Theatre at Ford’s Theatre

Broadening our theatrical offerings and deepening the ways we use art as a catalyst for connection and learning, the 2019-2020 theatre season was a tremendous success at Ford’s Theatre, despite the COVID-19 pandemic forcing the shutdown of our spring musical.

FALL 2019

Fences
By August Wilson; Directed by Timothy Douglas
Part of August Wilson’s 10-play Century Cycle, the fall production of Fences explored the walls we build around ourselves and our loved ones, while also illuminating one family’s struggles in a racist society.

HOLIDAY 2019

A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens; Adapted by Michael Wilson; Directed by Michael Baron
Our annual holiday production of A Christmas Carol delighted audiences as miserly Ebenezer Scrooge went on a journey of transformation and redemption with the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

WINTER 2020

Silent Sky
By Lauren Gunderson; Directed by Seema Sueko
In January, this inspiring drama explored the determination, passion and sacrifice of the women who redefined our understanding of the cosmos.

SPRING 2020

CANCELLED: Guys and Dolls
Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser; Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows; Choreographed by Dell Howlett; Directed by Peter Flynn
Our spring musical Guys and Dolls, the beloved 1950s musical comedy featuring dice-slinging gamblers, pious missionaries and glamorous showgirls, was unfortunately cancelled immediately after the production’s final dress rehearsal and postponed to a future season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
**Critical Acclaim**

As seen through the simple symbolism of a wooden fence, Ford's Theatre's season opener of August Wilson's Fences is a brilliant and searing exploration of the tragi-conflicts and heroic triumphs of the African-American experience—and a tour de force of powerhouse performances of soaring emotional timbre.

-DC Metro Theatre Arts

Leavitt’s research proved that everything is relative, but against any measurement, Silent Sky is spectacular. The universe expands, and sometimes we must too. There are struggles, frustrations, and true loss among the story, but it’s difficult to leave the theater feeling anything less than joy. I regret not knowing more about Leavitt before now, but it was an absolute pleasure to make her acquaintance.

-Broadway World

**Ford’s Theatre Artist Instagram Takeovers**

13,911 Likes 5,795 Video views

In July, Ford's launched our virtual play reading series. This series supported artists and brought artistic programming to the general public during a time when live performances were not possible. This series gathered performers together virtually, to perform a live reading of a production that was live streamed on our website, Facebook Live, Twitter and YouTube, and available for viewing for four days following the live event. This year we live streamed readings of Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson and Necessary Sacrifices by Richard Hellesen, both featuring the original cast members who initially performed these pieces on the Ford's Theatre stage.

**Virtual Play Reading Series**

I so appreciate the staff at the Ford’s Theatre putting such effort, expertise, respect and kindness into making this holiday spectacular accessible to Special Needs Audience Members like myself and my peers... I personally know attending a 'Sensory Friendly' presentation is the only way I am able to truly experience the wonder and beauty of live theatre itself, and in this case, the beloved and legendary A Christmas Carol.

- Ford’s Theatre Patron

This past season, Ford's Theatre offered its third sensory-friendly performance. For the first time this special performance was hosted during our annual holiday production of A Christmas Carol. The performance included an adjusted theatre environment, designed for individuals on the autism spectrum or with other sensory sensitivities. Audience members who attended this special performance had a chance to meet members of the cast afterwards, creating a truly unforgettable experience for all. This program creates an environment where all individuals can enjoy live theatre and gave Ford’s the opportunity to share this holiday season tradition with this community.

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**Increasing Access with Sensory-Friendly Performances**

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