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MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES 2022/23 SEASON

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 [Milwaukee] – Artistic Director Mark Clements and Executive Director Chad Bauman are thrilled to announce [Milwaukee Repertory Theater's](#) 2022/23 Season with 13 productions across four venues in the **Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex**

The 2022/23 Season features:

- After a decade the return of the sold-out hit ***Ragtime*** in the Quadracci Powerhouse.
- World Premieres by celebrated playwrights **Eleanor Burgess**, **Lloyd Suh** and **Catherine Trieschmann**.
- The Classics August Wilson's ***Seven Guitars*** and Shakespeare's ***Much Ado About Nothing***
- Musical tributes to the icons **Nat King Cole**, **Dean Martin** and **Whitney Houston** headline the Stackner Cabaret.
- The 47th Anniversary production of Milwaukee's Favorite Holiday Tradition – ***A Christmas Carol***.

"It's almost too hard to believe that just over two years ago we had to shut down all of our performances completely, and were left feeling utterly uncertain of the future. Now thanks to the tireless work of our staff, Board of Trustees, donors, and loyal audiences, along with unwavering community support, we are wholeheartedly back and announcing Milwaukee Rep's 69th Season," said Artistic Director **Mark Clements**. "This season is definitely one for the books – with four world premieres by leading American playwrights, the second play in our new five-year Classic Play Initiative, the eighth production in August Wilson's American Century Cycle, and the return of the sold out hit, and great American musical - *Ragtime*. I look forward to seeing more houses filled with audiences laughing, crying and experiencing again the wonder and joys of the great *Shared Experience*. Something I am sure, that we will all never take for granted ever again."

Milwaukee Repertory Theater's 2022/23 **Quadracci Powerhouse Season** opens with the return of one of the largest and most beloved shows to grace the Quadracci Powerhouse stage – ***Ragtime***. With music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and book by Terence McNally this powerful and epic musical captures the sounds and unbridled optimism from the dawn of 20th century America. Next up this holiday season is the World Premiere ***The Nativity Variations*** by Catherine Trieschmann. When an experimental community theater troupe is asked to stage the Christmas pageant, hilarity and tenderness ensues. Then Shakespeare and 90s nostalgia collide in ***Much Ado About Nothing*** directed by Laura Braza (*Steel Magnolias*, *Grounded*). Next **August Wilson's *Seven Guitars*** takes the stage as Milwaukee Rep's eighth production of Wilson's iconic 10 play American Century Cycle. Finally, the Tony Award-winning Best Play ***God of Carnage*** by Yasmina Reza closes out the season with a funny and timely look at adults behaving like children.

The **Stiemke Studio Season** consists of two John (Jack) D. Lewis New Play Development Program productions by playwrights familiar with Rep audiences, beginning with the Co-World Premiere ***Wife of***

a Salesman by Eleanor Burgess (*The Niceties*). When a 1950s housewife from a certain classic American drama tracks down the woman her husband is sleeping with, the two discover they have more in common than society would like them to believe. Next, the World Premiere **The Heart Sellers** by Lloyd Suh (*The Chinese Lady*) gives voice to the Asian immigrant experience in the 1970s when the landmark Hart-Cellar Act granted thousands of professional workers a new path to citizenship.

The **Stackner Cabaret Season** begins with remembering the genius and warmth of Nat King Cole with the Artists Lounge Live production of **Unforgettable: John-Mark McGaha Sings Nat King Cole**. Second is **Beehive: The 60s Musical** celebrating the chart-topping women of the 1960s from Aretha Franklin to Janis Joplin. Six extraordinary women performers will tackle the tunes, the hair do's and fashion in a timeless production. Next up is **Dino! An Evening with Dean Martin** where the Rat Pack's heartthrob transports you to a hip 1970s club. Closing out the season is a World Premiere event **The Greatest Love for Whitney**, a tribute concert to the one and only Whitney Houston.

Milwaukee Rep's holiday tradition, **A Christmas Carol**, celebrates its 47th Anniversary in the historic Pabst Theater. **Rep Lab** returns in April showcasing Milwaukee Rep's **Emerging Professional Residents** (EPRs) and the **Professional Training Institute** (PTI) young performers in July 2023 for a special performance to be announced.

Subscriptions are now available for renewing and new Subscribers. Subscription prices for the 2022/23 Season range from \$105-\$605. Packages available are the Ultimate 11-play package, which includes the entire season spanning all three of Milwaukee Rep's performance spaces; Quadracci Powerhouse/Stackner Cabaret 9-play package; Quadracci Powerhouse/Stiemke Studio 7-play package; Quadracci Powerhouse 5-play package; Stackner Cabaret 4-Play package as well as a Create Your Own Season package and Flex Passes. Single Tickets will go on sale later in the summer. For additional information on Subscription offerings, please contact Milwaukee Rep's Ticket Office at **414-224-9490** or visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com.



2022/23 Season – 69th Season

An elegant celebration of a jazz legend
Unforgettable: John-Mark McGaha Sings Nat King Cole
Presented by Artists Lounge Live
September 9 – November 6, 2022
Stackner Cabaret

Remember the genius and warmth of Nat King Cole with acclaimed singer, storyteller and multi-instrumentalist John-Mark McGaha (*The Ray Charles Legacy, Smokey Joe's Cafe*). In this heartfelt concert, McGaha leads a lush jazz ensemble and reflects upon Cole's trailblazing career with poignant insight and intimate charm. *BroadwayWorld* calls his voice "crystal-clear perfection." Classic songs include "Unforgettable," "Route 66," "L-O-V-E," and "Mona Lisa."

A musical masterpiece returns

Ragtime

Book by Terrence McNally

Music by Stephen Flaherty | Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Based on the novel “Ragtime” by E.L. Doctorow

Directed by Mark Clements

September 20 – October 30, 2022

Quadracci Powerhouse

One of the largest and most beloved shows makes its long-anticipated return after a completely sold-out run a decade ago! With bold choreography and a soaring score, this powerful and epic musical captures the sounds and unbridled optimism from the dawn of 20th century America. *Ragtime* presents a nation on the cusp of change by weaving together the disparate stories of an enterprising Eastern European immigrant, a courageous Harlem pianist and a conflicted upper-crust wife into a melting-pot of a musical that skillfully mixes the hopes and realities of the American Dream. “A spectacular production...a crown jewel of Mark Clements’ tenure!” – *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

World Premiere Event

A classic American drama, continued

Wife of a Salesman

By Eleanor Burgess

September 27 – November 6, 2022

Stiemke Studio

In Association with Writers Theatre

Acclaimed playwright Eleanor Burgess (*The Niceties*) brings her gift for sharp dialogue and spirited debate back to the Stiemke Studio with this fascinating new play. When a 1950s housewife, from a certain classic American drama, tracks down the woman who is sleeping with her husband, the two discover that they have more in common than society would like them to believe. Important questions of marriage, duty and happiness rise to the surface in this frank exposé of the ways in which the world has, and hasn’t, changed across generations.

Celebrate the powerful female voices of the 1960s

Beehive: The 60s Musical

Created by Larry Gallagher

November 11, 2022 – January 15, 2023

Stackner Cabaret

From Aretha Franklin to Janis Joplin, the powerful female voices of the 1960s have left an unforgettable mark on generations. *Beehive: The 60s Musical* is a non-stop, energetic celebration of these iconic women and their music in a soundtrack for this decade of change. Six extraordinary women perform more than two dozen chart toppers from Diana Ross, The Supremes, Tina Turner and more. Complete with big hair dos and 60’s fashions, this timeless production will have audiences of all ages singing along and shouting for more.

World Premiere Event

The Nativity Variations

By Catherine Trieschmann

November 15 – December 11, 2022

Quadracci Powerhouse

In a small midwestern town, auteur theater director Jules and her experimental community theater troupe face their biggest and most ambitious challenge yet – staging the Christmas pageant at St. Ignatius Episcopal Church. As their adventurous vision for the greatest story ever told hilariously evolves to include Shakespearian comedy and even foul-mouthed puppets, Jules – with a gentle nudge by Father Juan – is left to consider the purpose of her art and the true meaning of the holiday season. Modern cynicism meets emotional tenderness in this hilarious and heartfelt World Premiere by award-winning playwright Catherine Trieschmann (*One House Over*).

Love, laughter and 1990s nostalgia

Much Ado About Nothing

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Laura Braza

January 10 – February 12, 2023

Quadracci Powerhouse

Laughter, witty wordplay and 1990s nostalgia come together in this joyful and cherished classic, one of Shakespeare's most delightful romantic comedies. Fast-flying gossip and thick-headed pride threaten to bring down the bash of the decade as a fairy-tale marriage quickly turns from swoon to scandal. With honor and friendship on the line, sharp-tongued adversaries Beatrice and Benedict put their savage battle of wits (and hearts) on hold to restore order, charting them on a collision course that might just lead to true love. Hilarious slapstick, mistaken identities, and a town full of well-meaning (but mostly ridiculous) characters lead to sheer theatrical delight on the Quadracci Powerhouse stage.

The "King of Cool" is back

Dino! An Evening with Dean Martin

By Armen Pandola

January 20 – March 19, 2023

Stackner Cabaret

Effortlessly charming and charismatic, Dean Martin rose from humble immigrant roots to embody the definition of cool as a Rat Pack heartthrob and one of America's most adored entertainers. *Dino!* transports us to a hip 1970s club where – accompanied by his signature drink in hand – the "King of Cool" entertains all by weaving personal stories with a smorgasbord of classic hits including "Ain't That a Kick in the Head," "Everybody Loves Somebody," "That's Amore" and more. Warm and endearing, *Dino!* suavely shines the spotlight once again on this legendary star and the glory days of the nightclub crooner.

Finding direction in the land of opportunity

World Premiere Event

The Heart Sellers

By Lloyd Suh

February 7 – March 19, 2023

Stiemke Studio

Funny and deeply moving, this World Premiere by Lloyd Suh (*The Chinese Lady*) gives voice to the Asian immigrant experience in the 1970s when the landmark Hart-Cellar Act granted thousands of professional workers a new path to citizenship. But for new Americans Jane and Luna, life in the USA with their workaholic husbands has left them feeling isolated and invisible. One Thanksgiving – over sips of wine and a questionable frozen turkey – they reminisce and dream of spreading their wings together in the land of opportunity: disco dancing, learning to drive and even a visit to Disneyland. With grace and dignity, this powerful play asks: “Would you give up your heart to make a new home?”

Hope and humor, set to the rhythm of the Blues

August Wilson’s Seven Guitars

March 7 – April 2, 2023

Quadracci Powerhouse

Co-Production with Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

What would you do for a chance to live out your dream? In 1940s Pittsburgh, struggling singer Floyd “Schoolboy” Barton’s shot at stardom comes when a major recording studio offers an unexpected opportunity of a lifetime. Armed with newfound hope and a second chance, Floyd and his friends discover that dreams are heartbreakingly fragile when confronted by a world set against them. This riveting play, Milwaukee Rep’s eighth production in August Wilson’s iconic 10 play American Century Cycle, explores faith, artistry, humor, oppression and love set to the fiery rhythms and intense lyricism of American blues music.

Powerful anthems, glamorous elegance, one signature voice

World Premiere Event

The Greatest Love for Whitney

A Tribute Concert to Whitney Houston

Created by Mark Clements

March 24 – May 28, 2023

Stackner Cabaret

From her powerful anthems to her glamorous elegance on the silver screen, Whitney Houston's breathtaking voice helped her become one of the most beloved artists of all time. *The Greatest Love for Whitney* celebrates the amazing career and legacy of this Grammy Award-winning icon by taking audiences through a journey of her record-setting hits, performed live and in-concert. Featuring songs like "I Will Always Love You," "Saving All My Love For You" and "Where Do Broken Hearts Go," this superstar's warmth and magnetism takes center stage in a fitting tribute to the woman known simply as "The Voice."

It's all fun and games – until the grown-ups get hurt

God of Carnage

By Yasmina Reza

April 18 – May 14, 2023

Quadracci Powerhouse

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Play, this explosive comedy is all fun and games – until the grown-ups get hurt. When two sets of parents politely meet over coffee and cake to settle a schoolyard spat between their sons, the gloves come off as neighborly decorum disintegrates into laugh-out-loud, no-holds barred mayhem. This "first class" (*The New York Times*) and "scabrously funny" (*USA Today*) send up of middle-class manners gives a brutally entertaining look at what happens when the little things end up pushing us over the edge.

OFF –SUBSCRIPTION

West Bend Mutual Insurance presents

Milwaukee's favorite holiday tradition

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

Directed by Mark Clements

November 29 – December 24, 2022

Pabst Theater

A Christmas Carol is one of the best-known and loved stories in the English language. During the course of one memorable Christmas Eve, the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future help Scrooge discover that it is never too late to change his miserly ways. Enchanting music, dance, costumes, scenery and special effects will once again fill the theater to tell this timeless tale of love, hope and redemption.

Rep Lab

April 6- 10, 2023

Stiemke Studio

Back for its 10th Anniversary, the showcase featuring Milwaukee Rep's Emerging Processional Residents is a must-see and regularly sells out.

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