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## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STEPHANIE YBARRA'S INAUGURAL SEASON OF MAINSTAGE PLAYS ANNOUNCED BY BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE

### MISS YOU LIKE HELL

Book and Lyrics  
by Quiara  
Alegria Hudes

Music and lyrics by  
Erin McKeown

Directed by  
Rebecca Martinez  
SEP 12-OCT 13

### THOUGHTS OF A COLORED MAN

By Keenan Scott II  
Directed by Taye Diggs

Co-production with  
Syracuse Stage

In association with  
Brian Moreland and  
Ron Simons

OCT 10-NOV 10

### MEN ON BOATS

By Jaclyn Backhaus  
Directed by Jenny Koons

NOV 29-DEC 22

### RICHARD & JANE & DICK & SALLY

By Noah Diaz

JAN 23-FEB 16

### WHERE WE STAND

By Donnetta  
Lavinia Grays

Directed by  
Tamilla Woodard

MAR 19-APR 12

### THE BACCHAE

By Euripides

Directed by  
Mike Donahue

APR 30-MAY 24

**Baltimore, MD March 14, 2019----** Baltimore Center Stage is pleased to announce an exhilarating season of Mainstage plays to mark the debut programming under Artistic Director Stephanie Ybarra. This season of storytelling continues the Center Stage tradition of curating works from a wide array of voices, while also turning corners and pushing open doors to present these works in new and exciting ways.

"In curating my first season at Baltimore Center Stage, I sought out joyfully subversive pieces told by a constellation of artists with an unapologetically theatrical style," said Ybarra. "These stories and the people who tell them represent my hope that theater can create the space for every one of us to conjure a world of our own imagining."

The 58th Season includes the directorial debut of Broadway and screen star Taye Diggs with *Thoughts of a Colored Man* by Keenan Scott II; a fresh take on the immortal play *The Bacchae* by Euripides; topical themes in a contemporary musical by Quiara Alegria Hudes and Erin McKeown's *Miss You Like Hell*; a dramatic comedy about the dynamics of family in *Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally* by Noah Diaz; hilarity through a retelling of the exploration of the Grand Canyon in *Men on Boats* by Jacklyn Backhaus; and a play that tackles a community's complicity in its own struggles in Donnetta Lavinia Grays' *Where We Stand*.

Alongside Mainstage programming, Baltimore Center Stage's 2019/20 Season will feature a robust slate of civic engagement activities designed with the core belief that art is essential to a healthy society. Kicking off this programming, Baltimore Center Stage and Olney Theatre Center will use their productions of *Miss You Like Hell* in service of a season-long partnership building awareness around immigration issues throughout the state of Maryland. Throughout the run of *Thoughts of a Colored Man*, Center Stage will host community conversations centered on cultural identity and personal storytelling. Center Stage's capstone engagement program, the Mobile Unit, will tour Donnetta Lavinia Grays' new play *Where We Stand* to communities throughout Greater Baltimore during the anniversary of Freddie Gray's death and the subsequent uprising.



"Stephanie's first season is going to be chock-full of exciting and vital voices, all telling stories that will spark conversations and ignite imaginations" said Michael Ross, Baltimore Center Stage Executive Director. "This impressive lineup of theater is curated with our patrons in mind and shows off the joy and theatricality that Stephanie embraces."

### 2019/20 Season Artists



Quiara Alegría Hudes

Erin McKeown

Taye Diggs

Jaclyn Backhaus

Donnetta Lavinia Grays

Noah Diaz



Keenan Scott II

Tamilla Woodard

Rebecca Martínez

Mike Donahue

Jenny Koons

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#### ***Miss You Like Hell***

Book and lyrics by Quiara Alegría Hudes

Music and lyrics by Erin McKeown

Directed by Rebecca Martínez

Sep 12–Oct 13, 2019

Everyone has baggage in this timely mother-daughter musical about escaping and belonging from the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright who wrote the book for the Tony Award-winning production of *In the Heights*. Join Olivia and her mother on their cross-country road trip. Mothers may teach you where you come from—but they can be the trickiest things.

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#### ***Thoughts of a Colored Man***

By Keenan Scott II

Directed by Taye Diggs

Co-production with Syracuse Stage

In association with Brian Moreland and Ron Simons

Oct 10–Nov 10, 2019

Directed by renowned artist Taye Diggs, and written by Keenan Scott II, one of today's boldest new voices, *Thoughts of a Colored Man* blends language, music, and dance. Welcome to the vibrant inner life of being Black, proud, and thriving in the 21st Century. Set over a single day, this richly theatrical mosaic goes beyond



the rhythms of the basketball court and the boisterousness of the barbershop to shed brilliant light into the hearts and minds of a community of men searching for their most triumphant selves.

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***Men on Boats***

By Jaclyn Backhaus  
Directed by Jenny Koons  
Nov 29–Dec 22, 2019

This off-Broadway hit tells a hilarious, true(ish) history of the Grand Canyon. We invite you along on a journey that throws the history book—and all the men inside it—out the window in this subversive retelling of the one-armed explorer John Powell and his exploration of the American West. Strap in for this uncharted, uproarious journey.

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***Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally***

By Noah Diaz  
Jan 23–Feb 16, 2020

See Richard go. See Spot bark. See Dick cry. See Sally sign. See Jane struggle after a lifetime in her brother's shadow. The classic world of "Dick and Jane" is beginning to fracture in this witty and raw look into one dysfunctional and dissembling family.

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***Where We Stand***

By Donnetta Lavinia Grays  
Directed by Tamilla Woodard  
Mar 19–Apr 12, 2020 (Mainstage)  
April 14–26, 2020 (Mobile Unit Tour)

This brand-new fable of penance is filled with humor, heart, and music. When a town is running low on compassion and a man is stripped of companionship, just one kind stranger can tip the scales. Join in community as one passionate storyteller spins a supernatural tale of loneliness seduced by kindness and asks us "what do we owe each other?"

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***The Bacchae***

By Euripides  
Directed by Mike Donahue  
Apr 30–May 24, 2020

This is not your English teacher's Greek tragedy. Dionysus is totally over your drama, and he's going to incite the women of the land to raise some hell in the greatest party in recorded history. Closing the season with a political exclamation point from the birthplace of Democracy, *The Bacchae* hits the Mainstage at the same moment our nation surges into its primary elections.

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Interview requests can be accommodated by reaching out to the Public Relations Office and media members may request performance attendance via the online press request form which is made available and emailed with the cast announcements for each play. Downloadable media, including production photos and video can be found on our website. For general information, visit [www.centerstage.org](http://www.centerstage.org) or call the box office at 410.332.0033.

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### **About Baltimore Center Stage**

Designated the State Theater of Maryland in 1978, Baltimore Center Stage provides the highest quality theater and programming for all members of our communities, including youth and families, under the leadership of Artistic Director Stephanie Ybarra and Executive Director Michael Ross. Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations and imaginations by producing an eclectic season of professional productions across two mainstages and an intimate 99-seat theater, through engaging community programs, and with inspiring education programs. Everything we do at Center Stage is led by our core values—chief among them being Access For All. Our mission is heavily rooted in providing active and open accessibility for everyone, regardless of any and all barriers, to our Mainstage performances, education initiatives, and community programming.