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Temple University Theaters
Tomlinson 011-05
1301 W. Norris Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Temple Theaters 2008/2009
41st Annual Season!
Bright Lights, Big City!

Temple Theaters

41st Anniversary Season

2008/2009

Bright Lights,
Big City!



Poster Concept and Design by Marie Anne Chiment | Poster Painting by Marie Anne Chiment and Patricia Taylor





Welcome!

Welcome to the 41st Annual Season of Temple Theaters! Since arriving as Chair of the Department of Theater in 2006, I have been incredibly fortunate to witness a blossoming of students, faculty, staff, and productions: coloring outside the edges, pushing boundaries, and entertaining audiences. Last season, the Philadelphia theater community, more so than ever before, cast a spotlight on our program and our productions with their extraordinary applause and generous words of encouragement for the remarkable work taking place at the northern anchor of the Avenue of the Arts – Temple University.

With great triumph comes great responsibility, of course, so we see our recent successes as a challenge to continue to bring Philadelphia theatergoers an affordable, entertaining and provocative season of theater. Our students continue to be trained by our extraordinary faculty of leading theater scholars and professionals. This year, we welcome nationally-recognized producer, director and actor, Lee Kenneth Richardson, who joins our faculty and will also direct the groundbreaking Philadelphia premiere of *The Seven Against Thebes* by Aeschylus.

We also have some rather exciting news about the productions that will open and close our 41st Season: they are headed for the big city! *Expecting Isabel*, a modern serio-comedy written by Lisa Loomer, will open our season and be performed at the new Suzanne Roberts Theatre at Broad & Lombard Streets, home of the Philadelphia Theater Company. Our season will close with the classic tuner *Cabaret* at the black box theater at the legendary Prince Music Theater at Broad & Chestnut Streets in Center City. These Center City venues will offer our students a brand-new exposure to the heart of the theater scene in Philadelphia, and will also hopefully invite an entirely new group of theatergoers to experience first-hand the enthralling magic and imaginative power of Temple Theaters.

We look forward to having you join us as Temple Theaters embarks upon a true creative renaissance; our wonderfully talented artists – students, faculty and staff alike – have a passion for the theater that shines through during each and every performance. This season will be no exception. If you have been with us in the past, we hope you will return. If you are new to Temple Theaters, please join us as we continue a most remarkable journey.

Theater is a trip worth taking, a road worth traveling. It is an adventure into the unknown, into someplace magical and an experience like no other.

Here we go.

Roberta Sloan, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Theater



Bright Lights, Big City!

Temple Theaters is on the move – playing uptown Philly to downtown Center City. Following our extraordinary 40th Anniversary Season, we inaugurate our 41st consecutive year as one of Philadelphia's most rewarding and dynamic theater destinations for both future artists and audiences.

Our new season opens with the Philadelphia premiere of Lisa Loomer's cutting-edge comedy, *Expecting Isabel*, presented downtown in the new Suzanne Roberts Theatre, new home to the highly regarded Philadelphia Theater Company. To conclude, Kander and Ebb's watershed musical, *Cabaret* lights up the Prince Music Theater's intimate black box space in Center City.

In between, four distinctive productions will grace our home spaces on campus:

- George Abbott's iconic American musical, *Damn Yankees*.
- An unprecedented two-play pairing of Ibsen's twin towering classics, *Hedda Gabler* and *A Doll's House* in the intimacy of Randall Theater.
- Hip Hop Theater maven Will Power's 'fly' adaptation of Aeschylus' *Seven Against Thebes*, called *The Seven*, has its Philadelphia premiere.
- Bertolt Brecht's ever-powerful theatrical epic, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

No other theater in Philadelphia can offer you a more provocative and diverse range of performances created by our world-class professional faculty, staff and, of course, our extraordinarily gifted Temple Theater students. Artistic excellence in craft and consummate scholarship characterize our program and permeate our work on stage.

Am I excited? You bet I am. Play a role in the future. Take the leap of imagination with us, into worlds of enthralling immediacy; high drama, savage comedy and rollicking song. Temple Theater's breakout 2008-2009 season!

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Wager
Artistic Director

Main Season



Expecting Isabel

by Lisa Loomer

Directed by Douglas C Wager
Presented in Center City at the
Suzanne Roberts Theatre
September 25 – October 5, 2008

A Philadelphia Premiere

Tumble down the rabbit hole of conception and future parenthood with Nick and Miranda in this hilarious and heartbreaking comic odyssey through the booming baby business of the fertility trade, the adoption industry and the precarious pangs of family turmoil. A “Center City” Philadelphia premiere, produced by Temple Theaters in the beautiful new Suzanne Roberts Theatre, home of the renowned Philadelphia Theater Company.



Damn Yankees

**Book by George Abbott and
Douglas Wallop, Music and Lyrics
by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross**

Directed by Peter Reynolds
Tomlinson Theater
October 30 – November 9, 2008

October baseball; World Series tickets may be tough to come by, but never fear; Temple Theaters proudly presents a hell-of-a baseball miracle, *Damn Yankees*, the classic all American Tony-award-winning musical. An aging fan's desperate dream to turn his favorite losing team into World Series champs conjures up a seductive devil's bargain to swap certain success on the diamond for the evanescent treasures of hearth and home.

Temple Theaters celebrates the genius of “Mr. Broadway,” the late, great George Abbott, in thanks to Joy Abbott for her recent extraordinary bequest to create the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater here at Temple University.



Women on the Verge: *Ibsen, Nora and Hedda*

By Henrik Ibsen

Hedda Gabler

Directed by Felipe Vergaro

A Doll's House

Directed by Mathew Wright

Presented in Rotating Repertory

Randall Theater

November 19 – December 7, 2008

Love and marriage; sex, money and power; men and women; trust and betrayal...

From the undisputed Father of Modern Drama, Henrik Ibsen's twin masterpieces, *A Doll's House* and *Hedda Gabler*, presented in rotating repertory, in the close intimacy of Randall Theater.

This ambitious and unprecedented theatrical event pairs the provocative shot and the famous door slam heard round the world that signaled the demise of misogyny and chauvinism in the institution of marriage and society, revealing both the plight and the potential for women struggling into the new century. This unprecedented opportunity to experience the seminal theatrical genius of Ibsen, who virtually changed the face of modern playwriting in the Western world, is not to be missed.

Subscribers please note: The season subscription includes tickets to your choice of either *A Doll's House* or *Hedda Gabler*.



The Seven

By Will Power

Freely Adapted from *Seven Against Thebes* by Aeschylus

Directed by

Lee Kenneth Richardson

Tomlinson Theater

February 5 – 22, 2009

A Philadelphia Premiere

"The sins of the father are visited upon their sons." The legendary Greek Oedipal curse, so powerfully dramatized by the great Greek tragedian, Aeschylus over 2500 years ago still haunts the mean streets of Philadelphia today.

Hip Hop theater specialist Will Power transforms Aeschylus' provocative tragedy of brother warring against brother, living under the curse of kin, into a highly theatrical and entertaining fable. *The Seven* is an audacious, dazzling, street-wise, seamless musical blend of pop harmonies, rap, rhythm, slam poetry, Greek legend and dazzling hip hop movement.



The Caucasian Chalk Circle

By Bertolt Brecht

Directed by Armina LaManna

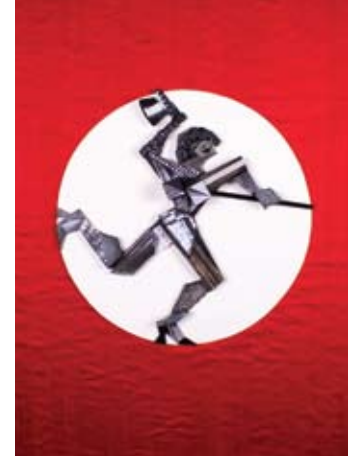
Tomlinson Theater

March 19 – 29, 2009

"Terrible is the temptation to do Good." (The Singer)

Once upon a time...there was a young boy left abandoned in the heat of a brutal civil war. A lowly servant girl comes to his rescue and risks everything to protect him. The war comes to an end and now the girl, Grusha, is forced to confront the boy's biological mother in a legal contest over who deserves to keep him. The comical judge, Azdak, calls on an ancient tradition – the chalk circle – to resolve the dispute. Who will win?

A harrowing human fable masterfully fashioned into a joyful theatrical landscape of song, character, scenes and poetry, Brecht's Epic Theater classic is a fresh, vibrant and thought-provoking parable for our troubled times.



Cabaret

**Book by Joe Masteroff,
Lyrics by Fred Ebb, and
Music by John Kander**

Directed by Brenna Geffers

Presented in Center City at the
Prince Music Theater Cabaret

April 1 – 26, 2009

"Willkommen!" to the dingy Kit Kat Club at the dawn of the decadent 1930's in Berlin. The mirthfully menacing Emcee presides as your seductive host and the beautiful Miss Sally Bowles, is the featured attraction. Love is in the air for Sally, or so it seems, while the Nazis have begun their prodigal rise to power. All is well with the world, yes? ...or is it? Kander and Ebb's classic cautionary musical milestone, *Cabaret*, returns to Philadelphia in the thrilling intimacy of the Prince Cabaret in Center City.

Second Season

When it comes to performance during the academic year, Temple Theaters' Main Season is just the tip of the creative iceberg. Second Season is our premiere free-to-the-public venue for student projects, workshops, play readings and theater class performances. Created by our diverse ensemble of more than 230 gifted graduate and undergraduate theater majors in close association with our faculty and staff, Second Season offers a new and exciting opportunity to discover and celebrate the future talents of our field.

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NEW VOICES: THE 21ST ANNUAL YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

Produced by David Ingram
Tomlinson Theater
September 25–27, 2008

Temple Theaters' long and storied collaboration with the Philadelphia Young Playwrights (PYP) continues this year, now more than two decades into presenting the winning plays of grade school and high school students from the region at Tomlinson Theater. Come witness the birth of Philadelphia's newest, most talented young writers from the annual PYP competition, featuring workshop stagings of the winning plays by area professional directors and Temple theater students.

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WHO WILL CARRY THE WORD

By Charlotte Delbo
Directed by Tony Hostetter
Randall Theater
October 20–30, 2008

Based upon the true story of Charlotte Delbo, who spent nearly three years in concentration camps, the play depicts the lives of 20 women while they share a barracks in Auschwitz. Their singular goal is to keep the strongest of them alive so that someone can share what they had experienced with the world.

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URBAN STUDIES PRESENTATION – THE WOMEN OF NORTH PHILADELPHIA

Produced by Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon
& Eugene Martin

Randall Theater

Dates TBA

Dr. Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon and professor Eugene Martin join forces to shine a light on the diverse and extraordinary women of North Philadelphia and those neighborhoods that surround Temple University. Through performance art, poetry, film, and dramatic interpretation, Williams-Witherspoon and Martin intend to let the voices of these women be heard – candid, poignant, and real.

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POETRY IN PERFORMANCE

Directed by Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon

Randall Theater

December 13 & 14, 2008 | May 8 & 9, 2009

Students from Dr. Williams-Witherspoon's Poetry in Performance class present their work during two evenings each semester. With a focus on self-discovery and art-without-limits, the students present poetry, verse, song, and dance – spotlighting many unique voices and points of view.

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ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

Produced by Donna Snow

Randall Theater

Dates TBA

Contemporary one-acts, which are chosen, cast, rehearsed and produced by students in the Acting Concentration Thesis Class and the Advanced Directing Class will focus on the actor's and director's processes. This enables advanced students to experiment, hone their craft, and free their talents in front of live audiences. The plays will be chosen by February; please check our website for the schedule.

Bright Moments from Our 40th Anniversary Season!



The Time of Your Life

The Merchant of Venice



The Darker Face of the Earth



In Conflict

In Conflict was named "Best New Play" and "Top 10 Productions of the Philadelphia Theater Season" by Philadelphia Weekly! The show returns to Randall Theater September 3-13, 2008 before opening Off-Broadway at The Barrow Street Theater in New York City as the opening show of The Culture Project's 2008-2009 Season. For ticket and show info, please visit www.temple.edu/theater/in_conflict.

Subscribe and **save!**

Subscribe and see six shows for \$90 — you'll save \$40 from single-ticket prices!

Subscribe to our new Center City Season package and receive a ticket to *Expecting Isabel* at the Suzanne Roberts Theater (at Broad & Lombard Sts.) and *Cabaret* at The Prince Music Theater's Black Box Theater (at Broad & Chestnut Sts.) for a low price of \$20 each. In addition, add any or all of our four (counting the Ibsen double-bill as one) Temple Main Campus performances for an additional \$11 each, nearly 50% off the single-ticket price!

Only Subscribers Receive:

Guaranteed tickets – our shows frequently sell out; avoid missing a popular show by subscribing.

Liberal ticket exchange privileges.

Discounts on additional tickets for friends.

Attendance at special events.

Subscribe now – it's a great deal!

Ticket and Theater Information

Single Ticket Prices (Musicals/Plays):

\$25/\$20 General admission

\$20/\$15 Seniors | Students | Temple Employees | Temple Alumni

Please note: Current Temple students (all non-majors) who purchase a ticket with the GAF card will incur a \$5 surcharge for plays and a \$10 surcharge for musicals.

Single tickets are sold online at Brown Paper Tickets (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/9357>), by phone at **1-800-838-3006** or 215-204-1122, or in person (cash sales only) at Tomlinson Theater Box Office (1301 W. Norris Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122) Monday through Friday, 10 AM–2 PM. For info, please call 215-204-1334. Ticket information is also available at www.temple.edu/theater.

Subscription Prices:

\$90 General subscription (six shows)

\$70 Seniors | Students | Temple Employees | Temple Alumni
subscription (six shows)

\$40 Center City Season subscription (two shows)

(with the option of purchasing any or all of our Temple Main Campus shows for an additional \$11 each.)

Subscriptions can be purchased by completing the attached form and mailing it to: Temple Theaters, Subscription Services, Tomlinson Theater 011-05, 1301 West Norris Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122. Subscriptions can also be purchased by phone at 215-204-1334.

Theater Locations:

Tomlinson Theater:

1301 West Norris Street *(On Norris Street between 13th & Broad Streets)*

Randall Theater:

2020 North 13th Street *(On 13th Street between Norris & Diamond)*

Suzanne Roberts Theatre:

480 S. Broad Street
(at Broad & Lombard Streets)

The Prince Music Theater:

1412 Chestnut Street
(at Broad & Chestnut Streets)

All venues have unreserved seating – which means the best seats go to those who arrive early. Plan to arrive one-half-hour before curtain to choose the seating you prefer. Latecomers are seated at the discretion of house management. **If you have special seating needs, please notify us in advance by calling 215-204-1122** by 4:00 PM weekdays only.

Parking:

Temple's Main Campus: Guarded parking is available for \$12, payable in cash. The lot is located on Diamond Street between 11th and 12th Streets, and is one block from the theater.

Suzanne Roberts Theatre and Prince Music Theater: Please contact the Department of Theater in Spetember for information at 215-204-1334.

The season is subject to change. There are no refunds.

Sponsored in part by the Temple University General Activities Fee.

Season Artwork conceived and designed by Marie Anne Chiment. Paintings by Marie Anne Chiment and Patricia Taylor.

Photographs by Ryan Brandenburg & John Flak. Special Thanks: Jacqueline Spadaro and Temple University Creative Services.

Please Contribute to Theater at Temple University

You can be a part of supporting the development of our theater students by making a tax-deductible donation to the Theater Development Fund. This fund supports internal initiatives of the department that directly impact the education of young theater artists. To make an online contribution, visit www.temple.edu/alumni_friends/, and be sure to specify "Theater Development Fund" under "Other." Your generosity will make a difference!

Thank you for your support!

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Center City Subscription
(\$40 each, with \$11 per Temple Main Campus show, if added)

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+ \$5 Handling = \$ _____

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to the Theater Development Fund = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL = \$ _____

* Please include a copy of qualifying Senior Citizen, Student or Temple Employee ID.

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3 digit code (on back of card) _____ Signature _____

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1301 W. Norris Street / Philadelphia, PA 19122

Order by phone: 215-204-1122

Please check the performances you wish to attend and return the form to us.

Note: You can mix and match which days/times you would like to attend for any given performance. For instance, you may select a Saturday matinee for one show and a Tuesday evening for another. Just so there is no confusion, before you send your order form to us, we suggest that you make a copy or write down your selections on your calendar.

Expecting Isabel - Suzanne Roberts Theatre (New Venue in Center City!)

9/25 @ 7:30 9/26 @ 8:00 9/27 @ 8:00 9/28 @ 2:00
Preview Preview Opening

9/29 @ 7:30 9/30 @ 7:30 10/1 @ 7:30 10/2 @ 7:30

10/3 @ 8:00 10/4 @ 2:00 10/4 @ 8:00 10/5 @ 2:00

Damn Yankees - Tomlinson Theater

10/30 @ 7:30 10/31 @ 8:00 11/1 @ 8:00 11/2 @ 2:00
Preview Preview Opening

11/3 @ 7:30 11/4 @ 7:30 11/5 @ 7:30 11/6 @ 7:30

11/7 @ 8:00 11/8 @ 2:00 11/8 @ 8:00 11/9 @ 2:00

Ibsen 1 (A Doll's House) and Ibsen 2 (Hedda Gabler) - Randall Theater

1 11/19 @ 7:30 2 11/20 @ 7:30 1 11/21 @ 8:00 2 11/22 @ 8:00
Preview Preview Opening Opening

1 11/23 @ 2:00 2 11/24 @ 7:30 1 11/25 @ 7:30 2 12/2 @ 7:30

1 12/3 @ 7:30 2 12/4 @ 7:30 1 12/5 @ 8:00 2 12/6 @ 2:00

1 12/6 @ 8:00 2 12/7 @ 2:00

The Seven - Tomlinson Theater

2/5 @ 7:30 2/6 @ 8:00 2/7 @ 8:00 2/8 @ 2:00
Preview Preview Opening

2/9 @ 7:30 2/10 @ 7:30 2/11 @ 7:30 2/12 @ 7:30

2/13 @ 8:00 2/14 @ 2:00 2/14 @ 8:00 2/16 @ 7:30

2/17 @ 7:30 2/18 @ 7:30 2/19 @ 7:30 2/20 @ 8:00

2/21 @ 2:00 2/21 @ 8:00 2/22 @ 2:00

Caucasian Chalk Circle - Tomlinson Theater

3/19 @ 7:30 3/20 @ 8:00 3/21 @ 8:00 3/22 @ 2:00
Preview Preview Opening

3/23 @ 7:30 3/24 @ 7:30 3/25 @ 7:30 3/26 @ 7:30

3/27 @ 8:00 3/28 @ 2:00 3/28 @ 8:00 3/29 @ 2:00

Cabaret - Prince Music Theater (New Venue in Center City!)

4/16 @ 7:30 4/17 @ 8:00 4/18 @ 8:00 4/19 @ 2:00
Preview Preview Opening

4/20 @ 7:30 4/21 @ 7:30 4/22 @ 7:30 4/23 @ 7:30

4/24 @ 8:00 4/25 @ 2:00 4/25 @ 8:00 4/26 @ 2:00