

EMBARGOED UNTIL 8/16/18 6 P.M.

Contact:

Katie Perkowski
Director of Marketing & Communications
Alabama Shakespeare Festival
kperkowski@asf.net
334.271.5326



**New Leadership Reimagines Alabama Shakespeare Festival
2018-2019 Season Announcement
14 Productions – New Festival Format**

MONTGOMERY, Ala., (August 16, 2018) — Artistic Director Rick Dildine and Executive Director Todd Schmidt have announced their inaugural New Festival Season at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, which features 14 extraordinary productions, with a full six weeks of spring repertory along with unexpected theatrical experiences in found spaces.

“We are moving into a new stage of ASF’s history,” said Artistic Director Rick Dildine. “Our 47th season represents a return to the festival repertory format with more than one show running at a time, along with a renewed commitment to this community with plays that reflect who we are today.”

The festival season begins and ends with two unique experiences. The first production is **Every Brilliant Thing**, where the entire audience is seated on the Festival Stage in an interactive performance. The season closes with a world premiere production, **Buzz**, staged in ASF’s scene shop, and directed by Emmy Award winner and ASF alumna Carrie Preston.

The changes in the new festival season are not just artistic. Evening performances will have a 7:00 p.m. start time, with weekday and Saturday matinees at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m. New pricing ensures greater accessibility for audience members with subscription packages discounted up to 40 percent. “We are making a commitment to the patrons who make a commitment to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival,” said Executive Director Todd Schmidt, “by ensuring that our subscribers always get the best price on the best seats.”

Subscriptions are available now through the ASF Box Office (located at 1 Festival Drive in Montgomery, AL; open Monday through Saturday, noon to 5:00 p.m.), or by calling 800.841.4273 or visiting asf.net.

Every Brilliant Thing – Sept. 29 – Oct. 20, 2018

Imagine a list of everything that’s brilliant about the world—all of the reasons a 7-year-old would want to live: ice cream, the color yellow, laughing so hard you shoot milk out of your nose. A refreshingly intimate and collaborative performance that celebrates the lengths we will go to for those we love.

The Sound of Music – Nov. 15 – Dec. 30, 2018

The beloved story of Maria, a young and spirited nun-turned-governess, and the Von Trapp family. This delightful musical will thrill audiences with its Tony, Grammy, and Academy Award winning Best Score.

The Gospel of Luke – Dec. 6 – 30, 2018

The Gospel of Luke is told with the passion and surprise of an eyewitness account. In a compelling ninety minutes, the tale comes alive with the urgency, passion, and humor of someone who was there.

Four Little Girls: Birmingham 1963 – Jan. 25 – Feb. 13, 2019

Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, and Addie Mae Collins. Four little girls who are multitalented and filled with promise share their hopes and dreams against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement.

Nina Simone: Four Women – Jan. 30 – Feb. 17, 2019

Through storytelling and song, this production celebrates how Nina Simone helped define the sound of the Civil Rights Movement. Featuring powerful anthems such as “Mississippi Goddam,” “Old Jim Crow,” and “To Be Young, Gifted and Black,” *Nina Simone: Four Women* is a personal and provocative musical journey.

Our Town – Feb. 21 – Apr. 27, 2019

Our Town follows young lovers Emily and George and their neighbors through a life journey that delivers universal truths about what it means to be human.

Romeo and Juliet – Feb. 28 – Apr. 29, 2019

An exciting new production of Shakespeare’s iconic love story. Romeo is a Montague, and Juliet a Capulet—“star-crossed lovers” whose families’ long-standing feud has pitted neighbor against neighbor.

The Cat in the Hat – Mar. 3 – May 5, 2019

From the moment his tall, red-and-white striped hat appears, his mischievous antics begin! With some tricks (and a fish) and Thing Two and Thing One, with the Cat in the Hat, the fun’s never done!

Steel Magnolias – Mar. 21 – May 5, 2019

The hilarious and heartwarming story of six Southern women who gather and gossip at the local beauty parlor. With wit, warmth, and intelligence, they rise to meet whatever challenges life sends their way.

Into the Breeches – Apr. 4 – May 4, 2019

Montgomery, 1942: With the local playhouse’s director and actors off at war, the director’s wife sets out to produce an all-female version of Shakespeare’s *Henry IV* and *Henry V*. A hilarious and moving comedy about the transformative power of art.

As You Like It – Apr. 11 – 25, 2019

One of Shakespeare’s most popular romantic comedies, *As You Like It* is a beguiling game of love, desire, and mistaken identity that revels in the pleasure of life.

Buzz – Sept. 4 – 15, 2019

Charismatic director Mary Ann “Buzz” Goodbody was one of only five women directing in the UK in the 1970s. In 1975, she famously directed Ben Kingsley in the title role of *Hamlet*. Four days later, she was gone. A world premiere.

Hamlet – Sept. 5 – Oct. 6, 2019

NYC’s Bedlam Theatre in residence at ASF creates Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* with a company of four actors, in a production hailed as “invigorating,” “lively and brisk,” and “masterful” by critics.

Saint Joan – Sept. 12 – Oct. 5, 2019

The epic story of a young farm girl who led an army and transformed a nation, staged brilliantly by four actors from Bedlam Theatre.

EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY – ONE STORY AT A TIME.

Alabama Shakespeare Festival is a not-for-profit organization under the direction of Artistic Director Rick Dildine and Executive Director Todd Schmidt. ASF is the largest professional theatre in Alabama and one of the largest Shakespeare festivals in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston because of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount’s gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park. This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

###