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## Pasadena Playhouse looks toward the 100th anniversary of of its building in 2025 with a new 2024/2025 Season

Memberships now available at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](https://pasadenaplayhouse.org)

May 16, 2024, Pasadena, CA | Pasadena Playhouse looks toward the 100th anniversary of its building in 2025 with a new season. Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman announces the Mainstage offerings for the 2024/2025 Season including Martin Crimp's critically acclaimed new adaptation of **Cyrano de Bergerac**; a fresh new revival of Jerry Herman and Harvey Fierstein's Tony Award® winner for Best Musical, **La Cage aux Folles**; a new production of Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award®-winning classic, **Topdog/Underdog**; and a new play to be announced at a later date.

New for the Playhouse in the 2024/2025 Season will be a Special Theatrical Event at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium: **Anything Goes in Concert**, starring Jinkx Monsoon (*RuPaul's Drag Race*) as Reno Sweeney and **Follies in Concert** with two back-to-back weekends of performances.

*Season packages are now on sale and include the four Mainstage productions and one concert event. Creative teams and casting will be announced at a later date.*

In January 2025, the Playhouse will also present **The Next Stage Immersive Summit 2025** in partnership with The Immersive Experience Institute, the main service organization for immersive theater artists. The premiere gathering of creators of immersive art & entertainment will draw international guests from the fields of performing arts, themed entertainment, XR, and gaming. This is the largest gathering of its kind in the world.

"We are thrilled to begin our celebration and honor one of the most iconic buildings in the history of the American Theater as it turns 100 years old with a bold and thrilling season of iconic theater" said Danny Feldman. "Our historic stage will feel alive with a sizzling new adaptation of one of the greatest plays of all time, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, a fresh revival of the celebrated musical *La Cage aux Folles*, a new production of Suzan-Lori Park's masterpiece *Topdog/Underdog*, and an exciting new play to be announced at a later date.

Our celebration is so big, it extends beyond the historic walls of our theater. Like the expansion in our current season of new professional children's theater productions off campus, next season we return with another musical venture to the Pasadena Civic Auditorium for two back-to-back weekends of grand concert events featuring two of the most enduring musicals of all time: *Anything Goes* starring the singular talent Jinkx Monsoon and *Follies*, an encore to our recent Sondheim Celebration. These special theatrical events will expand our initiative exploring classic American musicals with our community."

Memberships are now available at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](https://pasadenaplayhouse.org), or by calling 626-356-7529.

***Cyrano de Bergerac*** (September 4 – September 29, 2024)

By Edmond Rostand

freely adapted by Martin Crimp

One of the greatest plays ever written is radically reborn in this critically acclaimed adaptation. Modern poetry and sizzling rhythm collide in a scorching love triangle when Cyrano discovers the love of his life has eyes for another man. Immerse yourself in the romantic adventure of this timeless and heartrending love story.

*Cyrano de Bergerac* (Crimp) is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

***La Cage aux Folles*** (November 12– December 15, 2024)

Book by Harvey Fierstein

Music and lyrics by Jerry Herman

Based on the play by Jean Poiret

Beautiful. Bawdy. Bizarre. Welcome to *La Cage aux Folles*, the hottest drag club in St. Tropez and one of theater's all-time biggest hits. Immerse yourself in this groundbreaking musical comedy with a heartfelt score by Jerry Herman (*Hello, Dolly!*, *Mame*) and a hilarious script by Harvey Fierstein (*Torch Song Trilogy*). The Tony Award-winning musical comes to life in this all-new Playhouse extravaganza.

*La Cage aux Folles* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

***Topdog/Underdog*** (Spring 2025)

By Suzan-Lori Parks

Two brothers in freefall struggle to find their footing as they hustle their way through life. Haunted by the past and their obsession with street cons and cards, the brothers come to learn the true nature of their fate. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Suzan-Lori Parks' darkly comic fable is poetic, gripping, and unforgettable.

**NEW THIS SEASON – SPECIAL THEATRICAL EVENTS at the PASADENA CIVIC AUDITORIUM:**

Two **iconic** musicals. Two **legendary** writers. Two **extraordinary** weekends.

***Anything Goes in Concert*** (January 24 – January 25, 2025)

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter

Original Book by P.G. Wodehouse & Guy Bolton

and Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse

New Book by Timothy Crouse & John Weidman

***Follies in Concert*** (January 31 – February 1, 2025)

Book by James Goldman

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

*Anything Goes* and *Follies* in concert at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. Two of the most iconic shows in Broadway history featuring some of American musical theater's most beloved songs performed on back-to-back weekends complete with full orchestras.

**Jinx Monsoon** (*RuPaul's Drag Race*) stars as Reno Sweeney in Cole Porter's classic musical romp. And Sondheim is back with his "undeniable classic" (*LA Times*) full of "some of the most lush ballads [Sondheim] ever composed" (*Entertainment Weekly*).

This production of *Follies* is licensed by Music Theatre International.

*Anything Goes* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.  
www.concordtheatricals.com

## MEMBERSHIPS

Membership is our form of Subscription. It is the best and most cost-effective way to celebrate the season at the Playhouse and includes tickets to *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Topdog/Underdog*, **and one New Play to-be-announced**. PLUS Memberships will include ONE In Concert production, *Follies* in Concert OR *Anything Goes* in Concert, with options for additional add-on tickets. Membership packages start at \$300 with flexible and fixed package options. Members receive advanced access to tickets, significant discounts on tickets, waived fees and unprecedented flexibility, allowing patrons to experience live theater on their terms.

- **Traditional Subscription/Classic Memberships:** Receive tickets to all 4 Mainstage productions plus 1 In Concert series with preassigned seats for the entire season. Packages start at \$350.
- **Dynamic Memberships:** Prepaid access to all 4 Mainstage productions plus 1 In Concert series, allowing you to pick your seats as you go (before tickets are available to the general public). Packages start at \$300.

More information on these packages, and higher-level Memberships, can be found at [pasadenaplayhouse.org/membership](https://pasadenaplayhouse.org/membership).

## ABOUT PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

Pasadena Playhouse, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, is one of the most prolific theaters in the country. The Playhouse has staged thousands of original productions since its founding in 1917 including premieres of works by Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, Suzan-Lori Parks and hundreds more. For decades, its pioneering School for Theater Arts was a training ground for actors and theatermakers who went on to make significant contributions to the entertainment industry. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman since 2016, Pasadena Playhouse's productions and community programs are centered on its founding idea of being a living force in its community, making theater for everyone.

## 2024-2025 Season at Pasadena Playhouse

*Season, schedule and artists subject to change*

September 4 – September 29, 2024

### ***Cyrano de Bergerac***

By Edmond Rostand

freely adapted by Martin Crimp

**"A dazzlingly inventive and entertaining new version." – *The Hollywood Reporter***

**Edmond Rostand:** Edmond Rostand (1868–1918) was a French poet and dramatist, best known for his 1897 play *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Rostand's other works include: *The Red Glove* (1888); *Les Musardises* (1890); *The Two Pierrots, or The White Supper* (1891); *Les Romanesques* (1894), which was the basis for the 1960 off-Broadway musical *The Fantasticks*; *La Princesse Loïtaine or The Princess Far-Away* (1895); *La Samaritaine or The Woman of Samaria* (1897); *L'Aiglon: A Play in Six Acts* (1900); *Chantecler: A Play in Four Acts* (1910); *The Last Night of Don Juan* (1921); *Le Cantique de L'Aile* (1922) and *Le Vol de la Marseillaise*.

**Martin Crimp:** Martin Crimp was born in 1956 and began writing for theatre in the 1980s. His plays include: *When we have sufficiently tortured each other* (2019), *Men Asleep* (2018), *The Rest Will be*

*Familiar To You From Cinema* (2013, voted by Germany's Theater heute best foreign play of the year), *In the Republic of Happiness* (2012), *Play House* (2012), *The City* (2008), *Fewer Emergencies* (2005, receiving Italy's Premio Ubu), *Cruel and Tender* (2004, written for director Luc Bondy), *Face to the Wall* (2002), *The Country* (2000), *Attempts on her Life* (1997), *The Treatment* (1993, winner of the John Whiting Award), *Getting Attention* (1992), *No One Sees the Video* (1991), *Play with Repeats* (1989), *Dealing with Clair* (1988) and *Definitely the Bahamas* (1987).

His translations of plays include Botho Strauss's *Gross und Klein* (2012), Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* (2007), Marivaux's *The False Servant* (2004) and *The Triumph of Love* (1999), Genet's *The Maids* (1999), Ionesco's *The Chairs* (1997), Koltès's *Roberto Zucco* (1997), a new version of Chekhov's *The Seagull* (2006), and adaptations of Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* (2019) and Molière's *The Misanthrope* (1996).

His work has been produced in the UK by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, Almeida, Young Vic, Barbican, Théâtre de Complicité, the Orange Tree and the Royal Court, and has been translated into many languages and widely produced abroad at venues including the Piccolo Teatro, Milan, the Sala Beckett, Barcelona, the Vienna Festival, the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, the Théâtre de la Ville, Berlin's Schaubühne, Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg, and at the Festival d'Automne in Paris, which presented four of his works in their 2006 season, including his first text for opera, *Into the Little Hill*, written for George Benjamin. His second collaboration with Benjamin, *Written on Skin*, had its world premiere at the Aix-en-Provence Festival in 2012, and the third, *Lessons in Love and Violence*, opened at London's Royal Opera House in 2018.

In 2020 he was awarded the Nyssen-Bansemer Theatre Prize.

November 12 – December 15, 2024

### ***La Cage aux Folles***

Book by Harvey Fierstein

Music and lyrics by Jerry Herman

Based on the play by Jean Poiret

**"It's funny, heartwarming and terrific." – *Variety***

**Harvey Fierstein:** Harvey Fierstein is the author of the Tony-winning hit, *Kinky Boots*, as well as *Torch Song Trilogy* (Tony, Drama Desk and Obie Awards), *La Cage aux Folles* (Tony and Drama Desk Awards), *Newsies* (Tony nominated), *Casa Valentina* (Tony nominated), *A Catered Affair* (12 Drama Desk nominations), *Safe Sex* (Ace Award), *Legs Diamond*, *Spookhouse*, *Flatbush Tosca*, *Common Ground* and more. He has recently rewritten *The Wiz* for live TV broadcast, and penned a revised book for *Funny Girl*, currently running in London. His political editorials have been published in the *New York Times*, *TV Guide* and the *Huffington Post* and broadcast on PBS's *In the Life*. His children's book, *The Sissy Duckling* (Humanitas Award), is now in its fifth printing. As an actor, Mr. Fierstein is known worldwide for his performances in films including *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Independence Day*, and *Bullets Over Broadway*, on stage in *Hairspray* (Tony Award), *Fiddler on the Roof*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Torch Song Trilogy* (Tony Award), and on TV shows such as *Smash*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *The Good Wife*, *Cheers* (Emmy nomination), *The Simpsons*, *Family Guy*, and *Nurse Jackie*.

**Jerry Herman:** *Hello, Dolly!*, *Mame*, and *La Cage aux Folles* are home to some of the most popular, most-often performed and most successful musical hero(in)es of all time, and have given Jerry Herman the distinction of being the only composer-lyricist in history to have had three musicals that ran more than 1,500 consecutive performances on Broadway. His first Broadway show was *Milk and Honey* (1961), followed by *Hello, Dolly!* (1964), *Mame* (1966), *Dear World* (1969), *Mack & Mabel* (1974), *The Grand Tour* (1979), *La Cage aux Folles* (1983), *Jerry's Girls* (1985) and *Mrs. Santa Claus* (1996), a CBS TV special starring Angela Lansbury. *Showtune*, a revue of his life's work, is performing in regional theatres around the country and two of Jerry's classic songs are the emotional highlights of the hit Disney-Pixar film *WALL-E*. His string of awards and honors includes multiple Tony Awards, Grammys, Olivier Awards,

Drama Desk Awards, the Johnny Mercer Award, the Richard Rodgers Award, the Oscar Hammerstein Award, the Frederick Loewe Award, the Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Theatre Hall of Fame and most recently The Kennedy Center Honors.

January 24 - January 25, 2025

***Anything Goes in Concert***

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter

Original Book by P.G. Wodehouse & Guy Bolton

and Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse

New Book by Timothy Crouse & John Weidman

**“As it turns out, anything that went in 1934 still goes” – *LA Times***

**Cole Porter:** Cole Porter was born in Peru, Indiana in 1891 and died in Hollywood 73 years later. In between, he wrote some of the most memorable songs ever heard on stage or screen, among them “Night and Day,” “Begin the Beguine,” “You’re The Top,” “I Get a Kick Out of You,” “Love For Sale,” and “Just One of Those Things.” During the 1930s, his most productive decade, he provided a series of sparkling scores for such hits as *Gay Divorce*, *Anything Goes*, *Jubilee*, *Born to Dance* and *Red, Hot and Blue*. Despite a crippling riding accident in 1937 which left him in constant pain, he achieved his greatest commercial success in 1948, with *Kiss Me, Kate*. His name remains synonymous with wit and sophistication to this day.

**Guy Bolton:** Guy Bolton (1884-1979) was born in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, England, on November 23, 1884. Bolton famously collaborated with Jerome Kern and P.G. Wodehouse on a series of buoyant musicals for the 299-seat Princess Theatre, including *Have A Heart*; *Oh, Boy!*; *Leave It To Jane*; *Oh, Lady! Lady!*; *Sitting Pretty*, *Oh, Kay!* and *Rosalie*. In the twenties, Bolton forged a partnership with George and Ira Gershwin. All six of their collaborations, including *Girl Crazy*, resulted in hit shows. Bolton wrote or collaborated on more than 50 shows between 1915 and 1965, including *Anything Goes*. He died in London on September 5, 1979.

**P.G. Wodehouse:** P.G. Wodehouse (1881-1975) and Guy Bolton (1884-1979) were both born in England. They were introduced by Jerome Kern, and he suggested they all work together. They did, tirelessly, and in the beginning of their collaboration wrote nearly one show per month: the famed Princess Theatre musicals. Bolton and Wodehouse went on to write more than 20 musicals together. Usually, they collaborated on the book, and Wodehouse wrote the lyrics. Both lived into their nineties, and both, together and individually, were astoundingly prolific. Bolton, with one collaborator or another, or on his own, had a hand in well over 100 musicals and straight plays as well as numerous film scripts and novels. Wodehouse wrote 97 books, most notably, the Jeeves novels and countless short stories, articles, essays and films. In 1975, he was knighted side by side with Charlie Chaplin. In addition to *Anything Goes*, their work together includes *Have A Heart*; *Oh, Boy!*; *Leave It To Jane*; *Oh, Lady! Lady!*; *Sitting Pretty*, *Oh, Kay!* and *Rosalie*. They remained friends and neighbors (in Remsenburg, New York) throughout their final days.

**Howard Lindsay:** Howard Lindsay (1889-1968) was an actor, stage manager, director and playwright before teaming up with Russel Crouse. Lindsay and Crouse's partnership stands today as the longest collaboration of any writers in theatrical history, lasting for more than 28 years. The two men first joined forces in 1934, when the producer Vinton Freedley brought them together to rewrite the libretto for *Anything Goes*, which Lindsay directed. Two years later, they wrote another Cole Porter show, *Red, Hot and Blue*. Their first straight play, *Life with Father*, opened in 1936 and holds the record for the longest running play on Broadway, at 3,224 performances. Lindsay and his wife, Dorothy Stickney, created the roles of Clarence and Vinnie Day, performing them for five years. Among other shows, Lindsay and Crouse also wrote *The Sound of Music* (score by Rodgers and Hammerstein); the Pulitzer Prize winning *State of the Union*; *Call me Madam* and *Mr. President* (scores by Irving Berlin); *The Prescott Proposals* and *The Great Sebastians*. They produced *The Hasty Heart*, *Detective Story* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

**Russel Crouse:** Russel Crouse (1893-1966) was a newspaperman, a press agent for the Theatre Guild, the author of several books and a librettist before partnering with Howard Lindsay. Lindsay and Crouse's

partnership stands today as the longest collaboration of any writers in theatrical history, lasting for more than 28 years. The two men first joined forces in 1934, when the producer Vinton Freedley brought them together to rewrite the libretto for *Anything Goes*, which Lindsay directed. Two years later, they wrote another Cole Porter show, *Red, Hot and Blue*. Their first straight play, *Life with Father*, opened in 1936 and holds the record for the longest running play on Broadway, at 3,224 performances. Among other shows, Lindsay and Crouse also wrote *The Sound of Music* (score by Rodgers and Hammerstein); the Pulitzer Prize winning *State of the Union*; *Call Me Madam* and *Mr. President* (scores by Irving Berlin); *The Prescott Proposals* and *The Great Sebastians*. They produced *The Hasty Heart*, *Detective Story* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. In addition to his work with Lindsay, Russel Crouse later reproduced, in collaboration with his wife, Anna Erskine Crouse, a son, the writer Timothy Crouse, and a daughter, the actress Lindsay Crouse.

**Jinkx Monsoon:** Jinkx Monsoon is a Broadway star, two-time RuPaul's Drag Race winner, award-winning actor, and recording artist. She made her highly-anticipated Broadway debut in 2023 as Matron "Mama" Morton in *Chicago*, breaking box office records during an extended 10-week run. Most recently, she's received high praise for her portrayal of Audrey in the hit off-Broadway production of *Little Shop of Horrors* opposite Corbin Bleu, and has taken the *Doctor Who* universe by storm as the villainous character Maestro which has been widely praised by fans and critics alike. She first garnered an international fan base following her win on *RuPaul's Drag Race* Season 5, and continued her winning streak a decade later on *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 7*, where she competed against all previous winners. She's toured the world performing original cabaret shows with music partner Major Scales, including the hit Off-Broadway sensation *The Vaudevillians*. Her accolades include the Gregory Award for her portrayal of Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, The MAC Award for original show *The Ginger Snapped*, and most recently the "Best Live Theatre" award for *The Jinkx & DeLa Holiday Show* at the 2024 Queerties.

January 31 – February 1, 2025

### **Follies in Concert**

Book by James Goldman

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

**"An undeniable classic." – LA Times**

**James Goldman:** James Goldman was born in Chicago and graduated from the University of Chicago; he did postgraduate work at Columbia University. He has written numerous plays, including *Blood, Sweat and Stanley Poole* (1961; co-written with his brother, William Goldman), *They Might Be Giants* (1961) and *The Lion In Winter* (1966). In addition to *Follies* (1971), he has been the bookwriter of *A Family Affair* (1962; co-author with William Goldman, music by John Kander), the television musical *Evening Primrose* (1967, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim) and *Follies* (1987, London - a re-conception of the original piece). His screenplays include *The Lion in Winter* (1968 - Academy Award; British Screenwriters Award), *They Might Be Giants* (1970), *Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971), *Robin and Marian* (1976) and *White Nights* (1985, co-writer). Goldman's work for television has included an adaptation of *Oliver Twist* (1982), *Anna Karenina* (1985), *Anastasia: The Mystery of Anna Anderson* (1986). He is also the author of a novel, *Waldorf*.

**Stephen Sondheim:** Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021) wrote the music and lyrics for *Saturday Night* (1954), *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (1962), *Anyone Can Whistle* (1964), *Company* (1970), *Follies* (1971), *A Little Night Music* (1973), *The Frogs* (1974), *Pacific Overtures* (1976), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Merrily We Roll Along* (1981), *Sunday In The Park With George* (1984), *Into The Woods* (1987), *Assassins* (1991), *Passion* (1994), *Road Show* (2008) and *HERE WE ARE* (2023), as well as the lyrics for *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959), *Do I Hear A Waltz?* (1965) and additional lyrics for *Candide* (1973). *Side By Side By Sondheim* (1976), *Marry Me A Little* (1981), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (1983), *Putting It Together* (1993/99), *Moving On* (2001), *Sondheim On Sondheim* (2010) and *Old Friends* (2023) are anthologies of his work as composer and lyricist. For films, he composed the scores of *Stavisky* (1974), co-composed the score for *Reds* (1981), and wrote songs for *Dick Tracy* (1990). He wrote songs for the television production *Evening Primrose* (1966), co-authored the film *The Last of Sheila*

(1973) and the play *Getting Away With Murder* (1996) and provided incidental music for the plays *The Girls of Summer* (1956), *Invitation To A March* (1961), *Twigs* (1971) and *The Enclave* (1973).

He won the Tony Award for Best Score for *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Into the Woods*, and *Passion*, all of which won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, as did *Pacific Overtures* and *Sunday In The Park With George*, the latter also receiving the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1985).

Stephen Sondheim was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from Williams College, winning the Hutchinson Prize for Music Composition, after which he studied theory and composition with Milton Babbitt. He served on the Council of the Dramatists Guild, the national association of playwrights, composers and lyricists, and served as its president from 1973 to 1981. In 1983 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in 1990 was appointed the first Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University. He was awarded the Kennedy Center Honors in 1993, the National Medal of Arts in 1996, the MacDowell Medal in 2013 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: "Finishing the Hat" (2010) and "Look, I Made a Hat" (2011).

In 2010 the Broadway theater formerly known as Henry Miller's Theatre was renamed in his honor, and in 2019 he became the first living artist to have a theatre named in his honor on Shaftesbury Avenue when the refurbished Queen's Theatre in London's West End was renamed the Sondheim Theatre to commemorate his 90th birthday, by Sir Cameron Mackintosh.

Spring 2025

### ***Topdog/Underdog***

By Suzan-Lori Parks

### **"The Greatest American Play of the Past 25 Years" – *The New York Times***

**Suzan-Lori Parks:** Suzan-Lori Parks (Playwright) is the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Other awards include *MacArthur Genius Grant*, Gish Prize. Theatre: *Topdog/Underdog* (Pulitzer), *Porgy and Bess* (Tony Award®), *365 Days/365 Plays*, *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Part 1, 2 & 3)*, *Fucking A*, *Plays for the First Hundred Days*, *The Book of Grace*, *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World aka the Negro Book Of The Dead*, *Venus*, *Unchain My Heart: The Ray Charles Musical*, *The America Play*, *Watch Me Work*, *In the Blood*. Upcoming: *Plays for the Plague Year*. Film: *The United States vs Billie Holiday*, *Girl 6*. TV: *Genius Aretha* (Creator/Writer/Showrunner). Novel: *Getting Mother's Body*. Parks writes songs and fronts her band Sula & The Noise. She is a former writing student of James Baldwin.