



# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

**PHILADELPHIA'S HOME  
FOR GREAT THEATRE!**



**211<sup>th</sup> Season  
2019-20**

Includes  
Mainstage,  
Theatre for Kids,  
and our intimate  
Independence  
Studio on 3  
series!





Ken Ludwig's A Comedy of Tenors – 2019: Scott Greer, Ben Dibble, Frank Ferrante, and Jacob Tischler;  
Cover: Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn – 2018: Ben Dibble and Bonnie Kelly; Photos by Mark Garvin

Dear Theatre Fan,

## Welcome to the 2019-20 season of theatre at The Walnut!

I am very proud that we create “theatre for everyone” here at The Walnut. With that in mind, I am thrilled this brochure includes the entire range of shows we will produce for you this season. From the fantastic musicals, dramas, and comedies on our mainstage, to “intimate stories in an intimate space” in our Independence Studio on 3, to fabulous fun for the entire family with our Theatre for Kids' series, we certainly have “theatre for everyone!”

Tens of thousands of your neighbors make The Walnut their theatre home – and the most subscribed theatre company in world! I invite you to join them – and us – and become part of the Walnut family.



*Bernard*

**-Bernard Havard**  
*Producing Artistic Director*





Artwork by Michael Voll ©2018

**"Joyous. The most fun you'll ever have.  
A Monster Hit!"**

*- The Daily Mirror*

## **YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, THE MUSICAL**

**September 3 - October 20, 2019**

**AMERICAN PREMIERE**  
OF THE REVISED LONDON VERSION

It's Alive! (And it's Hilarious!) From the creators of the record-breaking Broadway sensation *The Producers* comes the monstrously mad musical, *Young Frankenstein*! Frederick Frankenstein (pronounced "Fronk-en-steen") reluctantly inherits his infamous family's estate in Transylvania. Urged on by a hunch-backed sidekick, Igor (pronounced "Eye-gore"), and a leggy lab assistant, Inga (pronounced normally), Frederick finds himself fulfilling his grandfather's corpse-raising legacy. This electrifying musical stage adaptation of Mel Brooks' brilliantly funny film will leave you in stitches!

Book by MEL BROOKS and THOMAS MEEHAN

Music and Lyrics by MEL BROOKS

SPONSORED BY:



**Subscribers save up to 70%, that's THREE SHOWS FREE!**  
Order today **215-574-3550** | [walnutstreettheatre.org](http://walnutstreettheatre.org)





**"A triumph of comic imagination...  
ingeniously wacky!"**

- USA Today

## **SHREK THE MUSICAL**

**November 5, 2019 – January 5, 2020**

The greatest fairy tale never told comes to life as never before in *Shrek The Musical*, the award-winning Broadway musical based on the Oscar-winning movie. A reclusive ogre finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking donkey and a feisty princess. Throw in a short-tempered wannabe king, a cookie with an attitude, and over a dozen other classic fairy tale misfits, and you've got the makings of a riotously dysfunctional road trip. Featuring all-new songs and outrageous humor, *Shrek The Musical* is ogre-sized holiday fun for the whole family!

Based on the DREAMWORKS ANIMATION MOTION PICTURE  
and the book by WILLIAM STEIG

Book and Lyrics by DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

Music by JEANINE TESORI

Originally produced on Broadway by DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS  
and NEAL STREET productions

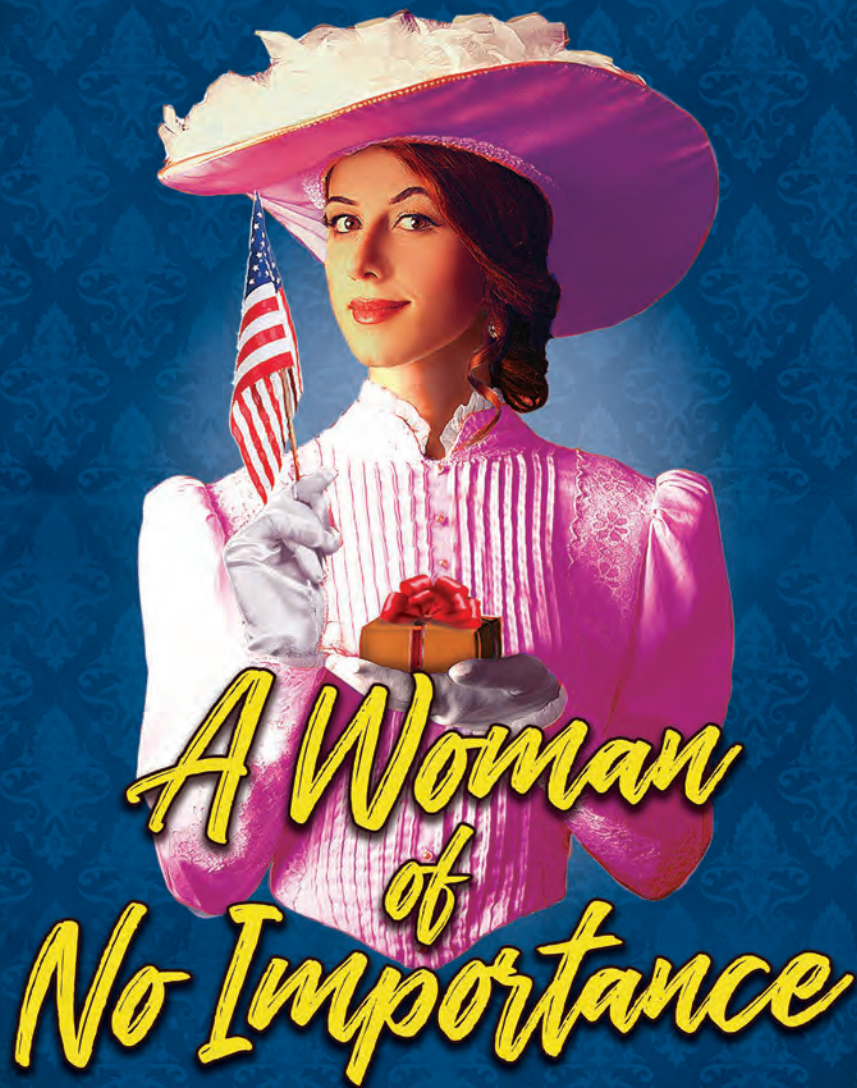
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# Oscar Wilde's



Artwork by Michael Voll ©2018

**"An exhilarating payoff!"**

- *The Telegraph*

## **A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE**

*January 14 – March 1, 2020*

A beautiful, wealthy, American woman travels to England seeking to marry a titled aristocrat. The incomparable Oscar Wilde employs this deceptively simple plot to masterfully mock British society – and the Englishness of the English. In this classic comedy of manners, Wilde holds an unfiltered mirror up to the bourgeois life of Victorian England, while extolling the virtues of robust – and refreshing – American values. Cultures clash, long-held secrets are exposed, and *A Woman of No Importance* has the final word, as the master of biting wit satirizes the roles we play.

| By OSCAR WILDE

SPONSORED BY:

*P.J. Clarke's*  
1884

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up to two hours before their show!

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GORE VIDAL'S

**THE  
BEST  
MAN**



**"Extraordinarily fresh, witty, sharp  
and relevant."**

- *NY Daily News*

***THE BEST MAN***

*March 10 – April 26, 2020*

Philadelphia. The 48 hours leading up to the presidential nomination. Two candidates and their advisors play an intense winner-take-all game of political cat and mouse. Promoting virtually identical policies, the two men's personalities define their true differences: one is a wit and scholar with lofty principles; the other is young, ruthless – and the perfect TV-friendly candidate. *The Best Man* will have you hanging on every unpredictable twist, turn, play, and ploy, as secrets are revealed and allegiances are bought and sold. In this time when politics are fiercely debated, *The Best Man* should not be missed!

| By GORE VIDAL

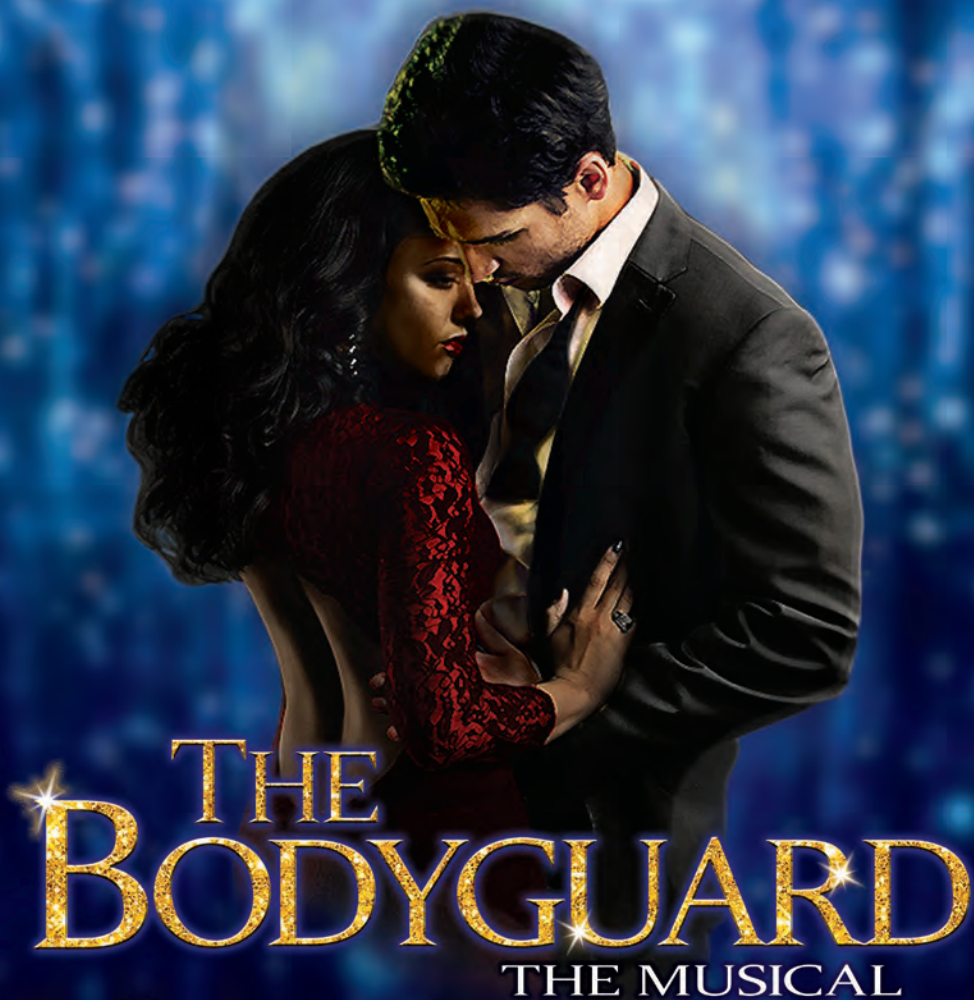
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**Louis and Bessie  
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and **RESTAURANT DISCOUNTS!**

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Artwork by Michael Voll ©2018

**"The runaway gold-plated musical hit!"**

*- The Daily Mail*

## **THE BODYGUARD, THE MUSICAL**

**May 12 – July 12, 2020**

The award-winning romantic thriller that produced the best-selling soundtrack of all time comes to the stage! When a former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard is hired to protect a superstar singer, each expects to be the one in charge; what they don't expect is to fall in love. The Bodyguard features smash hits including, "I'm Every Woman," "So Emotional," "Run to You," "One Moment in Time," "Saving All My Love," "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," and one of the greatest songs of all time – "I Will Always Love You."

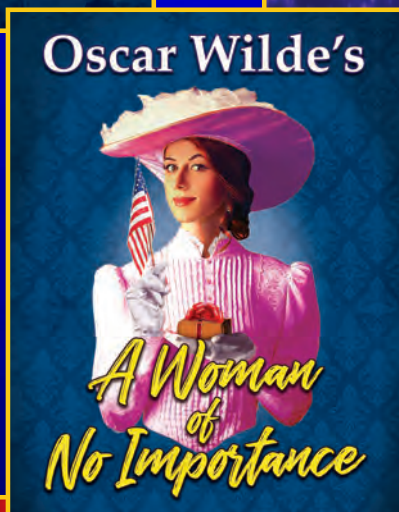
Based on the WARNER BROS film

Film Screenplay by LAWRENCE KASDAN

Book by ALEXANDER DINELARIS

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**UNPARALLED PERSONAL SERVICE,**  
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# Great Shows! Great Benefits! **Great Savings!**

## SUBSCRIBERS SAVE!

	All Orchestra, and Mezzanine A-GG		Mezzanine H-Q	
	BOX OFFICE VALUE UP TO	SUBSCRIBERS PAY JUST	BOX OFFICE VALUE UP TO	SUBSCRIBERS PAY JUST
<b>Previews</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> performance week)				
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, & Sun Evenings	<del>\$432</del>	\$125	<del>\$432</del>	\$125
Sat Evenings	<del>\$432</del>	\$175	<del>\$432</del>	\$125
Sat & Sun Matinees	<del>\$432</del>	\$175	<del>\$432</del>	\$125
<b>Weeks B-G</b>				
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, & Sun Evenings	<del>\$515</del>	\$215	<del>\$515</del>	\$150
Sat Evenings	<del>\$515</del>	\$245	<del>\$515</del>	\$175
Sat & Sun Matinees	<del>\$515</del>	\$245	<del>\$515</del>	\$175
Wednesday Opening Night	<del>\$515</del>	\$355	<del>\$515</del>	\$150
Thursday Matinee	<del>\$515</del>	\$215	<del>\$515</del>	\$175
Senior/Youth (65 and over/24 and under)*	<del>\$515</del>	\$165	<del>\$515</del>	\$125

\* Senior/Youth Discounts are not valid for any Friday or Saturday Evenings, Sunday Matinees or Orchestra level on Opening Night. Valid ID required.

## SUBSCRIBE NOW AND RECEIVE:

- **PARKING DISCOUNTS!** Four area lots offer exclusive subscriber discounts
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- Savings of up to 70%! That's like getting **THREE SHOWS FREE!**
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- **UNPARALLELED PERSONAL SERVICE** 10am-10pm, 7 days a week!

ORDER TODAY

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# WALNUT STREET THEATRE FOR KIDS

FOR KIDS IN GRADES K-6 AND THEIR GROWN-UP FRIENDS!

SEE ALL FOUR  
FOR LESS THAN  
**\$11 EACH**

Sponsored by Sharon and Scott Rankin

**Performed  
on our Walnut  
main stage!**

## 2019-20 SEASON



### Disney's **The Little Mermaid Jr.**

Music by Alan Menken; Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater; Book by Doug Wright; Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film; Music Adapted and Arranged by David Weinstein

**September 21-22, 2019**

Journey "under the sea" with Ariel and her aquatic friends in Disney's The Little Mermaid JR., a song-filled musical for kids adapted from the hit Disney Broadway show and the Academy Award-winning movie. In a magical underwater kingdom, the young mermaid Ariel longs to leave her ocean home – and her fins – behind and live in the world above.



### **Grace for President**

Based on the book by Kelly S. DiPucchio; Book illustrations by LeUyen Pham; Book, music and lyrics by Joan Cushing

**February 1-2, 2020**

When Grace doesn't see a female face on a poster of US presidents, she decides to be the president of her class at school. But she soon realizes that she has entered a tough race where being the best candidate doesn't always mean being the most popular. Grace for President is a fun introduction to the electoral system, and teaches the value of hard work, courage, and independent thought.



### **Junie B. Jones The Musical**

Book and Lyrics by Marcy Heisler; Music by Zina Goldrich

**March 28-29, 2020**

Adapted from the Junie B. Jones Series of books by Barbara Park It's Junie B. Jones' first day of First Grade, and things sure are different than they were in Kindergarten. Between new friends, getting glasses and not being allowed to play in the kickball tournament, there's a lot going on. Through singing, dancing, and a little help from her grown-up friends, Junie B. Jones learns that "practice won't make perfect, but it sure helps out!"



### **Nate the Great**

Books & Lyrics by John MacLay; Music and Lyrics by Brett Ryback; Based on the book by Marjorie Sharmat

**May 30-31, 2020**

Who do you call when there's a mystery you can't solve? The World's Greatest Detective, Nate the Great! Nate's friend Annie has lost a picture and she needs his detective skills to help her find it. Nate the Great must get all the facts, ask the right questions, and narrow the list of suspects so he can solve the mystery.



*Add this holiday favorite to your subscription!*

### **A Christmas Carol** By Charles Dickens

**December 1-23, 2019**

On one remarkable Christmas Eve, Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by three ghosts who show him past, present—and possible future. You and your favorite kids are in for a treat with a special hour-long musical adaptation for kids that uses traditional songs to highlight Dickens' magical story. Deck the halls as our holiday spirits travel beyond the footlights, right into your very own heart.

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# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

INDEPENDENCE STUDIO on 3

INTIMATE STORIES IN AN INTIMATE SPACE

## 2019-20 SEASON



### Meteor Shower

By Steve Martin

**September 10 – October 13, 2019**

Get ready for the unexpected when Norm and his wife Corky invite another couple to their backyard to watch a once-in-a-lifetime meteor shower in the night sky. As the stars come out and the conversation gets rolling, cocktails flow, tempers flare, and sparks fly—literally. Steve Martin's surprising new comedy takes an offbeat look at the comic anxiety lurking just beneath the surface of modern marriage.



### The Gift of the Magi, A Musical

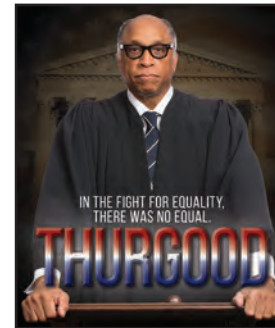
From the Stories of O. Henry; Book by Mark St. Germain;  
Music by Randy Courts; Lyrics by Randy Courts and Mark St. Germain

**November 12 - December 15, 2019**

In this heartwarming and romantic musical comedy, a group of holiday carolers tell the story of Della and Jim, desperately in love with each other but also penniless at the holidays. In their attempt to buy proper presents, a strange twist of fate leads each to find the perfect gift for the other – but at what cost? This beautiful musical adaptation of the classic O. Henry story reminds us of the true meaning of giving, and of love.

SEE **ALL FIVE**  
FOR AS LITTLE AS  
**\$14 EACH!**

**There's More  
Great Theatre  
Upstairs at  
The Walnut!**



### Thurgood

By George Stevens, Jr.

**January 7 – February 9, 2020**

Meet Thurgood Marshall: Lawyer. Civil Rights Activist. The first African American Supreme Court Justice. In the acclaimed Broadway play Thurgood, you have a seat at a fictional lecture on his life given by Marshall at his alma mater, and experience his transformation from a young and spirited dissenter to a pensive Justice full of wisdom. From his early days as the civil rights lawyer to his appointment to the highest court in the land, Thurgood Marshall stood for justice while lifting the standing of his race, and all Americans.

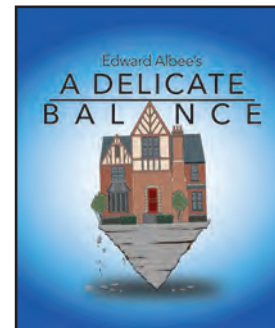


### Popcorn Falls

By James Hindman

**February 25 – March 29, 2020**

A nasty neighboring town has shut off Popcorn Falls namesake waterfall and targeted them as a sewage treatment site. But the enterprising Popcorn Falls townsfolk ("kernels") discover a loophole when they find they can secure a town-saving grant if they can produce a play – in just one week! The only problems: no playhouse, no players, and no play! Two actors frantically transform into over twenty roles in this over-the-top comedy that proves one play can save the world (or at least one town)!



### Edward Albee's A Delicate Balance

By Edward Albee

**April 14 – May 17, 2020**

*What would you do?* On one previously uneventful night, long-time friends arrive at your door unannounced and terrified—unable to say what they are running from, or how long they plan to stay. An unexplained fear has gripped them, and they have turned to you as their first and last resort. *What would you do?* Edward Albee won the first of his three Pulitzer Prizes for this absorbing look into the everyday hopes, fears, and secrets we all so delicately-balance. Directed by Walnut Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard.

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