



TULSA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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June Kicks Off Phantastic Summer at the PAC

Tulsa, OK. Between the PAC Trust's annual *SummerStage Festival* of 85 performances, 32 performances of *The Phantom of the Opera* and a few additional shows joining the fun, this is one phantastic summer at the PAC. And it all begins in June.

SummerStage occupies the PAC's two "black box" theatres and the 430 fixed-seat Williams Theatre during the summer months. Opening SummerStage on June 13, Clark and Heller Theater groups team up for **Laughing Matter Improv**. This is interactive, improvisational theatre with plenty of audience participation. Tickets are \$10.

There's more comedy, and drama, on June 14 when theatre groups from across Green Country perform 10-minute excerpts from their favorite plays and musicals in a cabaret-style show. Tickets to the sixth annual **TACTA Showcase** are \$10.

Playing both June 13 and 14 is *Backstage at the Midnight Social Club*, presented by a new theatre group in town, Sweet and Hot Productions. This original work, staged in a reader's theatre format, takes audience members to swinging Kansas City, 1934, where four saucy sirens of song, played by the equally divine Cindy Cain, Pam Van Dyke, Annie Ellicott and Rebecca Ungerman, backed by the Frank Brown Band, recreate a musical era with haunting ballads and finger-snappin' tunes. Tickets are \$20 - \$30.

LOOK is an important component of SummerStage, presenting an inspired trio of productions this summer: a fresh take on Gilbert and Sullivan's fanciful *The Pirates of Penzance*, June 13 – July 12; Leonard Bernstein's critically acclaimed *Candide*, June 20 – July 11; and Stephen Sondheim's edgy, musical treatment of the Brothers Grimm stories, *Into the Woods*, June 27 – July 12. Casting for these shows is drawn from musical theatre stages across the nation. In addition, LOOK combines the witty music of Noel Coward with excerpts from three Noel Coward plays in *Oh, Coward!*, running June 15, 22 and 29 and July 6 in a casual cabaret setting. Tickets to the three musicals are \$25- \$29, with discounts available. Tickets for *Oh, Coward!* are \$25 and \$20.

Written by local playwright Dale Whisman and staged by 'Round the Bend Players on June 15, *Granny Diva* is about Marie, a widow who discovers a talent for acting after the death of her husband and soon finds herself headed for the Great White Way. Tickets are \$10.

Andrew Lloyd Webber shared on an episode of this season's American Idol that "The Music of the Night" was the most sensuous, seductive piece he'd written in his phenomenal career. The "Music of the Night" will fill Chapman Music Hall once again (the last time was in 1996), when Celebrity Attractions presents *The Phantom of the Opera* at the PAC June 18 – July 13. Tickets range in price from \$25 to \$65.

Theatre Tulsa's entry into SummerStage this year is the Tony-nominated *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (June 20-22, 26-28), a poignant, darkly humorous drama, written by Irish playwright Frank McGuinness, about three men of different nationalities who end up in a Beirut prison. The play is recommended for mature audiences. Tickets are \$20, with discounts available for students and seniors.

Long associated with SummerStage, Theatre Pops presents two plays in rep fashion this summer, A. R. Guerne's *Love Letters* (June 20, 22, 27), and *Hate Mail* (June 21, 26, 28), which is a collaboration of Bill Corbett and Kira Obolensky. The plays have similar themes but different moods and feature casts of varying ages. Each presents characters sitting side-by-side reading correspondence that reveals much about their lives — their triumphs and disappointments. Tickets are \$10, with discounts available, including a special half-off discount to *Hate Mail*.

In the PAC's Gallery throughout June month is an exhibition of painting by a Japanese artist, titled *Color and Serenity: The Paintings by Michio Takayama*, presented in Tulsa by Tucson's 6th and 6th Gallery.

For tickets to events, call 596-7111. Outside Tulsa, call 800-364-7111. Buy tickets online at MyTicketOffice.com. For more detailed information on all of June's shows, go to TulsaPAC.com.