

UNICORN · COLONIAL · FITZPATRICK

BERKSHIRE

THEATRE GROUP

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Please embargo until: Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 5pm

Berkshire Theatre Group Announces 2016 Summer Season:

**An American Premiere, Pulitzer and Tony Award-Winners,
Judd Hirsch in a World Premiere
Kate Baldwin and Graham Rowat Return,
Little Shop of Horrors and Beauty and the Beast at the Colonial,
Co-Production with WAM at the Unicorn
Plus an Assortment of Lively Acts and Performances**

Summer Season Musical at The Colonial Theatre:

The Drama Critics Circle Award and Drama Desk Award-winning

Little Shop of Horrors

book and lyrics by Howard Ashman

music by Alan Menken

directed by Ethan Heard

choreography by Parker Esse

music direction by Joel Fram

The Fitzpatrick Main Stage:

Tony Award-nominated and Pulitzer Prize-winning

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

by Tennessee Williams

directed by David Auburn

Judd Hirsch

in a World Premiere of

Shem Bitterman's

The Stone Witch

directed by Steve Zuckerman

Produced in association with Darlene Kaplan Entertainment and Brierpatch Productions

The Unicorn Theatre:

Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning

Fiorello!

book by Jerome Weidman and George Abbott

music by Jerry Bock

lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

directed by Bob Moss

choreography by Michael Callahan

Drama League Award and Tony Award-nominated

Constellations

by Nick Payne

directed by Gregg Edelman

with **Kate Baldwin** and **Graham Rowat**

11th Annual Community Theatre Production at The Colonial Theatre:

Tony Award and Drama Desk Award-nominated musical

Beauty and The Beast

music by Alan Menken

lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice

book by Linda Woolverton

directed by Travis G. Daly

music direction by Mark Gionfriddo

choreography by Kathy Jo Grover

Fall Production at The Unicorn Theatre:

American Premiere

a co-production with WAM Theatre

The Bakelite Masterpiece

by Kate Cayley

directed by Kristen van Ginhoven

with **David Adkins** and **Corinna May**

Highlights of the 2016 Colonial and Garage Presented Season:

JUST ANNOUNCED! Adam Ezra Group, roots-rock band

JUST ANNOUNCED! Bella's Bartok, *Change Your Life* CD Release Show

The Laugh Lounge Series, featuring **Ben Kronberg**, **Giulia Rozzi** and **Kevin Meaney**

Marc Cohn, Grammy Award-winning "Walking In Memphis" singer

The Receiver, progressive-alternative band

John Mayall, "the Godfather of British Blues"

Popovich Comedy Pet Theatre, back due to popular demand

On The Stage Series: Jonathan Edwards, folk singer/songwriter and musician

Pittsfield, MA – Berkshire Theatre Group and Artistic Director/CEO, Kate Maguire, are pleased to announce the 2016 Summer Theatre Season and an assortment of lively presented acts at The Garage and The Colonial Theatre. An announcement with casting will be made within the next several weeks.

Kate Maguire says, "Our 88th Season offers a mix of treasured musicals and powerful plays. We are thrilled to present an array of productions, from Tony Award-winning classics, to American and World Premieres, this season is not to be missed!"

Tickets are now on sale. Summer season passes are available for purchase at \$100 for a three-show pass, and \$175 for a six-show pass, \$75 for a three-show preview pass, \$125 for a six-show preview pass.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield or by calling (413) 997-4444 or online at www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org. The Ticket Office is open Monday-Friday 10am–5pm, Saturdays 10am–2pm or on any performance day from 10am until curtain. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

SUMMER SEASON 2016 OVERVIEW

Fiorello!

book by Jerome Weidman and George Abbott

music by Jerry Bock

lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

original production presented by Robert E. Griffith and Harold S. Prince

directed by Bob Moss

choreography by Michael Callahan

at The Unicorn Theatre

The Larry Vaber Stage

BTG's Stockbridge Campus, 6 East Street

Previews: Wednesday, June 15 through Friday, June 17

Press Opening/Opening Night: Saturday, June 18 at 8pm

Talkback: Monday, June 20 after 7pm performance

Closing: Saturday, July 23 at 8pm

Tickets: Preview: \$50

Tickets: \$60

Lead Sponsor: Bobbie Hallig

What is a progressive politic? Look no further than Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning *Fiorello!*. A big-hearted look at Mayor LaGuardia and his battle for the people of New York City. With music and lyrics by Tony Award-winners Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick (*Fiddler On The Roof*, *She Loves Me*) and book by Tony Award and Drama Desk-Winner George Abbott (*The Pajama Game*, *Damn Yankees*) and Jerome Weidman (*Tenderloin*), this production is directed by Playwrights Horizons founder, **Bob Moss** (BTG: *A Class Act*, *A Man for All Seasons*).

Tammany Hall is in dire need of an honest leader, and Fiorello LaGuardia is just the man for the job. Battling against the corrupt, political puppets of New York City, Fiorello vows to clean up the Big Apple. A man of the people, Fiorello must use his wit and charm to fight for the right of the citizens. Based on the real-life rise to power of Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, *Fiorello!* is one of only eight musicals to have been awarded the esteemed Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Bob Moss says, "Mayor LaGuardia was long gone by the time I moved to New York, so I never lived under his tenure in City Hall. But the "Little Flower," as he was called, lives on in memory. The music is toe-tappingly delightful, the characters are richly drawn and a story about good guys is desperately needed in today's jaded and vitriolic politics. It's great to be reminded, as the music lifts us aloft, that good can triumph over selfishness."

Performance Dates

Wednesday, June 15 at 7pm (Preview)

Thursday, June 16 at 7pm (Preview)

Friday, June 17 at 8pm (Preview)

Saturday, June 18 at 2pm and 8pm (Press Opening/Opening Night)

Monday, June 20 at 7pm (Talkback)

Tuesday, June 21 at 7pm

Wednesday, June 22 at 7pm

Thursday, June 23 at 7pm

Friday, June 24 at 8pm

Saturday, June 25 at 2pm and 8pm

Monday, June 27 at 7pm

Tuesday, June 28 at 7pm

Wednesday, June 29 at 7pm

Thursday, June 30 at 7pm
Friday, July 1 at 8pm
Saturday, July 2 at 2pm and 8pm
Monday, July 4 at 7pm
Tuesday, July 5 at 7pm
Wednesday, July 6 at 7pm
Thursday, July 7 at 7pm
Friday, July 8 at 8pm
Saturday, July 9 at 2pm and 8pm
Monday, July 11 at 7pm
Tuesday, July 12 at 7pm
Wednesday, July 13 at 7pm
Thursday, July 14 at 7pm
Friday, July 15 at 8pm
Saturday, July 16 at 2pm and 8pm
Monday, July 18 at 7pm
Tuesday, July 19 at 7pm
Wednesday, July 20 at 7pm
Thursday, July 21 at 7pm
Friday, July 22 at 8pm
Saturday, July 23 at 2pm and 8pm (Closing)

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

by Tennessee Williams
directed by David Auburn

at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage
BTG's Stockbridge Campus, 83 East Main Street

Previews: Wednesday, June 22 through Friday, June 24
Press Opening/Opening Night: Saturday, June 25 at 8pm
Talkback: Monday, June 27 after 7pm performance
Closing: Saturday, July 16 at 8pm
Tickets: Preview: \$45
Tickets: \$62
Sponsored by: Blantyre, Country Curtains and The Red Lion Inn

"I've got the guts to die. What I want to know is do you have the guts to live?" asks the towering and domineering Big Daddy. Sometimes described as Williams' greatest play, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* was the playwrights' favorite. A powerful depiction of greed and deception that lies in the heart of a Southern American family, this Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning play will be directed by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning David Auburn (*Proof*), returning to the Fitzpatrick Main Stage where he has directed *A Delicate Balance*, *Period of Adjustment* and *Anna Christie*.

Mississippi plantation owner, the cantankerous Big Daddy, is celebrating his 65th birthday. His family has returned for the occasion, including his favorite son, the masculine Brick, and Brick's wife, the lonely and longing Maggie. Brick and Maggie's strained marriage plagues Big Daddy's mind, and he demands answers to why they haven't given him a grandchild yet. However, Big Daddy's family holds a powerful secret, and an ulterior motive as to why they have returned to the plantation. The families' troubled relationships and emotional lies become exposed in the timeless American treasure, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Performance Dates

Wednesday, June 22 at 7pm (Preview)
Thursday, June 23 at 7pm (Preview)
Friday, June 24 at 8pm (Preview)
Saturday, June 25 at 2pm and 8pm (Press Opening/Opening Night)

Monday, June 27 at 7pm (Talkback)
Tuesday, June 28 at 7pm
Wednesday, June 29 at 7pm
Thursday, June 30 at 7pm
Friday, July 1 at 8pm
Saturday, July 2 at **1pm** and 8pm (**note earlier matinee time**)
Monday, July 4 at 7pm
Tuesday, July 5 at 7pm
Wednesday, July 6 at 7pm
Thursday, July 7 at 7pm
Friday, July 8 at 8pm
Saturday, July 9 at 2pm and 8pm
Monday, July 11 at 7pm
Tuesday, July 12 at 7pm
Wednesday, July 13 at 7pm
Thursday, July 14 at 7pm
Friday, July 15 at 8pm
Saturday, July 16 at 2pm and 8pm (Closing)

Little Shop of Horrors

book and lyrics by Howard Ashman
music by Alan Menken

directed by Ethan Heard
choreography by Parker Esse
music direction by Joel Fram

at The Colonial Theatre
BTG's Pittsfield Campus, 111 South Street

Previews: Wednesday, July 6 through Friday, July 8
Press Opening/Opening Night: Saturday, July 9 at 8pm
Talkback: Monday, July 11 after 7pm performance
Closing: Saturday, July 23 at 8pm
Tickets: Preview: \$55 • Opening Night: \$35-\$75 (includes post-show dance party with cast)
Tickets: A: \$65 B: \$50 C: \$25
Sponsored by: Blantyre, Country Curtains and The Red Lion Inn, Greylock Federal Credit Union and Greylock Insurance Agency

The Drama Critics Circle Award and Drama Desk Award-winning rock, horror, musical comedy, *Little Shop of Horrors*, is open for business! Directed by, **Ethan Heard** (BTG: *Bells Are Ringing*, *A Little Night Music*, *Cat and The Canary*), this celebrated, farcical production, has music by Academy Award, Golden Globe Award and Tony Award-winners Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman (*The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*).

Seymour Krelborn, a timid, poor floral assistant, lives downtown on Skid Row. Constantly berated by his boss, Mr. Mushnik, and longing to be noticed by his beautifully flawed co-worker, Audrey, Seymour serendipitously discovers a mysterious plant in town. Aptly naming it the Audrey II, Seymour takes the plant back to his run-down flower shop. Suddenly Seymour's life is filled with recognition and riches, all thanks to the Audrey II. Unfortunately, the plant has an unconventional thirst for something other than water. Seymour is faced with the tough decision of giving into the lewd Audrey II's demands and continuing down the path to success, or returning back to his simple life. Hit-filled and hair-raising, ludicrous laughs unfold in this unconventional, killer comedy musical.

Ethan Heard says, "Having directed two grandly romantic shows the past two seasons (*Bells Are Ringing*, *A Little Night Music*), this year I'm thrilled to get down and dirty with the desperate denizens of Skid Row.

Drawing inspiration from the show's roots in Camp and B Horror flicks, our production pumps fresh blood into the carnivorous plant Audrey II, bringing her to life in unexpectedly fabulous ways.

Performance Dates

Wednesday, July 6 at 7pm (Preview)
 Thursday, July 7 at 7pm (Preview)
 Friday, July 8 at 8pm (Preview)
 Saturday, July 9 at 8pm (Press Opening/Opening Night)
 Monday, July 11 at 7pm (Talkback)
 Tuesday, July 12 at 7pm
 Wednesday, July 13 at 7pm
 Thursday, July 14 at 2pm and 7pm
 Friday, July 15 at 8pm
 Saturday, July 16 at 2pm and 8pm
 Monday, July 18 at 7pm
 Tuesday, July 19 at 7pm
 Wednesday, July 20 at 7pm
 Thursday, July 21 at 2pm and 7pm
 Friday, July 22 at 8pm
 Saturday, July 23 at 2pm and 8pm (Closing)

Judd Hirsch

in a World Premiere of
 Shem Bitterman's

The Stone Witch

directed by Steve Zuckerman

Produced in association with Darlene Kaplan Entertainment and Brierpatch Productions

at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage

BTG's Stockbridge Campus, 83 East Main Street

Previews: Wednesday, July 20 through Friday, July 22

Press Opening/Opening Night: Saturday, July 23 at 8pm

Talkback: Monday, July 25 after 8pm performance

Closing: Saturday, August 20 at 8pm

Tickets: Preview: \$45

Tickets: \$62

Sponsored by: Blantyre, Country Curtains and The Red Lion Inn, Natalie and Howard Shawn

In this World Premiere, written by Pen/USA Award-winning playwright **Shem Bitterman** (*Harm's Way*, *Open House*, *Influence*; Film: *Whitney*, *The Job*), reality and fantasy collide when a struggling, young writer is chosen by a powerful book editor for a special assignment—to help a reclusive children's book author and illustrator complete his first manuscript in over a decade. Directed by Drama Desk and Humanities Award-winning theatre and television director **Steve Zuckerman** (Broadway: *Nuts*; TV: *Everybody Loves Raymond*; Film: Israel Horovitz's *North Shore Fish*), and featuring Tony Award, Golden Globe Award, Emmy Award and Obie Award-winning actor **Judd Hirsch** (Broadway: *Talley's Folly*; TV: *Taxi*; Film: *Independence Day*), this production is produced in association with Darlene Kaplan Entertainment and Brierpatch Productions.

Peter, an aspiring children's book author, is sent to the cabin of his idol, Simon, played by **Judd Hirsch**, a reclusive award-winning author and illustrator of children's books, to help him finish what might be his last book. Desperate to save his own career, Peter hopes to discover the secret of Simon's genius, but first he must accept the impossible task: helping Simon confront the monsters that populate the woods inside his mind. This darkly humorous-play makes us question the cost of success.

Performance Dates

Wednesday, July 20 at 7pm (Preview)
Thursday, July 21 at 7pm (Preview)
Friday, July 22 at 8pm (Preview)
Saturday, July 23 at 2pm and 8pm (Press Opening/Opening Night)
Monday, July 25 at 7pm Talkback
Tuesday, July 26 at 7pm
Wednesday, July 27 at 7pm
Thursday, July 28 at 7pm
Friday, July 29 at 8pm
Saturday, July 30 at 2pm and 8pm
Monday, August 1 at 7pm
Tuesday, August 2 at 7pm
Wednesday, August 3 at 7pm
Thursday, August 4 at 7pm
Friday, August 5 at 8pm
Saturday, August 6 at 2pm and 8pm
Monday, August 8 at 7pm
Tuesday, August 9 at 7pm
Wednesday, August 10 at 7pm
Thursday, August 11 at 7pm
Friday, August 12 at 8pm
Saturday, August 13 at 2pm and 8pm
Monday, August 15 at 7pm
Tuesday, August 16 at 7pm
Wednesday, August 17 at 7pm
Thursday, August 18 at 7pm
Friday, August 19 at 8pm
Saturday, August 20 at 2pm and 8pm (Closing)

Constellations

by Nick Payne
directed by Gregg Edelman
with Kate Baldwin and Graham Rowat

at The Unicorn Stage
The Larry Vaber Stage
BTG's Stockbridge Campus, 6 East Street

Previews: Wednesday, August 3 through Friday, August 5
Press Opening/Opening Night: Saturday, August 6
Talkback: Monday, August 8th after 7pm performance
Closing: Saturday, August 27 at 8pm
Tickets: Preview: \$45
Tickets: \$50
Lead Sponsor: Bobbie Hallig

Have you ever wondered if one simple interaction could change your life's trajectory? The infinite question of "what if?" is raised in Nick Payne's Drama League Award and Tony Award-nominated drama, *Constellations*. Directed by Tony Award-nominated **Gregg Edelman** (Broadway: *City of Angels*, *1776*, *Into The Woods* BTG: *Deathtrap*, *A Little Night Music*), and featuring Tony Award-nominated **Kate Baldwin** (Broadway: *Finian's Rainbow*; BTG: *Bells Are Ringing*, *A Little Night Music*) and Baldwin's real life husband, Broadway and television actor, **Graham Rowat** (Broadway: *Mamma Mia*, *LoveMusik*; BTG: *Bells Are Ringing*, *A Little Night Music*), *Constellations* is a sensual, mesmerizing piece of theatre.

This heartfelt and poignant two-character drama follows Marianne, a quirky quantum physicist, played by **Kate**

Baldwin, and Roland, a beekeeper, played by **Graham Rowat**. Their first encounter is seemingly ordinary—crossing paths at a mutual friend’s barbeque. Exploring the endless possibilities of their budding romance, the characters create their own multi-verse to see how their relationship would play out if they had chosen fate over chance.

Gregg Edelman says, “*Constellations* is a play of extraordinary beauty; touching and humorous, it explores the many ways we try to connect with those we love or hope to love. I fell under the spell of this play at first reading and each time I go back, my love for it deepens. This year’s BTG production boasts a cast of two amazingly talented actors, Kate Baldwin and Graham Rowat. Their wit and sensitivity, not to mention their real-life marriage, promises to inform this elegant play with a level of wisdom that will make this a memorable experience for our audiences.”

Performance Dates

Wednesday, August 3 at 7pm (Preview)

Thursday, August 4 at 7pm (Preview)

Friday, August 5 at 8pm (Preview)

Saturday, August 6 at 2pm and 8pm (Press Opening/Opening Night)

Monday, August 8 at 7pm (Talkback)

Tuesday, August 9 at 7pm

Wednesday, August 10 at 7pm

Thursday, August 11 at 2pm and 7pm

Friday, August 12 at 8pm

Saturday, August 13 at 2pm and 8pm

Monday, August 15 at 7pm

Tuesday, August 16 at 7pm

Wednesday, August 17 at 7pm

Thursday, August 18 at 2pm and 7pm

Friday, August 19 at 8pm

Saturday, August 20 at 2pm and 8pm

Monday, August 22 at 7pm

Tuesday, August 23 at 7pm

Wednesday, August 24 at 7pm

Thursday, August 25 at 2pm and 7pm

Friday, August 26 at 8pm

Saturday, August 27 at 2pm and 8pm (Closing)

Beauty and The Beast

music by Alan Menken

lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice

book by Linda Woolverton

originally directed by Robert Jess Roth

originally produced by Disney Theatrical Productions

directed by Travis G. Daly

music direction by Mark Gionfriddo

choreography by Kathy Jo Grover

at The Colonial Theatre

BTG’s Pittsfield Campus, 111 South Street

Preview: Thursday, August 11

Opening Night: Friday, August 12 at 7pm

Closing: Friday, August 19 at 7pm

Special Note: As a community production, there is no press night for *Beauty and The Beast*

Tickets: Adult A: \$40; Adult B: \$30 • Child A: \$25; Child B: \$20

Rose Circle Tickets: Adult: \$50 • Child: \$35

Sponsored by: Greylock Federal Credit Union and Greylock Insurance Agency

Beauty and the Beast will share its “tale as old as time” at The Colonial Theatre for Berkshire Theatre Group’s 11th Annual Community Theatre Production. This beloved Tony Award and Drama Desk Award-nominated musical will feature over 100 talented Berkshire County natives. Be our guest as BTG flies actors through The Colonial for the fourth time in a BTG community production.

A spell is cast on a conceited, immature prince and his castle, turning the strikingly handsome young man into a hideous, cruel creature: The Beast. To break the curse, The Beast must discover how to love someone for the kindness of their heart, and be loved in return in his grisly form. Meanwhile, in a small, mundane French town, Belle, a bright and beautiful bookworm, has always felt out of place. Picked on by her peers, and constantly sought after by the superficial town hunk, Gaston, Belle aches for adventure. The only person that truly believes in Belle is her father, Maurice, an affectionate, eccentric inventor. After losing his way in the woods, Maurice is captured by The Beast. Belle agrees to become prisoner in exchange for her father’s freedom. With the aid of The Beast’s enchanted, charming servants—Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts and Chip—Belle finds that there is more to The Beast than meets the eye. *Beauty and The Beast* is bursting with stunning dance numbers and memorable songs, such as: “Be Our Guest,” “Beauty and The Beast,” “Gaston,” and more!

Performance Dates

Thursday, August 11 at 7pm (Preview)

Friday, August 12 at 7pm (Opening)

Saturday, August 13 at 2pm and 7pm

Sunday, August 14 at 2pm and 7pm

Monday, August 15 at 7pm

Wednesday, August 17 at 7pm

Thursday, August 18 at 2pm and 7pm

Friday, August 19 at 7pm (Closing)

American Premiere

The Bakelite Masterpiece

by Kate Cayley

directed by Kristen van Ginhoven

with David Adkins and Corinna May

a co-production with WAM Theatre

at The Unicorn Stage

The Larry Vaber Stage

BTG’s Stockbridge Campus, 6 East Street

Previews: Thursday, September 29 and Friday, September 30

Press Opening/Opening Night: Saturday, October 1 at 7pm

Talkback: Thursday, October 6 after 7pm performance

Closing: Sunday, October 23 at 7pm

Tickets: Preview: \$45

Tickets: \$50

Lead Sponsor: Bobbie Hallig

After a critically-acclaimed World Premiere at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto, Canada, Berkshire Theatre Group and WAM Theatre are joining forces to present the American Premiere of *The Bakelite Masterpiece*. This stirring production is directed by Co-Founder and Artistic Director of WAM Theatre, **Kristen van Ginhoven**, and features **David Adkins** (BTG: *Benefactors; Love, Valour, Compassion; Thoreau or, Return to Walden; Poe*) and **Corinna May** (BTG: *Benefactors, Homestead Crossing, Two-Headed*).

It's the end of World War II, and Holland is in chaos. The artist Van Meegeren is arrested. His crime? Selling a long-lost painting by the Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer to the Nazi Leader, Hermann Goering. His defense? It was a perfect forgery painted by him. His proof? In front of his prosecutor Geert Piller, art historian and resistance fighter, he must paint another flawless Vermeer to save his life. *The Bakelite Masterpiece* is a play that debates beauty, faith, memory and the reconstruction of a country.

"As the daughter of Dutch parents who lived through WWII, I feel compelled to tell this story," said Kristen van Ginhoven. "The play came to me via a close colleague in Canada who acted in the original production and I immediately envisioned it at The Unicorn Theatre. WAM Theatre is very excited that Berkshire Theatre Group has opened their doors to make this a co-production. This collaboration makes it possible for this story to reach a wider audience."

Performance Dates

Thursday, September 29 at 7pm (Preview)
 Friday, September 30 at 7pm (Preview)
 Saturday, October 1 at 7pm (Press Opening/Opening Night)
 Thursday, October 6 at 7pm (Talkback)
 Friday, October 7 at 7pm
 Saturday, October 8 at 2pm and 7pm
 Sunday, October 9 at 2pm
 Thursday, October 13 at 7pm
 Friday, October 14 at 7pm
 Saturday, October 15 at 2pm and 7pm
 Sunday, October 16 at 2pm
 Thursday, October 20 at 7pm
 Friday, October 21 at 7pm
 Saturday, October 22 at 2pm and 7pm
 Sunday, October 23 at 2pm (Closing)

CALENDAR OF 2016 PRESENTED SHOWS

Laugh Lounge Series: Ben Kronberg

at The Garage

Wednesday, February 24 at 8pm

Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 the day of

Since his breakout performance at HBOs' *Aspen Comedy Festival* in 2007, Ben Kronberg has performed on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, *John Oliver's New York Stand-up Show*, *Last Call with Carson Daly*, and taped his own *Half Hour Special* on Comedy Central. Comedy Central has named Ben as one of the "Comics to Watch" on several of their recommended lists. Ben's unique style blends clever one-liners and witty observations, with catchy songs that he performs.

Marc Cohn

at The Colonial Theatre

Thursday, February 25 at 8pm

Tickets: \$40

Singer-songwriter and pianist Marc Cohn burst onto the scene in 1991 on the heels of "Walking In Memphis," one of the most resonant songs to make the Top 40 in the last twenty years. The Best New Artist Grammy for 1991 soon followed. Cohn's short-story songwriting style is heavily influenced by Van Morrison, Joni Mitchell and Jackson Browne, and he is often named among the most personal and introspective lyricists of his generation.

The Receiver

at The Garage

Thursday, March 10 at 8pm
 Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 the day of

The Receiver is brothers Casey (keyboards, bass, vocals) and Jesse Cooper (drums, vocals) from Columbus, OH. Formed in 2005, the brothers quickly expanded on ideas composed the previous year by Casey for his senior thesis in music composition studies at The Ohio State University. After a few live performances, the band was picked up by New York-based Stunning Models On Display Records. With the label's support, the band finished the recording of their debut album *Decades* in 2006 and celebrated its release later that year with extensive touring throughout North America. Once home, Casey began the near two-year writing process for their follow-up album *Length of Arms*. The sophomore effort had its release in late 2009 on Vital Music Records. The band recently signed with Kscope Records (Steven Wilson, Porcupine Tree, Engineers) who released their self-produced third album *All Burn* to critical acclaim in June 2015.

John Mayall

at The Colonial Theatre
 Thursday, March 24 at 8pm
 Tickets: A: \$60 B: \$50 C: \$35

Often referred to as "The Godfather of British Blues," John Mayall has an impressive musical career that spans over 50 years. The English blues singer, pianist, harmonica player, guitarist, and songwriter founded the band, John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers in the 1960s—a band whose members included a copious amount of celebrated blues and blues rock musicians, such as: Eric Clapton, Peter Green, Jack Bruce, John McVie, Mick Fleetwood, Mick Taylor, Walter Trout, Coco Montoya and Buddy Whittington.

Attracted by the West Coast climate and culture, Mayall then made his permanent move from England to Los Angeles and began forming bands with American musicians. Throughout the '70s, Mayall became further revered for his many jazz/rock/blues innovations featuring such notable performers as Blue Mitchell, Red Holloway, Larry Taylor, and Harvey Mandel.

Throughout the last three decades, Mayall's popularity skyrocketed with a succession of dynamic albums including the Grammy-nominated "Wake Up Call" that featured guest artists Buddy Guy, Mavis Staples, Albert Collins and Mick Taylor.

Today, John Mayall reaches a creative pinnacle with, in his opinion, the best band he's ever had with Rocky Athas on guitar, Jay Davenport on drums and Greg Rzab on bass. Together now for over seven years, they are featured players on John's last four albums including his latest *Find a Way to Care*.

Popovich Comedy Pet Theatre

at The Colonial Theatre
 Wednesday, March 30 at 7pm
 Tickets: \$20
 Sponsored by: Sponsored by: Greylock Federal Credit Union and Greylock Insurance Agency

The Popovich Comedy Pet Theater is a family-oriented blend of the unique comedy and juggling skills of Moscow Circus member, Gregory Popovich, and the extraordinary talents of his performing pets. Rescued from shelters all over the country, Popovich's Pets, which include cats, dogs, geese, doves and parrots, are now Las Vegas stars. Popovich and his Pets have been featured on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Late Night with David Letterman*, and as a finalist on NBC's *America's Got Talent*. Audiences will be delighted to see this extravaganza of European-style clowning, amazing juggling and balancing acts, and of course, extraordinarily talented performing pets!

Adam Ezra Group

at The Garage
 Friday, April 1 at 8pm
 Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door

Boston native Adam Ezra has been making music for 15 years. Adam Ezra Group has grown gradually from a solo, acoustic act to a touring group with 6 musicians including Ezra on vocals and guitar, Corinna Smith on fiddle, Turtle on hand percussion, Josh Gold on keys, Francis Hickey on bass, and Alex Martin on drums. Performances are renowned for their energy and uniqueness, drawing from Ezra's prolific songwriting catalog. Band members never know what they're going to play until they get on stage and, it's not unusual, to find them wielding trash can lids, accordions, banjos, spoons, 2x4s and other unexpected implements over the course of an AEG set. And, when the feeling hits them, they've been known to take the occasional field trip off stage to sing unplugged with the audience.

Adam Ezra and his band have never been afraid to rewrite the rules of business for their independent, folk-inspired, rock band. For many years they have offered their CDs for whatever a fan can afford to pay, even free. They have made playing benefits and fundraisers a priority, despite a grueling 200 show per year tour schedule. Noted by The New England Music Awards as "Band of the Year" in 2013, as well as "Album of the Year" in 2012, Adam Ezra Group puts on a lively show that will have fans dancing all night.

Laugh Lounge: Giulia Rozzi

at The Garage

Wednesday, April 6th at 8pm

Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 the day of

Storyteller, writer and actress, Giulia Rozzi's blunt and animated humor has earned her the honor of being a Moth Grand SLAM champion and a Boston Comedy Festival finalist, in addition to other awards.

A writer for MTV's *Girl Code* and *Silent Library*, Rozzi has been regularly seen in front of the camera on Vh1's *The Greatest*, E!'s *Chelsea Lately*, and starred in the independent film *Party Like It's A Verb*. Recently, she taped an episode of Comedy Central's new series, *This Is Not Happening*, and has more TV appearances in the works.

Bella's Bartok: *Change Your Life* CD Release Show

with special guest DJ BFG

at The Colonial Theatre

Saturday, April 16 at 8pm

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 day of show

Bella's Bartok are music-making extra-ordinaries from Northampton, MA. This six-piece powerhouse melds Bohemian Klezmer-Punk with pop sensibilities into an eminently danceable party.

Bella's Bartok line-up includes: Asher Putnam (vocals and all-around entertainer), Jesse Putnam (accordion, mandolin, guitar, trumpet and vocals), Chris "Fancy" Kerrigan (guitar, clarinet and vocals) Dan Niederhauser (bass and vocals), Amory Drennan (trombone, banjo and vocals), and Crisco (drums/percussion and trumpet). The band has shared the stage with musicians and acts such as Rubblebucket, The Indigo Girls, Larry & His Flask, The Suitcase Junket, And the Kids, Kanye, Rough Francis, Beau Sasser's Escape Plan, West End Blend, Adam Ezra Group, Arc Iris, and many more.

The *Change Your Life* CD Release Show will feature an amped-up version of the Bella's signature high-energy experience, complete with special effects and surprises galore. With a masquerade theme, fans are encouraged to come with masks of all kinds.

Through The Looking Glass: Musings from the Pens of Berkshire Women Writers

at The Unicorn Theatre

Sunday, April 17 at 3pm

Tickets: \$20

The Berkshire women being honored exemplify the diversity of women's writing in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The thread that joins these women together is the dilemma of self-realization versus the socially accepted self-sacrifice of the times in which they lived: desire versus duty.

With the Berkshires as their palette, these women filled their journals, letters and stories with their concern for broad cultural and social issues, as well as the issues of particular interest to women. Their individual voices resonate with recognition as we see ourselves in the looking glass of their experience.

Selected readings from writers including **Frances Anne Kemble, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Catharine Maria Sedgwick, Harriett Beecher Stowe, and Edith Wharton** will be performed by **Amber Chand, Hilary Somers Deely, Kate Maguire, Corinna May, Mary Mott and Barbara Sims**. Performers are subject to change.

There will be a talk back with the cast following the performance. This event is a benefit for The Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, part of our Made in the Berkshires Festival, created by Hilary Somers Deely and Barbara Sims.

Laugh Lounge Series: Kevin Meaney

at The Garage

Wednesday, May 11th at 8pm

Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 the day of

Kevin Meaney has been one of the country's most popular standup comedians for more than 25 years. Tom Shales of the *Washington Post* said, "Picture the precocious love child of Jonathan Winters and Ethel Merman and you have some idea of Kevin Meaney's act."

Making people laugh has always been a top priority for Kevin. From his early years doing standup comedy in San Francisco and Boston he's amassed an impressive list of credits along the way. His first HBO special in 1986 catapulted him to the forefront of the comedy scene. In 1987, Kevin made his debut appearance on *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson* and was invited by Johnny to join the guest panel. Since his first appearance, Kevin returned to the show more than a dozen times. He was a special guest on *Saturday Night Live* and has appeared on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *Regis*, *Oprah* and *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*.

On The Stage Series: Jonathan Edwards

at The Colonial Theatre

Thursday, October 6 at 8pm

Tickets: \$40

Four decades into a stellar career, Jonathan Edwards has only grown sweeter with age. His highly respected repertoire includes such classics as "Honky Tonk Stardust Cowboy," "Sometimes," "One Day Closer," "Don't Cry Blue," "Emma," "Everybody Knows Her," "Athens County," "Shanty" and the classic, "Sunshine (Go Away Today)," that fierce proclamation of protest and independence that resonated with thousands of frustrated and angry young men and women when it was first released in 1971. This is a rare opportunity where audience and musical icon share the stage for one night only.

CALENDAR OF 2016 PRESENTED SHOWS

Laugh Lounge Series: Ben Kronberg: The Garage, Wednesday, February 24 at 8pm

Marc Cohn: The Colonial, Thursday, February 25 at 8pm

The Receiver: The Garage, Thursday, March 10 at 8pm

John Mayall: The Colonial, Thursday, March 24 at 8pm

Popovich Comedy Pet Theatre: The Colonial, Wednesday, March 30 at 7pm

Adam Ezra Group: The Garage, Friday, April 1 at 8pm

Laugh Lounge: Giulia Rozzi: The Garage, Wednesday, April 6 at 8pm

Bella's Bartok: *Change Your Life* CD Release Show: The Colonial, Saturday, April 16 at 8pm
Through The Looking Glass: Musings from the Pens of Berkshire Women Writers:
The Unicorn, Sunday, April 17 at 3pm
Laugh Lounge Series: Kevin Meaney: The Garage, Wednesday, May 11 at 8pm
On The Stage Series: Jonathan Edwards: The Colonial, Thursday, October 6 at 8pm

For more information about Berkshire Theatre Group and our upcoming season, please visit www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org

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About Berkshire Theatre Group

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. Having united in November of 2010 under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO, Kate Maguire, these two institutions are providing the Berkshires and beyond with the finest in live theatre, music, dance and the visual arts in Stockbridge, MA and Pittsfield, MA. The Fitzpatrick Main Stage (314 seats), cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, was originally designed and built by Stanford White as the Stockbridge Casino in 1888. The intimate Unicorn Theatre (122 seats) is a home for emerging artists and new theatrical ideas. The Colonial in Pittsfield (780 seats) re-opened in August of 2006, following a \$21 million restoration, and boasts pristine acoustics, classic gilded age architecture and state-of-the-art technical systems. The Colonial is available to rent for performance events as well as other events/functions. For more information about renting our facilities, contact Ashlei Perkins at ashlei@berkshiretheatre.org, or (413)448-8084 x18. BTG also performs at The Garage, a music venue located in the lobby of The Colonial. BTG serves over 100,000 patrons per year and reaches over 13,000 students through its educational and outreach programs. For more information on BTG, and to purchase tickets, please call (413) 997-4444 or (413) 298-5576 or go online to www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org.