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**A Sizzling Summer Comes to TAM with the 2016 *Vive la France!* Season**

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*Monmouth, Maine* – For 2016 Theater at Monmouth invites you to unleash your inner Francophile for the *Vive la France* season! What do an unproven king, a swordsman with an astonishing nose, four pairs of lovers running amuck, and two meddling fathers with wayward children have in common? They are all part of TAM's 47th *Vive la France* season featuring plays that simmer, sizzle, and surprise.

The Summer Repertory includes Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, directed by Dawn McAndrews and *Henry V*, directed by Mark Mineart; Jo Roets' adaptation of *Cyrano*, directed by Tess Van Horn; Pierre Beaumarchais' *The Barber of Seville*, directed by Matthew Arbour, and Tony Kushner's adaptation of Corneille's *The Illusion*, directed by Davis Robinson. Opening July 2, the Family Show is an adaptation of the classic fairy tale *Puss in Boots* directed by Stacey Mancine Koloski. The Fall Play, opening September 15, is Marc Camoletti's *Boeing, Boeing* directed by Dawn McAndrews. Since its founding in 1970, TAM has produced more than one hundred of Shakespeare's works and many other classics both during the Summer Repertory Season and on tour throughout Maine.

"TAM mounts consistently excellent programming in a beautiful space. It's well worth the trip." – Allen Adams, *The Maine Edge*

"The Theater at Monmouth consistently presents the most loyal and inventive productions of Shakespeare in Maine." – Bob Keyes, *The Press Herald*

"My husband and I had such a nice time. Beautiful building and amazing performance! We'll definitely be going back." – Cynthia Adams, Winthrop, ME

"[Theater at Monmouth] is a beautiful venue to see a play. Each summer my mother, children, and I attend a play or two. Well worth a visit." – Maggie Wagner White, Ocala, FL

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**SUMMER REPERTORY SEASON**

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Performances take place in Cumston Hall, a 250-seat Victorian opera house designed by Harry Cochrane. Since its founding TAM has rehearsed and performed in rotating repertory, inviting audiences to see the actors in different roles in different shows in one weekend. Each of this season's seven productions features newcomers as well as TAM favorites including Mark S. Cartier, Janis Stevens, and Bill Van Horn.

***Cyrano* | June 25 – August 19**

**by Edmond Rostand, adapted by Jo Roets | directed by Tess Van Horn**

Cyrano de Bergerac is a master of swordplay and wordplay, but a "magnificent Mount Everest of a nose" blocks his path to true love. From Parisian balconies to bloody battlefields, tongue-tied Christian borrows Cyrano's words to woo beautiful Roxane—but is she falling for Christian's looks or Cyrano's soul? A cast of three triangulates this classic into a lightning-paced romance of duels, panache, sacrifice, and one enormous schnoz.

"Infused with pure enchantment from start to finish...Roets offers us an inventive, delicious reduction of Rostand's mighty work." – Reviewer (Sonoma County Repertory Theater)

Tess Van Horn is a Portland based director and actor. She holds a BA in theater from Sarah Lawrence College and is founding member of Portland theater company Lorem Ipsum. Notable directing credits

include *Blood Wedding*, *Ubu Roi*, and the world premiere of *Gargantua* (written by Monmouth actor/director Ian Carlsen). She has performed with various theater companies throughout Maine and New Hampshire. Favorite roles include Rita in *Prelude to a Kiss* (Good Theater), Olivia in *Twelfth Night* (Seacoast Rep), and Lisa in *Owners* (Lorem Ipsum Theater). A native of Freedom, Maine, she was introduced to Shakespeare for the very first time as a young audience member in Cumston Hall.

### **Love's Labour's Lost | July 7 – August 20**

**by William Shakespeare | directed by Dawn McAndrews**

The King of Navarre and his friends vow to spend three years in serious study--giving up sleep, food, and women. How inconvenient, then, that the Princess of France shows up with ladies-in-waiting to sway them from their vows. To avoid the temptation, the King orders that they be housed in a nearby field. In typical Shakespearean fashion, letters of love go misdirected and subplots abound—until a twist of fate forces the men (and women) to keep their vows.

“*Love's Labour's Lost* is a festival of language, an exuberant fireworks display in which Shakespeare seems to seek the limits of his verbal resources, and discovers that there are none.” – Harold Bloom, *The Invention of the Human*

Producing Artistic Director Dawn McAndrews directs *Love's Labour's Lost* in her seventh season with TAM. Dawn has worked as a director, producer, and educator at theatres across the country including Shakespeare Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre, Arena Stage, Portland Stage Company, and Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. Directing credits include *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (Colby College) *The Language Archive* (Public Theatre), *The Glass Menagerie* and *Three Days of Rain* (1st Stage) Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* (The Orange Girls) and Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Antigone* (Saint Louis University). TAM credits include *The Mousetrap*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Hamlet*, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, *This Wonderful Life*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Every Christmas Story Ever Told...(and then some!)*.

### **The Barber of Seville | July 14 – August 21**

**by Pierre Beaumarchais | directed by Matthew Arbour**

Count Almaviva has fallen in love with Rosina, but she's locked in the house by her guardian, who has his own matrimonial plans for her. What's a Count to do? Fortunately, the crafty Figaro is on hand to help sort everything out—or maybe to complicate it further! Lush, lively, and a little bit naughty, Beaumarchais' comic romp is chock full of hilarious misunderstandings, disguises, and sumptuous period costumes.

“Before you know it, these characters have given you an uproarious and useful handbook on white lies, productive deception, and the renewability of love.” – *Philadelphia Inquirer* (The McCarter Theater)

Matthew Arbour returns to TAM where he previously directed *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tartuffe*, and *The Real Inspector Hound*. Regional credits include Pioneer Theater Company, Two River Theater, PlayMakers Repertory, Chautauqua Theater Company, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, New Jersey Repertory, Portland Stage Company, Washington Ensemble Theater, Hangar Theatre, Theater at Monmouth, and Penobscot Theatre Company. Matthew was Associate Artist of the Washington Ensemble Theater in Seattle from 2004-2008, Co-Artistic Director of the Hangar Theatre Lab Company in 2003, and resident dramaturg and literary manager of Portland Stage Company from 1992 to 1998.

### **Henry V | July 21 – August 20**

**by William Shakespeare | directed by Mark Mineart**

A gifted young English king makes a rash decision to go to war. Against overwhelming odds, Henry V achieves heroic stature, leading his country to victory, conquering France and winning its princess. But there's a terrible cost in human life and ruthless acts of moral ambiguity. In a propulsive, provocative production with contemporary resonances, Shakespeare's rousing history crowns Henry's complicated three-play journey from disaffected prince to legendary king.

“Shakespeare's play has an uncanny ability to reflect the spirit of the times.” *The Guardian* (Royal Shakespeare Theatre)

Mark has been a successful member of the professional theatre community for more than 25 years, working as an actor, director, and fight director. He has appeared on and off Broadway with such stars as Denzel Washington and Kelsey Grammer as well as working at many of the nation's most well-respected regional theatres. In 2009 he moved to Frankfurt, Germany working as an actor, director, and fight director, appearing in such films as *What a Man* and *Iron Sky*. In 2011 Mark shifted the focus of his career to teaching and served as Associate Professor and Head of the Acting Curriculum at The American University in Cairo. His directorial work in Egypt regularly broke new ground academically and artistically. In fall 2015 Mark returned to the U.S. joining the faculty of Otterbein University as Associate Professor of Theatre. Mark is a proud member of Actors Equity Association, SAG-AFTRA, Society of American Fight Directors, the British Shakespeare Association, and an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

### ***The Illusion* | July 28 – August 19**

**by Pierre Corneille, adapted by Tony Kushner | directed by Davis Robinson**

In a story that explores what is reality and what is not, an anxious father seeks to reunite with his estranged son and enlists the services of a powerful sorcerer who conjures up provocative visions of the romantic, adventurous, and perilous life the young man has been living. *The Illusion*, freely adapted from Pierre Corneille's *L'Illusion Comique*, is Kushner's most joyfully theatrical play, a wildly entertaining tale of passion and regret, of love, disillusionment, and magic.

“Rapture comes naturally to playwright Tony Kushner, and in *The Illusion*, he plants a big swoony kiss on the lips of the theater.” – *Washington Post* (Forum Theatre)

Davis Robinson is founder and artistic director of the Beau Jest Moving Theater and professor of theater at Bowdoin College. He is author of *A Practical Guide To Ensemble Devising* and *The Physical Comedy Handbook*. He studied in Paris with Jacques Lecoq and in the United States with Tony Montanaro at the Celebration Barn Theater, where he teaches ensemble devising and improvisation. Previous shows for TAM include *Our Town*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. With Beau Jest he has directed three world-premiere productions of plays by Tennessee Williams for the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival, and can be seen in the original noir/comic fantasy *Apt 4D*.

## **FAMILY SHOW**

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Each summer, TAM presents a play for families adapted from classic literature. Due to the popularity of these productions, the Family Show now opens in early July and runs throughout the season including weekday and weekend performances.

### ***Puss in Boots* | July 2 – August 18**

**by Dawn McAndrews | directed by Stacey Mancine Koloski**

A poor miller's son, homeless and helpless, has his life changed when the sassiest cat in all of France, Puss in Boots, comes up with a clever plan to change his fortune. All she needs is a fabulous pair of boots and his faith in her. The miller's son is taken on the adventure of his life but soon learns that one little white lie can become a giant furball! Just how far will this cunning cat go to live the high life of a Parisian cat?

## **FALL PLAY**

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After a three year commitment to producing Gilbert & Sullivan musicals, TAM is pleased to announce that, due to audience demand, a classic French farce will take the place of its Fall Musical for 2016.

### ***Boeing, Boeing* | September 15-25**

**by Marc Camoletti | directed by Dawn McAndrews**

It's the 1960s, and swinging bachelor Bernard couldn't be happier: a flat in Paris and three gorgeous stewardesses all engaged to be married...to him. But his perfect life hits the skids when a new, speedier Boeing jet throws off his careful fiancé scheduling. Soon all three stewardesses are in town simultaneously and catastrophe looms. Fasten your seat belts it's going to be a riotously raucous ride!

“Camoletti’s play is admittedly hot (at times) and sexy (at times), but it’s also silly, illogical, and patently absurd.” – *Backstage.com* (La Miranda Theatre)

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## **MONMOUTH, MAINE**

Monmouth is located just off Route 202 in the Winthrop Lakes region of central Maine. By car, the Theater is 25 minutes from Augusta, 25 minutes from Lewiston, 45 minutes from the Mid-Coast region, 50 minutes from Portland, and 90 minutes from Bangor. Monmouth and neighboring towns Winthrop, Hallowell, Augusta, and Lewiston offer a variety of attractions suitable for the whole family, including the Monmouth Museum, Cobbossee Colony Golf Course, Mount Pisgah Hiking Trail, Children’s Discovery Museum, Maine State Museum, Viles Arboretum, Bates College Museum of Art, Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary, and more. These areas also offer a myriad of dining options including The Sedgley Place, Pepper’s Garden & Grill, DaVinci’s Eatery, Fish Bones, Gritty McDuff’s Brewpub & Restaurant, Joyce’s Restaurant, The Liberal Cup, and Slates Restaurant. Visitors can enjoy a stay in Monmouth at one of the several bed and breakfasts or nearby hotels, including A Rise and Shine B&B, The Roost, Hilton Garden Inn, and Senator Inn & Spa.

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## **CUMSTON HALL**

All performances take place in historic Cumston Hall, which towers dramatically over Monmouth’s Main Street. While Dr. Charles M. Cumston donated the funds for the building to the Town of Monmouth in 1899, it has always been a gift shared with the community at large. A registered National Historic Building since 1976, the building’s architecture is a mix of Romanesque-style asymmetrical columns and towers and varying external textures of the Queen Anne period. The 250-seat opera hall features elaborate plaster carvings, and a fresco mural ceiling.

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## **SUBSCRIPTIONS, SINGLE TICKETS, AND GROUP SALES**

A TAM subscription offers savings and exclusive benefits like priority seating and ticket exchanges. Gold, Flex, General, or Senior Passes are available for purchase, so whether you want a ticket for each show or five tickets to one show, there’s an option for you. Single tickets for the Summer Repertory and Fall Play are \$32 for adults, \$28 for senior citizens, and \$20 for students (18 and under). *Puss in Boots* tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children.

Opening Nights are Educator Nights. Educators receive 20% off tickets with a photo ID at the Box Office.

Under 30 Rush Tickets: For patrons under 30, twenty \$10 Rush Tickets are available at each performance in the season. Sign up by contacting the Box Office, either by emailing [boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org](mailto:boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org) or calling 207.933.999 the morning of the performance. Tickets will be released to the first 20 people on the list ten minutes before curtain.

To reserve single tickets, subscriptions, or arrange group sales, please visit [www.theateratmonmouth.org](http://www.theateratmonmouth.org) or call the box office at 207.933.9999.

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Theater at Monmouth, founded in 1970, was named the Shakespearean Theater of Maine in 1975. The theatre’s mission is to present innovative approaches to Shakespeare and other classic plays through professional productions that enrich the lives of people throughout Maine. Since its founding, TAM has produced expertly crafted, engaging productions in its three-month Summer Repertory Season entertaining audiences from 36 states and through Education Tours annually reaching more than 15,000 students.