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ANNOUNCES NEW WORK FOR
2021/22 SEASON:

THE SWINDLERS: A TRUE-ISH TALL TALE

BY NOAH DIAZ

DIRECTED BY WILL DAVIS

SEPTEMBER 2 – 26, 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LONG WHARF THEATRE

FIRES IN THE MIRROR: CROWN HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN AND
OTHER IDENTITIES

BY ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

DIRECTED BY NICOLE BREWER

NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 19, 2021

THE FOLKS AT HOME

BY R. ERIC THOMAS

DIRECTED BY STEVIE WALKER-WEBB

MARCH 17 – APRIL 10, 2022

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALLIANCE THEATRE & LONG WHARF THEATRE

DREAM HOUSE

BY ELIANA PIPES

DIRECTED BY LAURIE WOOLERY

APRIL 21 – MAY 15, 2022

BAKKHAI

BY EURIPEDES

A NEW VERSION BY ANNE CARSON

WITH ORIGINAL MUSIC BY DIANA OH

DIRECTED BY MIKE DONAHUE

CHOREOGRAPHED BY WILLIA NOEL MONTAGUE

JUNE 1 – JUNE 19, 2022

BALTIMORE BUTTERFLY SESSIONS

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SERIES FEATURING
ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS, ORGANIZERS AND THINKERS

VIRTUAL BRIDGE SERIES CONVERSATIONS

LIVE, BEHIND-THE-SCENES CONVERSATIONS FEATURING
RENOWNED ARTISTS FROM ACROSS THE AMERICAN THEATRE

BCS SOUND CHECK

A NEW CONCERT SERIES IN THE BCS LOBBY

FEATURING PERFORMANCES FROM DARIUS CHRISTIAN, BE STEADWELL,
STORM THOMAS AND CATRINA BRENAE

BCS PRESENTS

FEATURING WORK FROM OUR PARTNERS
INCLUDING WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY, CREATIVE ALLIANCE,
ARTSCENTRIC AND MORE

NEW MEMBERSHIP MODEL

THE BCS GO PASS OFFERS NEW WAYS TO BE A MEMBER
AND EXPERIENCE ALL THAT BCS HAS TO OFFER

DOWNLOAD HEADSHOTS AND BIOS [HERE](#)

MORE INFORMATION AT [CENTERSTAGE.ORG](https://www.centerstage.org)

(August 16, 2021 – New York, New York) **Baltimore Center Stage** (BCS) (Artistic Director Stephanie Ybarra) is proud to announce the complete 2021/22 Season, featuring artists such as **Noah Diaz, Will Davis, Anna Deavere Smith, Nicole Brewer, R. Eric Thomas, Stevie Walker-Webb, Eliana Pipes, Laurie Woolery, Anne Carson, Mike Donahue** and **Diana Oh**. BCS is also excited to announce a new series of partnerships, initiatives and programs that will feature the work of Baltimore-based arts organizations **ArtsCentric** and **Creative Alliance** and artists **Madeline Sayet, Mei Ann Teo, Darius Christian, Be Steadwell, Storm Thomas, Catrina Brenae** and more.

“As we continue to stay open for storytelling through this long period of uncertainty, we are so excited to welcome our community back into our physical space for our 2021/22 Season,” shared Artistic Director **Stephanie Ybarra**. “The artists of our 2021/22 Season are ready to take us places we’ve never been before -- whether you’re joining remotely or in person, we are ready to take you on journeys via theater in all its forms. In other words: it’s go time.”

The 2021/22 season begins this fall with ***The Swindlers: A True-ish Tall Tale*** by **Noah Diaz** (*Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally*) and directed by **Will Davis** (*Men on Boats*) and continues with ***Fires in the Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Other Identities*** by Pulitzer Prize finalist **Anna Deavere Smith** (*Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*), directed by **Nicole Brewer** (Anti-racist Theater – A.R.T) in partnership with **Long Wharf Theatre**. The season continues in 2022 with the world premiere of ***The Folks at Home*** written by **R. Eric Thomas** (*Safe Space* – 2021 Lambda Literary Award finalist) and directed by **Stevie Walker-Webb** (*Ain’t No Mo’*); and ***DREAM HOU\$E*** by **Eliana Pipes** (*Stand and Wait*) and directed by **Laurie Woolery** (*El Huracán*), a world premiere in partnership with **Alliance Theatre** and **Long Wharf Theatre**. The season concludes with ***Bakkhai*** by Euripides, in a new version by **Anne Carson** (*Norma Jean Baker of Troy*) with original music by **Diana Oh** (*My Lingerie Play*), directed by **Mike Donahue** (*The Legend of Georgia McBride*) and choreographed by **Willia Noel Montague** (*The Lion King*).

Baltimore Center Stage’s first priority is the health, safety, and well-being of our audiences, staff, artists, and guests. Our current policy is that masks must be worn at Baltimore Center Stage and may only be removed in designated eating and drinking areas. Proof of vaccination – or a negative COVID PCR test within 72 hours of show time – is required.

For the most up to date COVID Safety Guidelines, visit our website: <https://www.centerstage.org/visit/covid-19-response/>.

This season, BCS is working with a new technology platform, which will allow the company to live stream select productions and events. Live streams will begin with Noah Diaz's ***The Swindlers***, during the final two weeks of the run. Audiences will be able to login and watch the performance live as it's happening in the theater. Other shows and events will be captured and broadcast on-demand as has been done in the past.

The line-up for the 2021-22 mainstage season is:

THE SWINDLERS: A TRUE-ISH TALL TALE

Written by **Noah Diaz**

Directed by **Will Davis**

September 2 – September 26, 2021

The author of last year's *Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally* is back with a Baltimore Center Stage original. Marie is plagued by the winter blues. Her boyfriend's a dud, her bank statements are piling up, and her job at the local dry cleaners feels like a dead end. Oh, and the FBI has just seized her house and assets in their pursuit of her father, a notorious con man on the run for swindling families and businesses out of their money. When Marie is used as bait to lure her father in, she inexplicably finds herself stuck on a road trip with him to acquire the stolen funds. Loosely inspired by the real-life exploits of the playwright's mother and grandfather, ***The Swindlers*** is a raucous new play that explores redemption, reconciliation, and the unspoken rewards of surviving time with family.

FIRES IN THE MIRROR: CROWN HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN AND OTHER IDENTITIES

Written by **Anna Deavere Smith**

Directed by **Nicole Brewer**

In partnership with **Long Wharf Theatre**

November 27 – December 19, 2021

In the late summer of 1991, long-simmering tensions between Black and Jewish residents of Crown Heights, Brooklyn erupted in a series of violent events. Renowned playwright Anna Deavere Smith interviewed more than 100 people about those tension-filled days, creating a striking tapestry of oral histories examining that flashpoint moment in American history. A single performer brings those stories to electrifying life in ***Fires in the Mirror***.

THE FOLKS AT HOME

Written by **R. Eric Thomas**

Directed by **Stevie Walker-Webb**

March 17 – April 10, 2022

Roger and Brandon, an interracial couple living in South Baltimore, are doing the best they can. Their mortgage is late, Roger's been laid off for months, and there might be a ghost in the attic. It's a lot. And that was before all of their parents had to move in with them. From the hilarious mind of Baltimore's own R. Eric Thomas and directed by Obie Award winner Stevie Walker-Webb, ***The Folks at Home*** is a contemporary riff on the beloved family sitcoms of the 1970s.

DREAM HOU\$E

Written by **Eliana Pipes**

Directed by **Laurie Woolery**

In partnership with **Alliance Theatre & Long Wharf Theatre**

April 21 – May 15, 2021

Two Latinx sisters guest star on an HGTV-style reality show to sell their family home in rapidly gentrifying Hilo Villa, California. As they perform for the camera, one sister grapples with turmoil in the family's ancestral past while the other learns how much she's willing to sacrifice for the family's future. What is the cultural cost of progress in America? And is cashing in always selling out?

BAKKHAI

by **Euripides**

A new version by **Anne Carson**

with Original Music by **Diana Oh**

Directed by **Mike Donahue**

Choreographed by **Willia Noel Montague**

June 1 – June 19, 2021

This isn't your English teacher's Greek tragedy. Dionysus, the god of wine, is totally over everyone's drama so he's going to incite the women of the land to raise hell in this immersive explosion of the classic play. Featuring original music, debauchery, and a whole lot of wine, **Bakkhai** is a cautionary tale about the consequences of a civilization's fear of the unknown.

In addition to its mainstage productions, **Baltimore Center Stage** is also introducing a number of new programs this season, as well as a new membership model, new online options for easier access, new partnerships within the city of Baltimore, and more. **Baltimore Center Stage** will also be collaborating to present concerts from local Baltimore musicians and artists for a new Friday-night concert series called **BCS Sound Check**; special one-night only theatrical events throughout the season; and various educational initiatives, including a virtual library of recorded plays and resources for educators, to engage with local Baltimore students.

Ybarra said, "As we come back this year, **Baltimore Center Stage** will be showing up better and showing up more: with more ways to be a member of our community and to engage with our widest range of programming; more access points to our work as we meet the moment with both in person and online options; more interconnection with our local arts ecology through partnerships with Baltimore organizations like **ArtsCentric** and **Creative Alliance**; more joy, more fun, and more civic conversations with programs like our **Baltimore Butterfly Sessions** and the new **BCS Sound Check** concert series."

These initiatives, partnerships, and programs include:

Baltimore Butterfly Sessions

September 27 & November 29, 2021; February 28, April 4 & May 2, 2022

BCS Lobby and available online

Inspired by Citizen University's Civic Saturdays, **Baltimore Butterfly Sessions** bring together music, poetry, literature, and thought-provoking keynote addresses to catalyze conversation and build awareness around civically resonant topics.

The September 27 session is titled **The Anatomy of an Uprising**. Across the globe, from Minneapolis to Havana to right here in Baltimore, political uprisings and social movements are reshaping our world. At this season's first Baltimore Butterfly Session, **Dr. Jordie Davies**, an Agora Institute postdoc in political science who focuses on the process of social movement mobilization, will give a keynote to help us understand the conditions necessary to ignite political participation in the movements of our time.

Bridge Series

Streaming online

A series of live virtual conversations that offer a behind the scenes look into the elusive artistic process. Hosted by the BCS Artistic Team, we'll meet the most knowledgeable and experienced folks in the business. 21/22 Guests to be announced.

BCS Sound Check

A new Friday-night concert series in the Deering Lobby, BCS Sound Check features some of today's most exciting musicians and musical theatre writers from Baltimore and beyond.

The Sound Check line-up includes:

September 17, 2021 – **Darius Christian**

November 5, 2021 – **Be Steadwell**

March 4, 2022 – **Storm Thomas**

May 13, 2022 – **Catrina Brenae**

BCS Presents

The **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** Production of

Where We Belong

By **Madeline Sayet**

Directed by **Mei Ann Teo**

In Association with **The Folger Shakespeare Library**

October 19, 2021 - October 24, 2021

Mohegan theatermaker Madeline Sayet brings her autobiographical play, named by Broadway World as "among the great artistic achievements during the pandemic," live to Baltimore Center Stage. *Where We Belong* tells an intimate and exhilarating story of Shakespeare, self-discovery, and what it means to belong in an increasingly globalized world. Don't miss this special limited engagement before it embarks on its national tour.

BCS Presents in Partnership with Creative Alliance

The Rocky Horror Picture Show: an interactive movie night

October 30, 2021

Are you shivering with antici.....pation? It's time to rocket back to 1975 with an interactive movie night of the timeless cult classic *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. BCS is teaming up with **Creative Alliance** for this one night-only spectacular featuring live performers, a costume contest, and a whole lot of fishnet.

BCS Presents

The **ArtsCentric** Production of

Dreamgirls

Book and Lyrics by **Tom Eyen**

Music by **Henry Krieger**

Original Broadway Production Directed and Choreographed by **Michael Bennett**

Orchestrations by **Harold Wheeler**

Directed by **Kevin S. McAllister**

Choreographed by **Shalyce Hemby**

Musical Directed by **Cedric D. Lyles** and **Jason Sellers**

November 19 - December 12, 2021

Experience the celebrated musical sensation brought to you by Baltimore theatre company **ArtsCentric**. This R&B rollercoaster ride through 1960s show business is a soul-affirming spectacle about the price of stardom.

Young Playwrights Festival

Now in its 37th year, the Young Playwrights Festival is Baltimore Center Stage's longest running learning program that encourages expression and creativity in students. Our year-long in-school residencies and open call process culminates in professional productions of selected plays by young playwrights across the state of Maryland.

Virtual Student Matinee Library

The virtual student matinee library is a free online collection of filmed versions of select Baltimore Center Stage's programs and plays with corresponding program material, such as curricula and program guides, to prompt questioning and classroom discussion exclusively available to K-12 teachers.

Tickets for the season will go on sale in the coming weeks. Performance schedules, casting and full creative teams for productions and programs will also be announced at a later date.

Baltimore Center Stage is thrilled to unveil its expanded Go Pass trilogy - three ways to be a member and experience all that BCS has to offer. This new membership program makes belonging at BCS more accessible than ever.

The Go Pass Trilogy includes the Go Pass (\$50 for members under 40): 1 ticket to each mainstage play, guest discounts, and exclusive member rates and access; the Go Pass + (\$75 to member of all ages with all of the benefits of a Go Pass, PLUS free guest passes to all mainstage shows; and the Go Pass Pro (\$10/month membership) option that offers special rates (starting at free) to all BCS special events, music, civic programs and more. Pro members also get bonuses like parking passes, drink tickets, and guest passes. Passes may be sold separately or bundled.

Baltimore Center Stage's traditional seated subscriptions and flex passes will continue to be available for renewing and new subscribers, with individuals having their chosen seat for each production in the BCS mainstage series.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BCS:

www.centerstage.org

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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. Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations and imaginations by producing an eclectic season of professional productions across two mainstages, through engaging community programs, and with inspiring education programs. Everything we do at Baltimore 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.