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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Burbage Theatre Co and WomensWork Theatre Collaborative present the World Premiere of *CHEAP*

Margaret Melozzi reimagines Moliere's *The Miser* in a new farce directed by Anne Scurria

PAWTUCKET, RI | November 3, 2026 —

Burbage Theatre Co continues its 15th Season with the World Premiere of *CHEAP*, a new play by Margaret Melozzi, reimagining Molière's classic farce *The Miser* for the greedy, gilded 1980s. Presented in partnership with WomensWork Theatre Collaborative (WWRI), this fifth co-production between the two Rhode Island theatre companies brings together a sprawling ensemble of accomplished artists for an outrageous new comedy of money, love, and loyalty. **Directed by Trinity Repertory Company member Anne Scurria, CHEAP promises to be a wildly irreverent and unapologetically theatrical romp**, created specifically for these artists and the intimate Wendy Overly Studio Theatre.

At the center of the chaos is L'Avare, a miserly head of household whose plans for everyone's future are threatened by secret engagements, competing affections, and schemes for financial advantage. Taking, let us say, generous liberties with Molière's centuries-old comedy of greed, Melozzi's reimagining draws upon the distinctive artistic sensibilities of both companies. The production will transform the Wendy Overly Studio Theatre once again – bringing the action closer than ever.

CHEAP is a LIMITED ENGAGEMENT, presented November 19 through December 6 at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre.

Preview performances will be held November 19 and 20, with the official Opening Night and Pay-What-You-Will performance on Saturday, November 21.

"**One of the great pleasures of producing theatre at Burbage is finding new ways to do what we do best: bring extraordinary artists together, give them a space to play, and see just how far we can push the possibilities of live performance in an intimate space.** Irreverence has been a hallmark of Burbage's work since our founding, and I can think of few better ways to exercise that particular muscle than with a brand-new, wildly absurd reimagining of Molière."

"***CHEAP* is especially exciting because it is the product of a collaborative process and a long artistic relationship. This is our fifth co-production with WomensWork**, a relationship that formally began with Paula Vogel's *The Oldest Profession* back in Season 11, also **directed by the incomparable Anne Scurria**. Anne is one of Rhode Island's great theatre artists, and we're thrilled to welcome her back to the helm at Burbage. Margaret Melozzi, herself a longtime Burbage collaborator, has written something entirely new, perfectly suited to the talents, sensibilities, and collective imaginations of both companies. To have this sprawling ensemble in our little theatre, performing a massive, ridiculous, gloriously excessive farce, is precisely the sort of theatrical undertaking that excites us at Burbage.

"CHEAP is built to make people laugh. And we're going to have a lot of fun making that happen."

— Jeff Church, Artistic Director, Burbage Theatre Co

WORLD PREMIERE

CHEAP

by Margaret Melozzi, Molière's "The Miser" Reimagined
directed by Anne Scurria
LIMITED ENGAGEMENT | November 19 – December 6

SYNOPSIS – Money is everything. Love is negotiable. And nobody gets anything for free.
Welcome to the gilded, greedy 1980s, where L'Avare, a spectacularly miserly head of household, has plans for everyone's future — provided those plans don't cost a dime. But when the younger generation has romantic ambitions of its own, secret engagements, competing affections, and schemes threaten to turn an already dysfunctional household upside down.
Inspired by Molière's classic comedy "The Miser," Margaret Melozzi's CHEAP is an entirely new, gloriously absurd farce about money, love, loyalty, and the lengths to which people will go to get what they want. With an expansive company of Rhode Island theatre artists and a fresh approach to Burbage's intimate stage, this World Premiere promises a larger-than-life comedy in which absolutely nothing is sacred — least of all the family fortune.

Burbage's 5th Co-Production with WomensWork Theatre Collaborative

"WomensWork is thrilled to return to Burbage for Season 15 with something truly special – a World Premiere! Set in Paris, Texas in the gilded, greedy 1980s, the show is a romp through the topics of money, love and loyalty. We're excited for audiences to share the fun of this fast-paced, party of a production, reimagined by Margaret specifically for WomensWork."
— Lynne Collinson, Founder/Creative Director, WomensWorkRI

"Moliere uniquely anticipated the best values of the Enlightenment… He is a common-sense realist… believing not in an ordered but a balanced world… Perhaps only Jane Austen among the world's masters equals him."
— The New Yorker

"Molière is the painter of humanity."
— Voltaire

ENSEMBLE

L'Avare	MJ Daly
Valere	Rae Mancini*
Eli	Aaron Morris
Cleo	Juli Parker
LaFieche	Clare Blackmer
Lucien Lucre	Vince Petronio
Louise	Peggy Becker
Frosine	Paula Faber
Jackie	Patricia Hawkridge
Marion	Rodney Witherspoon II*
Detective Cagnilesi	Margaret Melozzi
Anselme Von Boring	Lynne Collinson

PRODUCTION CREW

Anne Scurria	Director
Kelli Noonan	Stage Manager/Assistant Director
Tylar Jahumpa	Assistant Stage Manager
Vince Petronio	Music Director
Grey Rung	Scenic Design
Brittany Costello	ATD/Props
Sydney Hawes	Costume Design
Trevor Elliott	Production
Andrew Iacovelli	Technical Director/Lighting Design

**Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association of America*

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PRESS PERFORMANCES

Burbage Theatre Co and WomensWork Theatre Collaborative's World Premiere production of CHEAP **begins preview performances November 19, officially opens November 21, and closes December 6**.

All performances will take place at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre, 59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860.

Critics and members of the press are invited to join us for our Opening Night performance on Saturday, November 21, at 7:30pm, or Sunday, November 22, at 2:00pm.

Members of the press unable to attend the designated press performances are welcome to arrange attendance at another performance, even if you are unable to review the production.

Two complimentary press tickets are available upon request **at boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org.**

CHEAP CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES
LIMITED ENGAGEMENT | November 19 – December 6, 2026

Thursday, November 19 at 7:30pm — Preview Performance

Friday, November 20 at 7:30pm — Preview Performance

Saturday, November 21 at 7:30pm — Opening Night / Pay-What-You-Will

Sunday, November 22 at 2:00pm

Friday, November 27 at 7:30pm

Saturday, November 28 at 7:30pm

Sunday, November 29 at 2:00pm

Thursday, December 3 at 7:30pm

Friday, December 4 at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 5 at 2:00pm — Additional Matinee

Saturday, December 5 at 7:30pm

Sunday, December 6 at 2:00pm — Closing Performance

BURBAGE THEATRE CO TiCKETING

"The best bang for your theatrical buck in the Ocean State." *— Warwick Beacon*

SPECIAL EVENTS PRICES –

Preview Performances — $15
General Admission — $35
Students — $15
High School Students – Rush Tickets FREE
High School Students may

Group Discounts are available – contact boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org for more info.