



Actors' Shakespeare Project Announces Their 2024-2025 Season Lineup!

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Evan Turissini](#) - 617-241-2200

(BOSTON) – Actors' Shakespeare Project is proud to announce three blockbuster mainstage titles for their 2024-25 Season, each from one of the most celebrated writers in the English language: Jane Austen, August Wilson, and William Shakespeare.

"As we commemorate ASP's 20th Anniversary this October – marking two decades since our first performance of *Richard III* at the Old South Meeting House in 2004 – we know these three productions will display what our company does best," said Artistic Director Christopher V. Edwards. "I'm excited to be working alongside my long-time colleagues Regine Vital and Maurice Parent in celebrating and challenging the place of these plays among the literary canon."

In November 2024: Actors' Shakespeare Project kicks off their twenty-first season with Kate Hamill's adaptation of one of the most beloved novels in the English language: Jane Austen's ***Emma***. Directed by ASP Associate Producer Regine Vital and staged at The Multicultural Arts Center in East Cambridge, this rollicking romantic comedy will charm theatergoers of all ages.

In January 2025: Actors' Shakespeare Project continues their partnership with Hibernian Hall in bringing the American Century Cycle of August Wilson to Roxbury. Following the runaway success of *Seven Guitars* and *King Hedley II*, ASP Artistic Director Christopher V. Edwards will helm Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic ***The Piano Lesson***.

In April 2025: Actors' Shakespeare Project makes their first foray into Watertown with ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***! Elliot Norton Award-winning director and ASP Resident Artist Maurice Emmanuel Parent's invigorating new take will explore the beauty and romance, but also the sinister underbelly, of one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies.

Tickets for all performances range from \$59 to \$64, with a limited allotment of \$20 tickets for all performances, subject to availability. Student tickets are \$25, available for any patron ages 25 and under. Discount tickets are also available through the EBT Card to Culture program, presented through Mass Cultural Council.

Memberships are available starting at \$165, with early bird pricing as low as \$150. For more information, visit www.actorsshakespeareproject.org.

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ABOUT ACTORS' SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

Actors' Shakespeare Project is an award-winning professional theater company with a Resident Artist Company and extensive education, youth and community programs. ASP works and performs in found spaces, schools, and theaters in Boston neighborhoods. We present and explore the robust language, resonant stories, and deeply human characters in Shakespeare's plays and in the work of other language-based contemporary playwrights. Our work is focused on intimacy, storytelling, language, relationships, voice, risk and artistry within and throughout the Boston area. For more information visit www.actorsshakespeareproject.org.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Actors' Shakespeare Project deploys the creative energy of theatre artists and the power of language and stories to create shared experiences for our community. Our artistic productions and education programs challenge and interrogate long-held expectations about Shakespeare and classic work; build bridges between diverse viewpoints; and empower people to more deeply empathize with each other.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

CHRISTOPHER V. EDWARDS (Director - *The Piano Lesson*) is a director, actor, fight choreographer, educator and consultant. He is currently the Artistic Director of Actors' Shakespeare Project in Boston, where he has directed *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Let The Right One In*, *The Bomb-itty of Errors*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Equivocation*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. He also is appearing as Lord Capulet in ASP's upcoming production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Prior to ASP, he was the Artistic Director of Nevada Conservatory Theatre in Las Vegas and the Associate Artistic Director with The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival in New York. Chris was the founding Artistic Director for Point of Entry Theatre in NYC.

Chris has worked as a director and/or actor in London's West End, Off-Broadway, The National Theatre of Oslo in Norway, John Houseman's The Acting Company in NYC, HERE Arts Center, Dorset Theatre Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Helix in Ireland, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Ubu Rep, The Flea Theater, Cleveland Playhouse, The NY Hip-Hop Theatre Festival, Utah Shakespeare Festival, SOHO Rep, Penumbra Theater, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, PA Shakes, Shakespeare and Company and Guthrie Theatre to name a few.

He is a Senior Lecturer at Boston University School of Theatre and received his MFA from the University of Minnesota in Association with the Guthrie Theatre. Chris lives in Jamaica Plain with his wife and daughter, Jennifer Rohn and Anya Edwards. (*he/him*)

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MAURICE EMMANUEL PARENT (Director - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) is an award-winning actor, director, educator and mentor with twenty years of professional experience, and has been a Resident Artist at Actors' Shakespeare Project since 2011. He has over forty acting credits at theaters across the nation and abroad, having performed with some of Boston's oldest and most respected companies such as the Huntington Theatre Company, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Lyric Stage Company, New Repertory Theatre, Boston Playwrights' Theater and Central Square Theater.

Maurice is the most recent recipient of the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Director of a Play (Midsize) for Actors' Shakespeare Project's 2023 production of *Seven Guitars*. His work as an actor has earned him two Elliot Norton Awards from The Boston Theater Critics Association, three IRNE awards, and an ArtsImpulse Award. Parent's history as an educator extends back over a decade. He has taught for Northeastern University, MIT, The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and spent six years as a Performing Arts Specialist in the Boston Public School System. Currently, Parent is a full time Professor of the Practice in the Tufts Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies.

Parent is the co-founder of The Front Porch Arts Collective, a Black theatre company committed to advancing racial equity in Boston through theater. In its sixth season, The Porch has quickly become a well-respected voice in the Boston theatrical landscape. In residence at the Huntington Theatre Company, Parent serves as both Co-Producing Artistic Director of The Porch and Consulting Producer for The Huntington. (*he/him*)

REGINE VITAL (Director - *Emma*) is a storyteller, theatre artist, educator and current Associate Producer at Actors' Shakespeare Project. Most recently, she directed Wheelock Family Theatre's *A Wrinkle in Time*, and she has appeared onstage in ASP's productions of *As You Like It* (Celia) and *Seven Guitars* (Louise).

As an actor, director, dramaturg, teaching artist, and coach, she has worked with several theatre companies, programs, and schools. She teaches performance studies, composition, literature, and public speaking at Boston area universities; text and performance to high school and middle school students; and has taught continuing adult education classes in literature. A hometown girl from Somerville, MA, she is the previous Manager of Curriculum and Instruction at The Huntington.

Other regional credits: The Huntington, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, American Repertory Theater, ArtsEmerson, Company One, SpeakEasy Stage, Central Square Theatre. Fringe/Local: Fresh Ink Theatre, Boston University School of Theatre, Moonbox Productions, Plays In Place, Flat Earth Theatre, Hub Theatre, Open Theatre Project, Concord Players, Birch Tree Productions, Green Door Labs. NYC/Podcasts/Film: Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, Broadway Podcast Network, The Penumbra Podcast, Revolutionary Spaces. Education: BA, Boston University; MA, University of Massachusetts, Boston; MA candidate, King's College London/Shakespeare's Globe. (*she/her*)

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CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Emma

By Kate Hamill | Based on the Novel by Jane Austen

Directed by Regine Vital

Presented by Actors' Shakespeare Project (Christopher V. Edwards, Artistic Director)

When it comes to romance, Emma Woodhouse is always ready to serve, stir, and spill the tea.

Screwball antics and wedding fever have struck Highbury in this high-octane adaptation of Jane Austen's beloved romantic comedy!

The precocious Emma Woodhouse has sworn never to wed – and instead is intent on staking her claim as a matchmaker with an incomparable track record. As her machinations upturn the lives of her friends and rivals alike, Emma will need to navigate a minefield of proposals, love triangles, and extravagant balls to play Cupid... and perhaps find that love has been under her nose all along.

With humor, heart, and a whole lot of amorous hijinks, audiences of all ages will swipe right on this Regency comedy of errors.

Cast & Design Team:	TBA
Venue Information:	The Multicultural Arts Center 41 Second St., Cambridge, MA 02141
Performance Schedule:	TBA
Press Performance:	TBA
Estimated Run Time:	2 hours and 30 minutes including a fifteen-minute intermission.
Ticket Prices:	\$59 - \$64. Limited \$20 Tickets for every performance, subject to availability.
Student Tickets:	\$25 for anyone under 25.
Press Contact:	Director of Marketing & Communications Evan Turissini Evan@ActorsShakespeareProject.org (not for publication) 781-552-1605 (cell - not for publication)

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson***

Directed by Christopher V. Edwards

Presented by Actors' Shakespeare Project (Christopher V. Edwards, Artistic Director)

Presented in Partnership with Hibernian Hall (Haris Lefteri, Creative Director)

In Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic, the haunting melodies of the past will ignite a family conflict.

Actors' Shakespeare Project is thrilled to continue and deepen our dedication to August Wilson's American Century Cycle with one of his most celebrated titles: ***The Piano Lesson***. This passionate and riveting family drama returns to Pittsburgh's Hill District in the aftermath of The Great Depression.

Tensions are crackling under the floorboards of Doaker Charles' household when his fast-talking nephew Boy Willie blows in from Mississippi with a scheme to set their descendants up for generations. The plan: sell the family's ornate antique piano carved by an enslaved ancestor and use it to buy the land where his ancestors were enslaved. But half of the piano also belongs to Berniece, who refuses to let her brother pawn off the heirloom. As the siblings dig in their heels, they will search deeper into their lineage and uncover shocking revelations that will change them both forever.

Winner of the 1990 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a 1990 Tony Award Nominee for Best Play, **August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*** is an explosive and incisive inquiry into the struggle between what we owe to our past and how we build our future.

Cast & Design Team:	TBA
Venue Information:	Hibernian Hall 184 Dudley St., Boston, MA 02119
Performance Schedule:	TBA
Press Performance:	TBA
Estimated Run Time:	2 hours and 45 minutes including a fifteen-minute intermission.
Ticket Prices:	\$59 - \$64. Limited \$20 Tickets for every performance, subject to availability.
Student Tickets:	\$25 for anyone under 25.
Press Contact:	Director of Marketing & Communications Evan Turissini Evan@ActorsShakespeareProject.org (not for publication) 781-552-1605 (cell - not for publication)

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare | Directed by Maurice Emmanuel Parent

Presented by Actors' Shakespeare Project (Christopher V. Edwards, Artistic Director)

Mischief and magic can certainly be dreamy, just don't make an ass of yourself...

Delve – if you dare – into a forbidden forest on the outskirts of Athens. Can you escape your father's tyrannical command? Will you find your secret lover? Could you finally land the leading role? Or might you discover something... darker?

Join the Bard's most colorful cast of characters as they flit, frolic, and stumble their way through the trees, aided by moonlight and magic. Elliot Norton Award-winning director Maurice Emmanuel Parent's invigorating new take on ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** will explore the beauty and romance, but also the sinister underbelly, of one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies.

Whether you seek to guffaw at the mechanicals, tangle with the love quadrangle, or conjure in the fairy court – this production will enchant long-time Shakespeare lovers and newcomers alike.

Cast & Design Team:	TBA
Venue Information:	The Dorothy and Charles Mosesian Center for the Arts 321 Arsenal St. Watertown, MA 02472
Performance Schedule:	TBA
Press Performance:	TBA
Estimated Run Time:	2 hours and 30 minutes including a fifteen-minute intermission.
Ticket Prices:	\$59 - \$64. Limited \$20 Tickets for every performance, subject to availability.
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