



59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jeff Church, Artistic Director, Burbage Theatre Co
jeff.church.jr@gmail.com

BURBAGE THEATRE CO ANNOUNCES THEIR
15th SEASON (S15): *PAST IS PROLOGUE*

July 15, 2026 — Pawtucket, RI — Following their 2025-26 season, **Burbage Theatre Co returns for their 15th Season, subtitled *Past is Prologue***. The upcoming season at Burbage, beginning September 2026 and concluding in June of 2027, showcases Burbage's trademarked irreverence and a slate of plays that range from the classically comedic to immediately exigent – all plays that examine the past as a reflection of our present and that beg us to consider how our present actively shapes our future. This highly engaging, entertaining, and thought-provoking season is perfectly suited to Burbage's intimate, 77-seat Wendy Overly Studio Theatre in Pawtucket RI.

Season 15 opens with William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, a perfect transition from the summer months into the theatrical season, directed by Trinity Rep Company member Stephen Thorne, and starring the married-in-real-life couple Alison Russo as Beatrice and Burbage Artistic Director Jeff Church as Benedick. **Next, Burbage's 5th co-production with WomensWorkRI, the World Premiere of *Cheap***, by WomensWork member Margaret Melozzi, adapted from Moliere's *The Miser*, directed by Trinity Rep Company member Anne Scurria. With the new year, Burbage presents the Rhode Island premiere of **Julia Cho's beautiful and bittersweet *The Language Archive***. Next up is the thrilling Rhode Island premiere of **Jordan Harrison's harrowing yet hopeful future retrospective by artificial intelligence on the now extinct human species, *The Antiquities***. Finally, Burbage presents **Michael Frayn's masterpiece *Copenhagen***. Burbage is thrilled to welcome Bill Harley, two-time Grammy award-winning storyteller, back to their stage as Neils Bohr.

For tickets and subscription packages for Burbage Theatre Co's 2026-2027 Season, visit www.burbagetheatre.org.

Season 15 Flex Passes are now available on our website.

Sign up for Burbage's email list on our website to stay updated.

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

Purchase a **Burbage Theatre Co Flex Pass** and receive **FIVE TICKETS AT A DISCOUNTED RATE** to be used however you like and any of Burbage's regular season programming ("however you like" means – use a ticket for each of the five shows and see the whole season, or get a discount on a group of five and use them all at one performance!)

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

Preview Performances — \$15

General Admission — \$35, Students — \$15

High School Students — Any and all rush tickets are available to High School students for FREE

Season Flex Passes are available online at burbagetheatre.org/boxoffice or through our box office,.

For more information visit our website at www.burbagetheatre.org, email us at info@burbagetheatre.org, or call our Box Office at (401) 484-0355

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

by William Shakespeare
directed by Stephen Thorne
September 17 - October 11

SYNOPSIS – Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* is a sparkling comedy of love, wit, and second chances, where old rivalries, lingering misunderstandings, and carefully guarded reputations shape the lives of those caught between the past and the future. As the sharp-tongued Beatrice and Benedick spar in a battle of wits and the young lovers Hero and Claudio are tested by deception, long-held assumptions threaten to determine everyone’s fate. With humor, heart, and unexpected twists, the play reminds us that while the past may set events in motion, it does not have to dictate how the story ends.

“There’s a right way and a wrong way to do Shakespeare — and certainly a right and a wrong way to introduce modern touches without ruining the beauty of the language and action — and then there is the Burbage way, which could actually ruin audiences for any other company... such reverent irreverence.”

—Providence Journal

“This is what we go to the theatre for... Burbage Theatre Co is making Shakespeare come alive.”

—East Bay RI

“Theater at its finest can either enlighten or entertain us, but in some rare cases [a company] can do both...”

—Motif Magazine

“Burbage [Theatre Co]... has pinned down the perfect balance, thematically and emotionally... Go for the immersive experience and to hear Shakespeare’s words delivered with passion, clarity, and well-thought-out phrasing... If you’ve seen other productions of [Shakespeare] you won’t be disappointed seeing it again at Burbage. And if you haven’t seen the story told live, this is a great place to start.”

—The Pawtucket Times

World Premiere

CHEAP

In partnership with **WomensWork Theatre Collaborative**

by Margaret Melozzi, adapted from Moliere’s *The Miser*

directed by Anne Scurria

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

November 19 - December 6

Inspired by Molière’s classic comedy *The Miser*, *Cheap* follows a family trapped in the orbit of a matriarch whose obsession with wealth outweighs his capacity for love, trust, or generosity. As greed, deception, and competing desires collide, children scheme for independence, lovers fight for their futures, and every relationship is tested by the cost of putting money above people. This sharp new adaptation reveals that while human nature may remain stubbornly familiar, each generation has the opportunity to challenge the values it inherits and decide what is truly worth holding onto.

Burbage Theatre Company’s 5th co-production with WomensWorkRI

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

Rhode Island premiere
THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE
by Julia Cho
January 21 - February 14

George is a man consumed with preserving and documenting the dying languages of far-flung cultures. He is desperately trying to save a language from the brink of extinction. The last two speakers of that language, a married couple, will never speak to each other again. While, closer to home, language is failing him. He doesn't know what to say to his wife Mary to keep her from leaving him, and can't decipher the language of deep feeling between him and his lab assistant, Emma.

Winner 2010 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize

"A delicate, quirky fable about the limits of language in matters of the heart..."
– New York Times

"However whimsical – even fantastic – it becomes, it affirms life no matter how melancholy."
– Bloomberg

"*The Language Archive's* dialogue is a tour de force... the gulf between what's said and what isn't is rarely described and traversed with as much power as it is here. What makes this achievement more significant still is that the play itself is in no way ordinary... passionate... wise and wonderful."
– Talkin' Broadway

"Uniquely blends absurdist farce with sentimental comedy."
– Los Angeles Times

"Quirky, but ravishingly well-written piece that is smart, funny, deep and tender."
– OC Weekly

Rhode Island Premiere
A Tour of the Permanent Collection in the Museum of Late Human Antiquities, or just THE ANTIQUITIES
by Jordan Harrison
March 11 - April 4

At the Museum of Late Human Antiquities, the curators are fiercely committed to bringing a lost civilization to life again: What were humans really like? What did they wear, what did they eat, how did they die out? By casting us into the far future, Jordan Harrison's new play gives us an uncanny view of the present moment, as we straddle the analog world that was and the post-human world to come.

"[A] remarkable, thought-provoking show."
– Culture Sauce

"Compelling... starting with Shelley's monster and ending with, well, the end of humanity, it could win a scary-story contest itself, as it maps one possible route, the Via Technologica, from Romantic glory to species demise... beautifully drawn, with the wit, pith and undercurrent of sadness characteristic of Harrison's best work... hilarious and scalding."
– The New York Times

"Really engages the brain... a play that has more to say in 95 minutes than most TV shows manage in eight seasons."
– Chicago Tribune

"Imaginative... Harrison's steady advance toward tomorrow is certainly effective at ratcheting up tension."
– Observer

"Jordan Harrison's exciting new play is intellectually impressive and philosophically a bit terrifying."
– Exeunt

COPENHAGEN

by Michael Frayn

starring Bill Harley

May 20 - June 13

In 1941, German physicist Werner Heisenberg goes to Copenhagen to see his Danish counterpart, Niels Bohr. Together they revolutionized atomic science in the 1920s, but now they are on opposite sides of a world war and on the precipice of contributing to the creation of the world's first weapon of mass destruction. As the two men—and Bohr's wife, Margrethe—revisit that pivotal encounter from beyond the grave, they wrestle with memory, morality, friendship, and the profound consequences of scientific discovery. Blending history, philosophy, and human drama, the play asks whether we can ever truly know the past—or whether every attempt to understand it reveals as much about ourselves as the events we seek to explain.

Winner 2000 Tony Award for Best Play

"The most invigorating and ingenious play of ideas in many a year. An electrifying work of art."

– The New York Times

"Superb. Dynamic."

– The New Yorker

"Gripping. A brilliant play."

– The Guardian

"The word 'tremendous' is often used but seldom deserved. In this case it is. Copenhagen is an intellectual and theatrical tour de force."

– London Times