



**2020-2021
REIMAGINE
SEASON GUIDE**



2020-2021 SEASON

REIMAGINE

20-21 Season Selections: More Powerful Stories Than Ever Before.

DIGITAL THEATRE SERIES

Three plays in three months, created for digital theatre accessible to anyone, anywhere.

October/November 2020

LETTERS TO KAMALA

An American Stage commissioned work by Rachel Lynett

"How do you mend a country with a broken heart?" Charlotta Bass, the first Black woman candidate for vice president, Charlene Mitchell, the first Black woman to run for president and Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color to be elected to the House of Representatives, first Asian-American woman to run in Congress and the first Asian-American to run for president, deliver wisdom, perspective and wry humor as they address Kamala Harris, and the cultural significance and psychological weight of her Vice-Presidential nomination.

November 2020

KATE - THE UNEXAMINED LIFE OF KATHARINE HEPBURN by Rick Foster

Unconventional, independent and formidable, Katharine Hepburn was raised by her parents to speak out, sharpen her mind and engage the world fully. In this digital theatre adaptation, Janis Stevens plays the iconic American actress at the age of 92 on New Year's Eve 1999. As Kate reflects on her life, her loves and her Hollywood memories, she reveals uncharted emotional waters, exposing a side of Ms. Hepburn audiences have never seen.

December 2020

NOSOTROS LA GENTE (WE THE PEOPLE)

An American Stage commissioned work by Jerry Montoya

As the country is on the verge of a World War, a pair of brothers toil planting date palms in the fertile soil of the California desert. Salvador dreams of owning land of his own, while Santiago dreams of seeing the world beyond the valley. When Santiago decides to enlist, Salvador vows to care for his brother's love, Sophie. Heartbroken and alone, the two must find a way to care for the land, for themselves and for each other. This is a story of a family that has tilled the fields of this country and fought its wars. It's a story of faith, hope and love. This is a story of America.

FAMILY SERIES

Our Family Series begins with an accessible digital production, reimagining fairytales and delivering them virtually to families at home and students in classrooms. The series continues with a favorite family holiday classic presented as a 1940's radio play.

October - December 2020

FAIRYTALES REIMAGINED: STORIES FOR A NEW WORLD

Adapted from Grimm's Fairytales by Sadie Lockhart, Patrick A. Jackson and Tiffany Ford

The power has gone out at the family's household. Two siblings and their grandmother must find a way to be brave, despite the never-ending storm outside. They learn that our imaginations make us stronger, innovative, and more resilient. Listen to your inner voice...and listen to your grandmother.

December 2020

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY adapted by Joe Landry

This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940's radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings dozens of characters, and live sound effects, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers a world in which he'd never been born one fateful Christmas Eve.



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HYBRID THEATRE SERIES

A hybrid production performed with live streaming on our Virtual Stage and an intended return to live onsite performances on our Mainstage.

“When it is safe for us to return to onsite performances, we will be ready.” said Gularte, “This season programming allows us to remain nimble as we innovate ways to deliver more powerful stories than ever before.”

February 2021

SATCHMO AT THE WALDORF by Terry Teachout

A one-man, three-character play in which the same actor portrays Louis Armstrong, the greatest of all jazz trumpeters; Joe Glaser, his white manager; and Miles Davis, who admired Armstrong’s playing but disliked his onstage manner. It takes place in 1971 in a dressing room backstage at the Empire Room of New York’s Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where Armstrong performed in public for the last time four months before his death. Reminiscing into a tape recorder about his life and work, Armstrong seeks to come to terms with his long standing relationship with Glaser, whom he once loved like a father but now believes to have betrayed him.

March 2021

THE PEOPLE DOWNSTAIRS by local playwright Natalie Symons - World Premiere

This production, and all of American Stage’s in-person programming were halted on March 13, hours before the opening night of our world premiere Mainstage production. American Stage looks forward to bringing back this production for audiences to celebrate its world premiere and complete run.

In Buffalo, NY, aging funeral home custodian Miles lives with his middle-aged daughter Mabel, who spends her days writing letters to prison inmates. When a court-appointed guardian threatens to take away their home, Miles sets out to set Mabel up with Todd, an inept mortician. It is a father’s fierce determination not to accept his daughter’s fate that ignites an endearing human comedy about love, loss, loneliness and the healing power of laughter.

May/June 2021

SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY by Jocelyn Bioh

At the start of the 1986 school year, Paulina, reigning queen bee of the Aburi Boarding School, has her sights set on winning the Miss Ghana Pageant and ultimately, the Miss Global Universe Pageant. Paulina prides herself on successfully shaming her friends over their weight, hair and status. When American transfer student Erica arrives and begins to threaten Paulina’s position atop her hive-minded friends, the power struggle begins. Colorism, classism, body shaming and more play a role in the skirmishes that ensue.

July/August 2021

ROMEO & JULIET IN AMERICA (THE ONE WITH THE HAPPY ENDING)

by William Shakespeare and adapted by American Stage

This bold and modern retelling of Shakespeare’s most romantic tragedy imagines how two young lovers, caught in the middle of their feuding families, might meet a different fate. Through party crashing, street fights and clandestine encounters, the plot twists and turns toward a stunning new conclusion where love may just conquer all.



2020-2021 SEASON REIMAGINE

20-21 Season Selections: **More Powerful Stories Than Ever Before.**

FESTIVALS

Celebrating emerging new plays & voices from across the globe and featuring local talent creating professional improv performances.

January 2021

5TH ANNUAL 21ST CENTURY VOICES: EMERGING PLAYS – NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

A hybrid festival featuring inspiring new plays exploring themes of mental illness, wellness and resilience, performed with live streaming on American Stage's Virtual Stage and intended live onsite performances. American Stage's 21st Century Voices is dedicated to developing and presenting new works, while bringing a diversity of voices from up-and-coming playwrights to the stage. Selected works will feature staged readings, workshops and panel discussions.

Summer 2021

AS IF! IMPROV FESTIVAL

AS IF! The American Stage Improv Festival returns! Laugh out loud as renown local, regional and musical comedy improv teams take the stage. Celebrate the art of creating in-the-moment characters and stories and find joy and connection through laughter.

AMERICAN STAGE IN THE PARK

PRESENTED BY BANK OF AMERICA

April/May 2021

FOOTLOOSE - THE MUSICAL

The much anticipated return of American Stage in the Park is planned for the Spring of 2021. After postponing this Tampa Bay tradition 2020, American Stage has rescheduled the high-energy pop musical FOOTLOOSE to bring our community back together under the stars at Demens Landing.

ALL SEASON PROGRAMMING

SEASON ARTIST SHORTS: Featured artist mini-performances each month throughout the season. Free for the American Stage membership community.

CREATIVE COLLABORATORS: Linking creative arms across the country! Providing American Stage membership access to dynamic performances and programs from participating theatres.

“Our 2020-2021 Season: REIMAGINE embraces this time of transition and change in our world and within our art form,” said CEO/Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Gularte, **“It was essential that we craft a season that allows us to remain connected to our community at a time when we all deeply need the meaningful human connection that powerful storytelling can provide, while at the same time preparing for ongoing flexibility in an evolving public health landscape.”**

**Join the American Stage Membership Community today at
AMERICANSTAGE.ORG**



AMERICAN STAGE 2020-2021 SEASON REIMAGINE

Presenting the American Stage Membership Community All-access. All-season. More Powerful Stories Than Ever Before.

This season, American Stage subscribers, donors and sponsors come together, in support of our beloved professional theatre and to welcome new audiences, as one community: **The American Stage Membership Community.**

The American Stage Membership Community

Creating sustainable professional theatre, with Innovation, Inspiration & Inclusion for all.

How do I join? *It's as easy as 1.2.3.*

1. Choose from 3 memberships: Loyalty, Premiere or Sustaining
2. Select your membership payment plan: all at once or by installments
3. Order online or contact our team to activate your all-access, all-season membership

LOYALTY MEMBERSHIP

Enjoy the full season of REIMAGINE's productions, with all-access to all-streaming productions performed live on our Virtual Stage. Receive members-only benefits including dynamic performances featuring new artists each month throughout the season.

\$175 or select installment plan: **Monthly \$25**

PREMIERE MEMBERSHIP

Dreaming of opening nights and want to experience even more theatre? Your all-access membership ALSO includes 'Premiere members-only' opening performances with special artist experiences for each streaming production, and even more access to special shows, events and classes all season long.

\$245 or select installment plan: **Monthly \$35**

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Your membership sustains American Stage as a world-class professional theatre and helps theatrical arts and education thrive in our community. There are 2 ways to activate your Sustaining Membership:

- You may add a recurring donation amount (for as low as \$10 per month) to your REIMAGINE season membership.
- If you prefer, you may also add a one-time gift of \$100 or above to your REIMAGINE season membership.

Starting at: **\$315** or select installment plan: **Monthly \$45**

Sustaining memberships including gifts over \$2,000 are eligible to select a Sustaining member sponsorship that include tickets to our onsite hybrid theatre productions in 2021.

Members will enjoy the full season of REIMAGINE's productions, with all-access to all streaming productions performed live on our Virtual Stage. Memberships can be purchased individually or two memberships will include everyone in an entire household.

**Join the American Stage Membership Community today at
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2020-2021 SEASON REIMAGINE

Presenting the American Stage Membership Community

All-access. All-season.

More Powerful Stories Than Ever Before.

Memberships include all-access to the full season of REIMAGINE's Virtual Stage streaming performances to enjoy from the comfort of your home including:

DIGITAL THEATRE SERIES

Three plays in three months, created for digital theatre accessible to anyone, anywhere.

FAMILY SERIES

Our Family Series begins with an accessible digital production, reimagining fairytales and delivering them virtually to families at home and students in classrooms. The series continues with a favorite family holiday classic presented as a 1940's radio play.

HYBRID THEATRE SERIES

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FESTIVALS

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AMERICAN STAGE REIMAGINE SEASON MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Season Artist Shorts

Enjoy new artists each month throughout the season with featured artist mini-performances.

Encore! Streaming

Watch & re-watch all Virtual Stage productions with extended viewing.

First-Watch

Join us backstage and be first to see behind the scenes, as well as listen to podcasts and enjoy pre-release videos.

Ticket Discounts

Get the best deal with Member price discounts & pre-sale access for any "in the theatre" or "outdoor in-person" performances of REIMAGINE season productions, as well as discounts to our creative collaborators' dynamic performances.

Pre-Sale Access

Be first in-the-know and in-the-line to purchase onsite live performance tickets. Members enjoy the best choice of seats available.

**Join the American Stage Membership Community today at
AMERICANSTAGE.ORG**



AMERICAN
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2020-2021 SEASON REIMAGINE

	LOYALTY MEMBERSHIP	PREMIERE MEMBERSHIP	SUSTAINER MEMBERSHIP
	\$175 or select installment plan: Monthly \$25	\$245 or select installment plan: Monthly \$35	Starting at: \$315 or select installment plan: Monthly \$45
REIMAGINE's full season of productions			
All-Access to Virtual Stage Live Streaming Performances	✓	✓	✓
Premiere Opening Performance for each production		✓	✓
Additional Member Benefits:			
Season Artist Shorts <i>Enjoy new artists each month throughout the season</i>	✓	✓	✓
Encore Streaming Performances - extended viewing access to watch & re-watch Virtual Stage productions.	✓	✓	✓
First Watch Access! <i>Join us backstage and be first to enjoy our videos and podcasts</i>	✓	✓	✓
Ticket Discounts: <i>Get the best deal with Member pricing for any "In the theatre" or "outdoor in-person" performances.</i>	✓	✓	✓
Pre-Release Access <i>Be first in-the-know to purchase member discount tickets. Best choice of seats available.</i>	✓	✓	✓



2020-2021 SEASON REIMAGINE

AS Sustaining Member Sponsorship Levels

Sustaining Member Sponsorships help create sustainable professional theatre, with innovation, inspiration & inclusion for all.

Sustaining sponsors provide support for American Stage artists, educators & arts administrators who create & deliver world-class professional theatre, arts education and outreach all season long. Sustaining sponsors also fund the essential technologies needed to realize our new virtual productions, PPE for safety protocols and digital inclusion and access for artists, students and audiences.

Season Sponsorships

In support of American Stage's full season of programming

\$50,000 Title Sponsorship

\$25,000 Season Sustainer

Series Sponsorships

\$20,000 In support of **Hybrid Theatre Series** (4 plays)

\$15,000 In support of our **Digital Theatre Series** (3 plays) or **American Stage in the Park**

\$10,000 In support of **21st Century Voices: Emerging Plays - New Play Festival** or **Family Series** (2 plays)

Production Sponsorships

\$10,000 – \$5,000 – \$3,500 Levels in support of your selected production from the 20-21 REIMAGINE season. Each sponsorship helps realize a professional theatrical production by helping fund the artists, creative teams, technicians and arts administrators who are creating and connecting our community with accessible, enriching professional theatrical productions.

Innovation & Inspiration Sponsors

\$7,500 In support of the new technologies for our Virtual Stage and Virtual Academy programming

\$5,000 In support of the artists, creative teams, educators and artistic leaders connecting our community

\$2,000 In support of digital inclusion & access for our artists, students and audiences for our Virtual Stage and Virtual Academy programming

We have all been reminded how very precious each day is and now more than ever, your contribution makes a difference every day at American Stage. Thank you for your support of the American Stage 2020-2021 Membership Community, helping to create sustainable professional theatre, with Innovation, Inspiration & Inclusion for all.

**Become an AS Sustaining Member today at
AMERICANSTAGE.ORG**

AMERICAN STAGE 2020-2021 SEASON REIMAGINE

FAQs

Q Will you be performing your new season in person or online?

A American Stage's 2020-2021 season, REIMAGINE, is designed to ensure productions will be presented to audiences regardless of ongoing social distancing circumstances. Memberships include all-access, all season to all streaming productions & members-only discounts for onsite tickets. While the first half of the season will focus on performances created specifically for our Virtual Stage, our intended return to live onsite performances on our mainstage will begin in 2021, giving members the option to see shows in person at the theatre, or from virtually anywhere.

Q I'm an American Stage subscriber. What is the difference between a subscription and membership?

A In the past, American Stage subscribers received 1 ticket to each mainstage production with specific seats and dates for their 5 or 6 play packages. This season, American Stage subscribers who are a part of the REIMAGINE season membership community will receive all-access to the full season of REIMAGINE's Virtual Stage streaming performances to enjoy from virtually anywhere. American Stage memberships provide all-access to 9 productions -- 3 in our Digital Series, 2 in our Family Series and 4 in our Hybrid Series -- all streaming directly to you from our Virtual Stage. Members enjoy unlimited access to all streaming performances during the run and a host of American Stage membership benefits, including ticket discounts to any onsite performances. Visit americanstage.org/membership for full membership benefit details.

Q What shows are included in my REIMAGINE season membership? Do memberships include tickets to the mainstage at your theatre in downtown St. Pete?

A Each month, American Stage is bringing our REIMAGINE season membership community even more powerful stories than ever before. Beginning in October through the end of 2020, members will enjoy performances created specifically for our Virtual Stage, including our Digital Theatre Series ("Letters To Kamala," "Kate - The Unexamined Life Of Katharine Hepburn," and "Nosotros La Gente (We The People)" and Family Series ("Fairytale Reimagined: Stories For A New World" and "It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play").

To start the new year in 2021, we will be presenting our 5th annual 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival. American Stage members will enjoy all-access to readings and conversations hosted on our Virtual Stage for the week long festival. These new play readings are selected from hundreds of submissions from Tampa Bay and beyond.

Following the New Play Festival, American Stage is honored to introduce global audiences to the world premiere of "The People Downstairs," written by Natalie Symons and born of our 2019 New Play Festival. The premiere will kick off our Hybrid Theatre Series and the intended return to our mainstage, with 4 productions in total that run through August 2021 ("The People Downstairs," "Satchmo at the Waldorf," "School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play" and "Romeo & Juliet in America (The One With the Happy Ending).") Find more details on our website at americanstage.org/2020-2021-season.

Q Is there any membership level that includes live in-person tickets?

A Sustaining Members that give \$2,000 or more will receive up to 6 tickets per show to our intended onsite hybrid theatre productions in 2021 as part of their Sustaining Member Sponsorship benefits. Thank you for helping to create sustainable professional theatre with inspiration, innovation and inclusion for all!

Q How do I view productions on your Virtual Stage?

A All REIMAGINE season productions will be streamed live to your personal American Stage ticketing account, accessible via computer, tablet, or smartphone and streamable to your TV. Please refer to our American Stage Personal Ticketing Account Guide to ensure that your account is activated.



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2020-2021 SEASON
REIMAGINE

21ST CENTURY VOICES: NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

JANUARY 15-24, 2021

American Stage is committed to producing powerful and relevant professional live theatre. Our 21st Century Voices is an initiative dedicated to developing and presenting new works for the stage that speak to a contemporary audience in fresh and compelling ways. 21st Century Voices programming includes an annual staged reading festival, workshopping of new scripts, playwriting residencies and fully produced new plays receiving one of their first three professional productions at American Stage.

**Proud to be supported by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay,
Hannah Peters of Smart Move Moving & Storage,
and the Love IV Lawrence Foundation**

**American Stage is honored to have received a competitive grant from the
Community Foundation of Tampa Bay so that we may shine a spotlight
on the de-stigmatization of mental illness through our
21st Century Voices: 2021 New Play Festival.**

AMERICANSTAGE.ORG/**NEW**

CHEERS TO A NEW SEASON!

from AS Sustaining Sponsor Community Partners



Green Bench Brewing - Nathan Stonecipher
REIMAGINE means a lot to us these days at Green Bench. If there's one good thing that has come from where we've been this year, it's the fact that we all get to reinvent ourselves, to rethink what we're doing and why we're doing it. And for us that's been huge: Rebuilding our brand and taking it to the next level and hopefully being more of an asset to our community in the process.



DMG - Duncan McClellan
REIMAGINE means a new way of thinking and accomplishing the mission in new unexplored ways. DMG is reimagining how we reach our students and educate the public, how we find new ways to work and fulfill our mission, and how we reset and innovate while holding on to our core values.



The Birchwood - Heather Lorenz
At the Birchwood, REIMAGINE means working together to accommodate new or different needs. We always strive to give our patrons a premiere experience and sometimes that means we need to adjust how we implement things. But we're always up for a challenge, and we genuinely enjoy using the opportunity to get creative in order to provide top-notch service.

AMERICAN STAGE 2020-2021 SEASON REIMAGINE

THANK YOU TO OUR 20-21 SEASON SPONSORS:

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FLORIDA

This project is sponsored in part by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida (Section 286.25, Florida Statutes).

We would like to thank our sponsors, donors and trustees who contribute to American Stage year-round, and whose generosity continues to help us innovate.

REIMAGINE

SEASON *Celebration*

Thank you from the
American Stage Team.

Let's
REIMAGINE
Together!