

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Artistry Announces 2016-2017 Theater Season

(Bloomington, MN) Artistry is pleased to announce the seven shows of our 2016-2017 theater season—the first selected by Producing Artistic Director Benjamin McGovern. Four musicals and three plays will be brought to life by a mix of creative personnel both familiar and new to Artistry audiences.

“In my first year at Artistry, I’m especially excited to welcome a growing circle of theater-makers who will create powerful moments of human connection,” said McGovern. “Our coming season is full of great stories and music that will bring joy and delight to our audiences and take them on some captivating new journeys as well.”

In the Schneider Theater (Bloomington Center for the Arts):

The Drowsy Chaperone
The Baker’s Wife
Little Shop of Horrors
The Secret Garden

In the Black Box Theater (Bloomington Center for the Arts):

Talley’s Folly
Bad Dates
Wit

Full show dates and descriptions are listed below.

Images available at [URL].

About Artistry: Artistry is a regional arts nonprofit serving more than 80,000 people annually through theater, visual arts, arts education, and creative placemaking programs. Artistry is one of seven nonprofit organizations based in the Bloomington Center for the Arts. For more information, visit www.artistrymn.org or call 952-563-8575.

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2016-2017 Artistry Theater Season

***Talley's Folly*, by Lanford Wilson, July 7-24, 2016**

Directed by Angie Timberman

On the Fourth of July, 1944, two unlikely lovers reunite for the first time in over a year. Matt has every intention of marrying Sally, but family ties and hidden pasts prove difficult to overcome. By turns thoughtful and funny, this Pulitzer Prize-winning romance examines the lengths people are willing to go for love.

The Drowsy Chaperone

Book by Bob Martin and Don Keller, Music and Lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison

August 12-September 11, 2016

Directed and choreographed by Michael Matthew Ferrell, featuring Tod Peterson* as Man in Chair

The Drowsy Chaperone is a cheeky love letter to the musicals of the Jazz Age. When a man suffering from “non-specific sadness” puts on a record of his favorite musical, the story’s characters sing and dance their way right into his apartment. Filled with sweeping dance numbers and all-out delight from beginning to end, this show will lift your spirits and put a spring in your step.

The Baker's Wife

Book by Joseph Stein, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

October 21-November 12, 2016

Directed by Benjamin McGovern†

The Baker's Wife is heartfelt musical about romance, love, and bread. The inhabitants of a rural French town have been without a baker for weeks, leaving them starved for a staple they can hardly live without. An amiable new baker and his young bride arrive, and contentment is restored. But when a handsome ladies' man seduces the baker's wife away, he loses the will to bake. Hungry for their daily bread once again, the townspeople must work together to reunite the pair. Whether you've been in love once or a hundred times, you'll be charmed by this bittersweet comic tale. With music by Steven Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, *Wicked*), *The Baker's Wife* has gained the status of a cult classic for its score, which features the hit song “Meadowlark.”

Little Shop of Horrors

Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman, Music by Alan Menken

January 20-February 19, 2017

Directed and choreographed by Joe Chvala

In this zany musical comedy, flower shop assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names “Audrey II” after his coworker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing, carnivorous plant promises the down-and-out Seymour unending fame and fortune as long as he keeps feeding Audrey II a most unusual diet. Meanwhile, business booms for the flower shop as the plant grows, but its appetite soon becomes insatiable and Seymour must risk his job, his love, and his life to keep it alive. Set to a catchy doo-wop score and reflecting the creative genius of Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (creators of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Aladdin*), *Little Shop of Horrors* has become one of the world's most popular musicals.

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**2016-2017 Artistry Theater Season
(continued)**

***Bad Dates*, by Theresa Rebeck**

February 10-26, 2017

Directed by Mel Day, featuring Christina Baldwin*

In this comedic one-woman show we become the confidantes of Haley, a successful restaurateur and single mom who is just getting back into the dating world. She tells us of her unfortunate but highly-entertaining encounters while sifting through her wardrobe and her enormous collection of shoes. Just when everything seems to go horribly wrong, connections come forward to help in the most unexpected ways.

The Secret Garden

Book and Lyrics by Marsha Norman, Music by Lucy Simon

April 14-May 14, 2017

Directed by Lisa Channer

Based on the beloved children's book, *The Secret Garden* is a musical telling of a classic Victorian story. Eleven year-old orphan Mary Lennox is taken to Yorkshire to live at the estate of her reclusive uncle Archibald. The dreary house and its overgrown grounds are haunted by a deep melancholy, but Mary's indomitable youthful spirit leads her to find beauty and joy in the place. An enthralling show for adults and a perfect introduction to "grown-up" theater for children, *The Secret Garden* is a story of spring, renewal, and the happiness a young girl can nurture when she is determined to make things grow.

***Wit*, by Margaret Edson**

May 4-21, 2017

Directed by Benjamin McGovern,[†] featuring Sally Wingert* as Dr. Vivian Bearing

"I was dismayed to discover that the play would contain elements of...*humor*." So says Dr. Vivian Bearing, Ph.D., as she introduces her story to us. *Wit* is a brilliantly-crafted and unflinching look at the last chapter of Ms. Bearing's life. Armed with a sharp intellect, this professor of 17th century poetry wrestles with the ultimate question of what it means to "be alive."

Anita Ruth returns as Musical Director for Artistry's four 2016-2017 musicals.

Current subscribers may renew their season tickets beginning April 1, 2016 online and April 2 in person or by phone. New subscriptions and single ticket sales begin May 1, 2016.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

[†] Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society