



BROWN

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## PRESS RELEASE

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Tuesday, September 13, 2016

### **Brown University Theatre Announces 2016–2017 Season**

Brown University Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies and Sock & Buskin are proud to announce the lineup for their 2016–17 season. As part of ongoing conversations around diversity and inclusion on campus at Brown University, this year's season brings together diverse writers, writing, and performers that highlight the strengths and the challenges of making relevant performance in the modern world.

Starting in October, Brown University Theatre will open its 2016–17 season with **By The Way, Meet Vera Stark** by Lynn Nottage '86. Directed by Kym Moore, this satirical comedy is set in the Hollywood of the glamorous 1930s, the revolutionary 1970s, and the present day. Playing off screwball comedies, the show tells the story of Vera Stark, a black actor of the 1930s who finds unexpected fame but struggles to break free of the Hollywood studio system. **By The Way, Meet Vera Stark** runs September 29 to October 2 and October 6 to 9 in Leeds Theatre.

The **Family Weekend Dance Concert**, produced by Sydney Skybetter, presents a weekend of new choreography and familiar favorites. This year's concert features the Brown Dance Extension performing Repertory Etudes by David Parsons and Robert Battle, as well as a new work by Brown dance alumna, Nadia Hannan '13. The concert also includes a choreographic collaboration by New Works/World Traditions and RawKin RhythMix, as well as a contemporary West African ballet performed by New Works/World Traditions to a live Mande djembe drumming. The concert runs October

21 through 23 in the intimate Ashamu Dance Studio in Lyman Hall. The studio offers both traditional theatre seating and floor cushions for an even closer (and cheaper) view of the action.

In November, director Spencer Golub presents **The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer** by Carson Kreitzer. The play follows the life of Oppenheimer, the head scientist working to develop the atomic bomb for the USA. What drives a person to create such a device? And what happens when scientific impulse meets military pragmatism? **The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer** run November 3 to 6 and 10 to 13 in Stuart Theatre.

Featuring new work that evolves out of the Family Weekend Dance Concert, Brown University Theatre presents its annual **Fall Dance Concert**, produced by Michelle Bach-Coulibaly, Sydney Skybetter, and Julie Adams Strandberg. Performances run from November 17 to 20 and will be held in Ashamu Dance Studio.

Closing out the fall semester, the annual senior slot show this year is **Hecuba**, written by Marina Carr and directed by Sienna Vann '17. The senior slot show is proposed and directed by a Brown undergraduate senior student. This modern re-telling of the Greek tragedy runs in Leeds Theatre from December 1 through 4.

Brown Theatre welcomes in the spring with a production of Lin-Manuel Miranda's hit musical, **In The Heights**. Set largely in the Latinx community of Washington Heights, New York, this show was the blockbuster Broadway hit of 2008. In the heat of summer, the future of the community rests in the balance and a hidden winning lottery ticket could change everyone's lives forever. **In The Heights** music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda; book by Quiara Alegría Hudes '04 MFA; conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda; and directed by Sarah dAngelo. The show runs March 2 through 5 and 9 through 12 in Stuart Theatre.

The 2016–17 season continues in April with **Invasion!** by Jonas Hassen Khemiri, translated by Rachel Wilson Broyles, and directed by Ashley Teague '17 MFA. Deconstructing how the West constructs the Arabic male identity, the play takes a sharp and highly-crafted swipe at the prejudice and ignorance in our perceptions of the Middle East. **Invasion!** runs April 6 though 9 and 13 through 16 in Leeds Theatre.

Closing out the season, the **Festival of Dance**, produced by Julie Adams Strandberg, presents a program of assorted choreography from the contemporary to the classic. The concert runs from May 4 to 7 in Stuart Theatre. This is swiftly followed by a celebration of the creative work of the department's dance students in the **Commencement Dance Concert** at 7pm on May 27 in Stuart Theatre, produced by Michelle Bach-Coulibaly.

Brown University Theatre's 2016–17 season performances are produced by the Brown University Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies and by Sock & Buskin, the student-staff-faculty board that selects and runs the mainstage theatre season at Brown University. Performances usually take place Thursday through Saturday at 8pm

and 2pm on Sundays. Tickets are \$15 (adults) / \$12 (seniors) / \$7 (students). For more information visit [brown.edu/theatre](http://brown.edu/theatre).

To book tickets, call (401) 863-2838, or visit the Box Office in the Leeds Theatre Lobby (83 Waterman Street, Providence, RI 02912), Tuesday–Friday from 12–4pm during the semester, or email [boxoffice@brown.edu](mailto:boxoffice@brown.edu). To book online, visit: [brown.edu/tickets](http://brown.edu/tickets).

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