17/18 JOHN HIRSCH MAINSTAGE PLAYBILL

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

Based on the screenplay by Marc Norman & Tom Stoppard
Adapted for the stage by Lee Hall
Music by Paddy Cunneen
October 19 – November 11, 2017 | Preview October 18

*****"Funny, often genuinely moving, and generates a glow you could warm your hands by"*
- Daily Telegraph

Theatre lovers will swoon over this nod to a budding Shakespeare in his days of writing Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter. Faced with writer's block, he's in search of inspiration and will stop at nothing to find it. Enter Viola de Lesseps, an actor in Henslowe's play who becomes Shakespeare's muse. Soon they're caught up in a forbidden romance, but will it last? Experience laughter and drama in this love letter to theatre.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted by Bruce McManus
From the novel by Charles Dickens
November 23 – December 16, 2017 | Preview November 22

*****"Like the gift you know you're getting again, the joy of A Christmas Carol is all about the surprise found in its inventive packaging and pretty wrapping"* – **Winnipeg Free Press**

Cold-hearted and greedy, Ebenezer Scrooge is anything but jolly at Christmas time. Even his nephew Fred and clerk Cratchit get nothing but a "bah humbug" when spreading holiday cheer. But something shifts when the ghost of his business partner Marley visits to save him from his own bitter demise. Watch his epic transformation in this classic tale of compassion, hope and redemption that will leave hearts glowing.

COME FROM AWAY

Book, Music & Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein
Directed by Christopher Ashley
January 12 – February 3, 2018 | Previews January 4-11

*****"A gem! Powerful, heart-warming & very funny. A celebration of humanity."* – **The Globe & Mail**
"A moving tribute to the indomitable human spirit." – **Variety**
"A big-hearted new musical! Masterful, sophisticated & ingenious."– **Toronto Star**

In a heartbeat, 38 planes and 6,579 passengers were forced to land in Gander, Newfoundland, doubling the population of one small town on the edge of the world. On September 11, 2001 the world stopped. On September 12, their stories moved us all.

ONCE
Book by Enda Walsh
Music & Lyrics by Glen Hansard & Markéta Irglová
Based on the Motion Picture Written and Directed by John Carney
February 15 – March 10, 2018 | Preview February 14

"It's a real heart-squeezing, ear-pleasing show" – **The Globe and Mail**

Guy, an Irish street musician, is on the verge of giving up on his dream, until Girl, a Czech immigrant, enters his life and changes everything. Inspired by her beauty and grace, he decides to pursue his music career and as their love intensifies, his music soars! Once captivates audiences with charm-filled melodies, haunting lyrics and a moving story about second chances from two unlikely souls.

THE HUMANS
By Stephen Karam
March 22 – April 14, 2018 | Preview March 21

"Piercingly funny, bruisingly sad comedy-drama about an American family teetering on the edge of the abyss" – **New York Times**

Mom and Dad have ventured from the suburbs to Brigid's New York duplex for Thanksgiving. Grandma's barely coherent. Mom's insecure and overweight. Dad has something to hide. But if the family has cracks in it, the foundation is solid. As the booze flows, nothing is off limits. And when secrets gradually come to light, this wonderfully messed-up family is heartbreakingly relatable as they mirror us all in our imperfect – but perfectly human – glory.

MORNING AFTER GRACE
By Carey Crim
April 26 – May 19, 2018 | Preview April 25

"A must-see comedy" – **Chelsea Update**

After hooking up at a funeral, Abigail and Angus wake up with a new lease on life. Being successful, bright and "of a certain age" doesn't guarantee you're ready to take a leap of faith but they're both tired of faking it. So together with their friend Ollie, Abigail and Angus bravely shed past disappointments in order to find joy again. From the writer of the powerful drama 23.5 Hours comes this hilarious and hopeful exposé of the not-so-secret lives of seniors.