



Curt Columbus, The Arthur P. Solomon and Sally E. Lapidés Artistic Director, Tom Parrish, Executive Director
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TRINITY REP SHIFTS 2020-21 SEASON SCHEDULE

All previously announced shows to be produced
Shows slated to begin in November 2020
Artist, patron, and staff safety remain the priority

PROVIDENCE, RI: With the health and safety of its artists, patrons, and staff as its top priority, **Trinity Repertory Company** will shift the schedule of its previously announced 2020-21 Season. The subscription series lineup, which includes the two shows that were cancelled this spring – *Sweat* and *Sweeney Todd* – is now currently slated to begin in January 2021. The company still plans to mount its 43rd consecutive new production of *A Christmas Carol* in November and December 2020. Trinity Rep is committed to complying with all government and public health regulations and guidelines and implementing best practices for cleaning, sanitizing, and risk mediation. If public health necessitates further changes to the schedule, those adjustments will be made as more information is known. Detailed performance schedules will be announced and tickets will go on sale two to three months before shows begin.

All of the plays announced by the Tony Award-winning company earlier in the spring will be produced, though two productions will shift to fall 2021. Subscribers will receive all six shows: ***Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Sweat*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Fairview* and *Anna K***. Subscribers receive early and discounted access to ***A Christmas Carol* and *The Prince of Providence***.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Trinity Rep cancelled 83 performances this spring, in-person youth and adult classes, the Pell Awards fundraising gala, and its largest summer program, the four-week Young Actors Summer Institute (YASI). Smaller, week-long in-person camps under the YASI umbrella are still

planned in August. Online classes and virtual camps were immediately designed and implemented by the education team in March and continue through July.

As a result of the extended restrictions on in-person gatherings and anticipated future challenges, Trinity Rep has had to contract its annual budget by 19%, including a work force reduction from 120 full-time equivalent employees to 28 full-time equivalents. To help the theater weather this coronavirus-induced storm, donors may make charitable contributions at www.trinityrep.com/give. All new and increased donations received through June 30 will be matched up to \$50,000.

The artistic staff and resident acting company has shifted to online content creation, all of which can be found online at www.trinityrep.com/theshowgoeson. Their work includes a Facebook Live talk-show style series, **Your Half Hour Call with Curt Columbus**, shown live on Facebook on Thursday evenings at 7:30 and archived online. Additional content and events include videos with readings and stories from members of the Resident Acting Company, virtual knitting circles, video clips from past shows, and archived episodes from Trinity Rep Radio Theater.

According to **Curt Columbus**, the Arthur P. Solomon and Sally E. Lapidés Artistic Director, “We chose these stories, as we always do, to respond to the world around us and to our times. If anything, the messages contained within these great plays have more meaning and resonance now than they did even three months ago. Theater has the power to change people fundamentally, and the stories we have selected do that, each in its own remarkable way. I cannot wait for audiences to see them all.”

“Though the shows may not be in the originally announced order or on the original timeline, we will produce again. It is not a question of if, but when. Our artists and staff are all eager to get back to work again,” said Executive Director **Tom Parrish**. “I was on a call recently where arts and cultural organizations were called the second responders of this crisis – not just for the solace and comfort we are providing to people during this time of isolation, but for the work we will do in knitting the community and local economy back together again when we return. There are two types of charities, those that save lives and those that remind us why life is worth saving. When the time comes for the stage lights to turn on again, we will be there ready to remind everyone what this current sacrifice was for.”

The current schedule follows:

- ***A Christmas Carol*** by **Charles Dickens** will be directed by **Curt Columbus** in November/December 2020. The production, which celebrates the 43rd year of the holiday classic, has been produced by Trinity Rep newly reimagined every year. This year's production will feature Joe Wilson, Jr. as Scrooge. Wilson was previously slated to direct, and will direct a future production when social distancing is not required and his vision can be fully realized.
- ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** will start the subscription season in winter 2021. This touching play is based on the best-selling book *Tiny Beautiful Things: Advice on Love and Life from Dear Sugar*, written by **Cheryl Strayed** about her experience as the advice columnist "Sugar."
- ***Sweat*** by **Lynn Nottage** will be directed by **Christie Vela** in winter/spring 2021. This Pulitzer Prize winner set in America's Rust Belt was inspired by interviews Nottage conducted with the residents of Reading, PA over the course of more than two years.
- ***The Diary of Anne Frank*** by **Frances Goodrich** and **Albert Hackett** will be directed by resident company member **Brian McElaney** in spring 2021. This production will view the well-known story of the persecution of Jews during World War II through the perspective of today's young people.
- ***Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street***, the **Stephen Sondheim** and **Hugh Wheeler** musical will be directed by **Curt Columbus** in spring/summer 2021. This "bloody brilliant" musical will feature **Joe Wilson, Jr.** in the title role and **Rachael Warren** as Mrs. Lovett.
- ***The Prince of Providence*** revival may be added to subscription packages and is planned for spring/summer 2021. The play by **George Brant** tells the story of the rise and fall of former Providence mayor **Buddy Cianci** and is based on the *New York Times* best-selling book of the same name by **Mike Stanton**. Obie Award winner **Taibi Magar** will return to direct the revival. Its premiere in 2019 sold out and captured world-wide attention. Subscribers have first access to tickets to this show.
- The **Teatro en El Verano** production ***Don Quixote***, based on the novel by **Miguel de Cervantes** and directed by **Marcel Mascaro**, will move public performances to summer 2021. A partnership between Trinity Rep and **Rhode Island Latino Arts (RILA)**, Teatro en El Verano offers free, bilingual English and Spanish performances in parks and community centers throughout the state each summer. The two organizations will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the program next summer and will use time this summer to workshop a new script.
- The 2019 Pulitzer Prize-winner ***Fairview*** by **Jackie Sibblies Drury** will be directed by company member **Jude Sandy** in summer/fall 2021. The revolutionary play begins as a straight forward family comedy but takes an unexpected turn that stunned and impressed audiences and critics.



- **Anna K.** a world premiere by **Deborah Salem Smith** will be directed by **Jessie Austrian** in fall 2021. This re-imagining of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* is a brisk, modern approach that examines the epic love stories at the heart of the novel through the eyes of Anna, Kitty, and Dolly.

Subscription packages for the 2020-21 Season are now available starting at just **\$142 for six plays**, with the option of adding on *The Prince of Providence* before remaining tickets become available to the general public. New packages allow for increased flexibility. Subscriptions are available online at trinityrep.com/subscribe or by phone at (401) 351-4242. The Trinity Rep box office at 201 Washington Street, Providence, RI is currently closed to in-person transactions.

Trinity Rep's 2020-21 Season is sponsored by the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Southwest Airlines is the official airline of Trinity Rep.

TRINITY REPERTORY COMPANY

Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater, Trinity Rep has created unparalleled professional theater for and with its community since its founding in 1963. Trinity Rep strives to facilitate human connection and has been a driving force behind the creativity that fuels and defines the region for more than 50 years.

Trinity Rep is committed to reinventing the public square and inspiring dialogue by creating emotionally-stimulating live productions that range from classical to contemporary and innovative education programs for all ages and abilities. Its annual production of *A Christmas Carol* has brought families together for over 40 years and made memories for over a million audience members.

2020-21 Season

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

Directed by Curt Columbus

November – December 2020

Celebrating 43 years of delighting and inspiring millions at Trinity Rep, Rhode Island's family holiday tradition is reimagined anew every year with a glorious telling of the classic story. Ebenezer Scrooge is guided by Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future on a heartwarming journey toward redemption. Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and a full ensemble make the spirit of the season come alive in a memorable holiday experience filled with hope and theatrical magic.

Tiny Beautiful Things

Based on the book by Cheryl Strayed

Adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalos

Co-conceived by Marshall Heyman, Thomas Kail, and Nia Vardalos

Director TBA

Winter 2021

A celebration of the simple beauty of being human, this funny, deeply touching, and uplifting play is an exploration of resilience, based on Cheryl Strayed's journey as the beloved anonymous advice columnist for "Dear Sugar." Over the years, thousands of people turned to "Sugar" for words of wisdom, compassion, and hope. Reluctant to claim that she has all the answers, Sugar looks to her own past and draws on her life experiences to bring light, laughter, and humanity to others.

Sweat

By Lynn Nottage

Directed by Christie Vela

Winter/Spring 2021

Warm humor and tremendous heart permeate this Pulitzer Prize-winner and hit Broadway play. Deep in the Rust Belt, blue collar factory workers swear by longtime friendships that seem unbreakable. These women spend their days working at physically-demanding jobs and their evenings laughing over drinks and dreaming of retirement. But mistrust, pride, and the economic pressures from a changing America introduce fissures in the foundation of this chosen family. Soon the bonds shatter, forever altering the path of two generations.

The Diary of Anne Frank

By Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett

Directed by Brian McEleney

Spring 2021

Amid the chaos of war and religious persecution, Anne Frank and her family remain confined within their attic refuge struggling to survive. Though she faces unimaginable fear, Anne continues to find hope and beauty in the world. This haunting and inspiring story illuminates one of the darkest periods of human history and celebrates the power of the human spirit. From the director of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by Hugh Wheeler

Directed by Curt Columbus

Spring/Summer 2021

An indisputable masterpiece by America's greatest living Broadway composer and lyricist, this is a heart-pounding thriller set on the seedy side streets of 19th-century London. Filled with diabolical humor and extraordinary music, this eight-time Tony Award-winning musical tells the tale of an exiled barber's quest to avenge the wrongs done to him and his family. *Sweeney Todd* is a beautiful, soaring dark comedy filled with stunning terror that will leave you gasping!

The Prince of Providence

By George Brant

Based on the book *The Prince of Providence* by Mike Stanton

Directed by Taibi Magar

Spring/Summer 2021

The nation knows him from *Crimetown* and Operation Plunder Dome, but Providence has a deeper and more complicated relationship with Buddy Cianci. A charismatic visionary who was also a corrupt philanderer, the long-time mayor defied the odds time after time – from his very first election to winning again after being arrested on assault charges. Surrounded by a colorful carousel of characters, Buddy gave Providence many things: some are more visible – businesses, tourism, and relocated rivers – while others are less tangible, but no less real – pride, notoriety, and now, a great story to tell.

Don Quixote

Based on the novel by Miguel de Cervantes

Directed by Marcel Mascaro

Summer 2021

Get to know this timely Spanish-language classic, and first modern novel in European history, in a new way with this free, 70-minute, family-friendly bilingual production. Don Quixote is obsessed with the ideas he encounters in books about knights and chivalry, so he sets out on his own adventure with his trusty companion, Sancho Panza. Our hero demonstrates the human capacity to recreate worlds in our own image, while chasing giants that only he can see, and falling into the space between perception and reality.

Fairview

By Jackie Sibblies Drury

Directed by Jude Sandy

Summer/Fall 2021

This stunning Pulitzer-prize winner begins simply: It's Grandma's birthday, and Beverly needs the family's celebration to be perfect. But her husband is no help, her sister is getting into the wine, her brother hasn't arrived, and her teenage daughter's secrets threaten to derail the day. Then, this family comedy takes a surprising turn, becoming an unpredictable and thrillingly theatrical experience that boldly confronts perceptions of race and identity.

Anna K.

By Deborah Salem Smith

Directed by Jessie Austrian

Fall 2021

Brisk, playful, and moving, this contemporary re-imagining of *Anna Karenina* highlights the epic romances and fierce friendships at the heart of Tolstoy's masterpiece. Anna, Dolly, and Kitty recount the stories of their tumultuous love affairs, the freedom and restrictions that come from those romances, and the strength they find in one another. Each discovers in her own way that lasting passion comes from continuing to fall hopelessly in love every day, not from the magic that comes 'at first sight.'

Plays, dates, prices, and artists subject to change.