare

Performance Space: Schubert Theatre

Important Dates:

- Pre-week: July 10, 2026
- Rehearsals Begin: July 17, 2026
- Tech Begins: July 18, 2026
- Final Dress: July 21, 2026
- First Preview: July 22, 2026
- Opening: July 25, 2026
- Closing: August 2, 2026

Synopsis:

Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* is a political tragedy about pride, power, and loyalty. Caius Martius, a brilliant but arrogant general, earns the title Coriolanus after a military victory. When urged to seek political office, his disdain for the common people sparks rebellion and betrayal. Torn between the demands of his patrician peers, the will of the citizens, and the influence of his ambitious mother, Coriolanus must confront where his true allegiance lies. *Actors for this production will be paid to come to the first rehearsal off-book and will use "original practices" to stage the production themselves.*

Character Breakdown:

Caius Martius Coriolanus – 30s–40s. Fierce Roman general, defined by valor and pride.

Physically commanding with powerful intensity.

Volumnia – 50s–60s. Coriolanus' ambitious mother. Persuasive and unyielding.

Virgilia – 20s–30s. Coriolanus' devoted wife. Warm/compassionate in contrast to Volumnia.

Young Martius – Child actor, Coriolanus' son.

Menenius Agrippa – 40s–60s. Seasoned patrician and witty orator, loyal to Coriolanus.

Cominius – 40s–60s. General and statesman, measured and diplomatic.

Titus Lartius – 30s–50s. Military officer and ally of Coriolanus.

Sicinius Velutus – 30s–50s. Tribune of the people, skilled political schemers.

Junius Brutus – 30s–50s. Tribune of the people, skilled political schemers.

Tullus Aufidius – 30s–40s. General of the Volscians, Coriolanus' rival and mirror. Charismatic and dangerous.

Ensemble – Roman senators, soldiers, citizens, Volscian lords, attendants, messengers, etc.

ABOUT PSF:

A leading Shakespeare festival with an emerging national reputation for excellence, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival is a professional theatre company on the campus of DeSales University.

Each summer, PSF produces a season of Shakespeare and other classics, musical theatre, and children's theatre. About an hour north of Philadelphia and less than two hours from Manhattan,

PSF is summer home to over 200 artists from around the country, including winners and nominees of the Tony, Obie, Emmy, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Jefferson, and Barrymore awards. Every year 40,000-50,000 patrons attend PSF from 30+ states – over 1,000,000 patrons from 50 states and many countries since 1992.

Our Mission and Values:

The Mission of Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival is to enrich, inspire, engage, and entertain the widest possible audience through first-rate professional productions of classical and contemporary plays, with a core commitment to the works of Shakespeare and other dramatists, and through an array of educational outreach and mentorship programs.