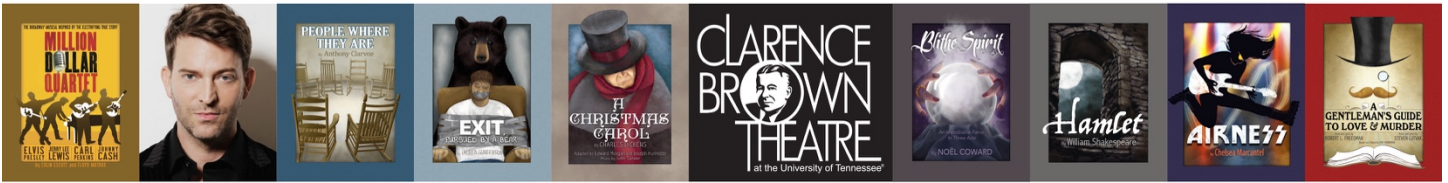


2019 SEASON 2020



For Immediate Release:
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William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" to Play in the Clarence Brown's Carousel Theatre

William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" will play in the Clarence Brown Theatre's Carousel Theatre February 26 – March 15, 2020. UT Faculty/Staff receive 20% off ticket prices. UT Students see the previews for FREE and the rest of the performances for \$5, excluding Opening Night. The production is sponsored by Pilot Company and Merchant & Gould with support from the City of Knoxville. Media sponsors are WUOT, WUTK, the Daily Beacon, and the Knoxville News Sentinel. Free and convenient parking is available in the McClung Tower Garage on Volunteer Boulevard.

The Pay What You Wish Preview performance, where patrons can name their own price, will be held Wednesday, February 26th. Half of the proceeds from the Pay What You Wish tickets will benefit Friends of Literacy. Behind the Scenes Sunday will take place following the Sunday, March 1st matinee with a panel discussion tied into the themes of "Hamlet" and also the McClung Museum's "Visions of the End" exhibit as part of the College of Arts and Architecture's "Semester of the Apocalypse." A Talk Back with the actors will take place Sunday, March 8th following the matinee. The Open Captioned performance is Sunday, March 15th at 2:00 pm.

In the wake of his father's death, Hamlet finds both his personal and political worlds unimaginably changed. When his father's ghost demands vengeance, Hamlet must decide: submit or resist. Accept or avenge. Live or die.

"Hamlet" was written by Shakespeare sometime between 1599-1602. It is arguably one of his most famous tragedies. The lines from Hamlet's monologue in act three that begin "To be, or not to be..." have been studied and are widely known even amongst those that are otherwise unfamiliar with Shakespeare's work. Even in Shakespeare's own lifetime, "Hamlet" would have been performed multiple times and considered remarkably influential. Its appeal has not lessened over time.

John Sipes (Director) is a Professor in the Department of Theatre at the University of Tennessee. Before joining the UT faculty, he was a Director and the Resident Movement Director for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for fifteen seasons. Prior to his residency at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, John was a Director and Movement Director for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for twelve seasons and served as the Festival's Artistic Director for five seasons. Directing credits include productions at the Clarence Brown Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Milwaukee Rep, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and others.

UT faculty and visiting guest actors include: **Charles Pasternak** (Hamlet); **Michael Elich** (Claudius); **David Brian Alley** (Polonius); **John Cherry** (Gravedigger/Captain/Courtier/Ens); and **Roderick Peoples** (Player King/Courtier/Palbearer/Ens).

Graduate and undergraduate student actors include: **Collin Andrews** (Laertes); **Brittany Marie Pirozzoli** (Ophelia); **Jade Arnold** (Horatio); **Peter Mayer Klepchick** (Marcellus/Player/Lucianus/Soldier/Pallbearer/Courtier/Ens); **Michael Najman** (Bernardo/Priest/Player/Soldier/Courtier/Ens); **Owen Squire Smith** (Rosencrantz); **Davion T. Brown** (Guildenstern); **Brenda Orellana** (Player Queen); **Zachariah Lidstone** (Osric/Player/Soldier/Pallbearer/Ens); **Rachel Darden** (Gertrude's Confidante/Player/Prologue/Lady of the Court/Ens); **Amberlin McCormick** (Ophelia's Confidante/Messenger/Ens); and **Jordan Gatton-Bumpus** (Courtier/player/Soldier/Pallbearer/Ens). The creative team for this production includes: **Michael Ganio** (Scenic Designer), **Bill Black** (Costume Designer); **Kenton Yeager** (Lighting Designer); **Joe Payne** (Sound Designer/Composer); **Sara Becker** (Voice and Text Coach), **Heather Hirschfeld** (Dramaturg); **John Sipes** (Fight Director) and **Danny Kuenzel** (Stage Manager).

Previews for "Hamlet" are Wednesday, February 26th and Thursday, February 27th followed by Opening Night Friday, February 28th. The production runs through March 15th.

With a dual mission to train the next generation of theatre artists and to provide top quality professional theatre, the Clarence Brown Theatre at the University of Tennessee Knoxville is one of only 12 academic LORT (League of Resident Theatre) institutions in the nation with a professional theater on campus. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean and Managing Director Thomas Cervone, the CBT season runs from August through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama.

The CBT provides a cultural resource for both the university and the larger East Tennessee community and affirms diversity and inclusivity in all their forms.

For more information or tickets, call the CBT Box Office at 865-974-5161 or visit us online at <http://clarencebrowntheatre.com/>. Stay connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).

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