The Department of Theatre and Dance presents a production season that pokes and prods, teases and tests the perception of self and others. Explore with us what it means to self-define as you find your place in sometimes unfamiliar or unwelcoming situations.

This season brings together musical theatre, drama, comedy, and dance in seven varied productions. Join us as a season subscriber and receive free admission to our inaugural Summer Lab Series, a reimagined production of Romeo and Juliet, co-directed by faculty member Evan Parry and rising senior Krista Grevas, playing this August. As always, subscribers benefit from priority seating, flex-ticketing and exchange privileges. Opening nights include a talkback and reception with the cast and crew that give insight to the creativity and process taking place behind the scenes.

Our department continues to focus on professional training and high production values. We are committed to growing support for our students through scholarship and by enhancing our production program. Each year our generous patrons and donors make it possible for the department to continue its dedication to quality experiences, education and training for the students. We couldn't achieve this without your incredible support. Check out our donor categories, and declare your impact today!

Thank you for your support and enjoy our season!

– Janine McCabe, Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance
One of William Shakespeare’s best-known and most-loved works, Romeo and Juliet is the timeless story of two doomed lovers who come from two families embroiled in a bloody feud. Romeo and Juliet seek only to love each other, but family, friends, society and Fate make that far easier said than done. This retelling of a classic story makes Fate a living entity, a group of figures who affect the lovers, manipulating them like puppets. It uses elements of physical theatre and dance to tell Shakespeare’s great story on the 400th anniversary of his death, and asks the question: “Can we govern our own fate, or does Fate govern us?”

Set in a sweets shop in one of Chicago’s most diverse neighborhoods, Superior Donuts is a humorous tale of an unlikely friendship. Arthur Przybyszewski’s donut shop has been a community hub for decades, and both the neglected storefront and its rundown owner are evidence to that. But when Franco, a young fast-talking dreamer, bounds into the shop, the writing is on the wall that things are going to change – maybe even for the better. This comedy-drama by Tony Award®- and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Letts explores the challenges of embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship.
Safe Harbor is a collection of dance works choreographed by faculty, selected students, and NYC-based guest choreographer John Zullo. This concert explores ideas of one’s sense of comfort and safety. Where is your refuge, and what does this space symbolize? Do you ever venture out of it, and why or why not? Do we find these harbors with others, or are we more comfortable when we’re alone? Where does someone go, emotionally and/or physically, in order to feel safe? Does such a space even exist?

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Gretchen McLaine

OCT 20-23, 7:30PM (SUNDAY 10/23 AT 2:00PM ONLY)

VENUE Emmett Robinson Theatre in the Simons Center for the Arts, 54 Saint Philip St.

Plucky. It’s a word you don’t hear much now. But in 1934 it might have been a perfect word to describe the determination and wit of the women in this play. Pulitzer prize-winning author Edna Ferber teamed up with George S. Kaufman to write this classic American comedy. The play takes us inside a rooming house for plucky aspiring actresses near the heart of the New York theatre scene. Come see why, when so few women of the 1930s felt they could have a career at all, these women chose one that’s still the most daunting.

BY George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber

DIRECTED BY Mark Landis

NOV 17-20, 7:30PM (SUNDAY 11/20 AT 2:00PM & 7:30PM)

VENUE Emmett Robinson Theatre in the Simons Center for the Arts, 54 Saint Philip St.
Personal transformations in a transitioning neighborhood might cost you more than the rent.

So when home is part of a newly gentrifying neighborhood, what needs to change to insure your comfort? Each character in the play is challenged by their response to new life in an old place, a place not always inviting but one that is now home. Gentrification impacts more than those moving in alongside the new restaurants and yoga studios; it speaks to the displaced as well. As always, Ms. Wilson proffers as many questions as answers in this fast paced, race, class and privileged laced piece.

Content advisory: language.

Somewhere between love and science hides the truth, and the brilliance of Gabrielle Émilie Le Tonnelier de Breteuil, Marquise du Châtelet (1706-1749). An outspoken woman of her time, Émilie’s most significant accomplishment was to challenge the greatest physicist then known to the world, Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1717). “Time and Space are generous tonight,” she muses. This night, spacetime curves to return Émilie to life for an evening filled with romance, philosophy, and physics in which we share the discovery of her radical genius and the influence of her passion.
The annual student dance concert, Chapel Moves!, presents the department’s aspiring dance artists and future professional choreographers and performers. A diverse showcase of artistry, physicality, and expression, the students share their creative voices through original choreography and captivating movement.

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  Kristin Alexander  
**VENUE** Chapel Theatre, 172 Calhoun St.

**MARCH 23-26, 7:30pm (SUNDAY 3/26 AT 2:00pm ONLY)**

No day but today! In 1996, an original rock musical by a little-known composer opened on Broadway... and forever changed the landscape of American theatre. Two decades later, Jonathan Larson’s RENT continues to speak loudly and defiantly to audiences across generations and all over the world. Exuberant, passionate, and joyous, this Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award®-winning musical is theatre at its best. A re-imagining of Puccini’s La Bohème, RENT follows an unforgettable year in the lives of seven artists struggling to follow their dreams without selling out. With its inspiring message of joy and hope in the face of fear, this timeless celebration of friendship and creativity reminds us to measure our lives with the only thing that truly matters – love.

**APRIL 6-11, 7:30pm (SUNDAY 4/9 AT 2:00pm ONLY)**

Contains mature thematic material including drugs, sexuality, and some language. Discretion is advised.
Donor Levels and Benefits

At any level you may designate where you want to make your impact. Choose an area of focus when you submit your donation.

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PATRON $1–$99 | Receive recognition in 2016–17 season programs
FAN $100–$249 | PATRON benefit plus TWO tickets to a production of your choice
DIRECTOR $250–$399 | PATRON benefit plus FOUR tickets to a production of your choice
STAR $400–$699 | PATRON benefit plus TWO season passes and a season t-shirt

*At the GUARDIAN and ADVOCATE levels, you will be connected with a student through a special luncheon where they will receive our “Clarence Award” (named for the guardian angel in It’s a Wonderful Life).

GUARDIAN $700–$999 | STAR benefits plus connection with a theatre or dance student, invitations to special events with your sponsored student and additional recognition in printed programs in which your student is involved.

ADVOCATE $1000+ | GUARDIAN benefits (including “Clarence Award” student), plus SIX extra tickets to a production of your choice

Become a Producer

Want to be more involved? Choose to sponsor a particular production this season when you designate a donation of $3000 or more to PRODUCTION. Select your sponsored production, receive FOUR season passes, join us for select rehearsals, backstage tours and have your name on the cover of the program and other marketing materials.

Become a Benefactor

The department is committed to recruiting the stars of tomorrow, but we need your help. Designate a donation of $1500 or more to SCHOLARSHIP at any time during the year, and we will use that money to recruit a new student with whom you will be connected in the 2017-18 academic year.

Questions? Contact the Department of Theatre and Dance • 843.953.6306 or oleksiakm@cofc.edu.

For federal tax purposes, your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. (Cost of tickets/passes is deducted from your donation. ) College of Charleston Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. For information about all the benefits and higher levels of giving, please contact the School of the Arts, 843.953.5348.