

# Carleton College at the Stratford Festival

## July 9-12, 2009

### Thursday, July 9

- 2 p.m. *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbar – Avon Theater (option for those arriving early)  
In ancient Rome, the slave Pseudolus yearns for freedom, while his young master pines for the girl next door. A deal is struck: in exchange for his freedom, Pseudolus will devise a plan to unite the young lovers. But, even in musical comedy, the course of true love never does run smooth, and the plan goes awry in an increasingly hilarious series of complications.
- 5 p.m. Weekend Registration
- 5:30 p.m. Group Dinner with Introductions
- 8 p.m. *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare – Avon Theater  
Julius Caesar is the most popular general in Rome – and the Senate is nervous. Before long, Caesar falls victim to an infamous assassination plot, leaving two men – the honorable Brutus and the ambitious Cassius – to divide the spoils. But they've reckoned without Mark Antony, Caesar's devoted follower and determined successor, and soon the republic all have sought to preserve is brought to the brink of anarchy.

### Friday, July 10

- 11:30 a.m. Group Lunch with Professor Morral
- 2 p.m. *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand – Festival Theater  
A swashbuckling swordsman with a rapier wit, Cyrano de Bergerac is plagued by the physical deformity of an enormous nose. Unable to believe himself worthy of love, he uses his gift for language to woo the beautiful Roxane for his comrade-in-arms, Christian. But when tragedy strikes, will Cyrano take his secret to the grave? Packed with exhilarating swordplay and dazzling repartee, this most heartbreakingly romantic of comedies illustrates a timeless truth: that true love is won not by what appears on the surface but by what lies deep within.
- Dinner on your own
- 8 p.m. *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde – Avon Theater  
In fashionable 1890s London, dashing men-about-town John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff are in romantic pursuit of fair ladies Gwendolen and Cecily. Matters are complicated by the imaginary characters created by both men to cover their on-the-sly activities – not to mention the dire disapproval of Gwendolen's aunt, the formidable Lady Bracknell.
- Optional Post-Theater Discussion

## Friday, July 11

11:30 a.m. Group Lunch with Professor Morral

2 p.m. *Forever Yours, Oscar*, Compiled by Peter Wylde from the letters of Oscar Wilde – Tom Patterson Theater

At the height of his brief but glittering career, the flamboyant Oscar Wilde, author of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, was the toast of London. But then scandal struck, leading to a sensational trial, imprisonment and a tragically early death. In this one-man performance, Brian Bedford presents selections from Wilde's correspondence, offering us an intimate glimpse into the mind, heart and soul of the man who wrote one of the English language's greatest comedies.

Dinner on your own (or we can plan a group dinner for those interested in more play discussion)

8 p.m. *MacBeth* by William Shakespeare – Festival Theater

Fresh from victory on the battlefield, the respected warlord Macbeth encounters three witches, who predict he will one day be king of Scotland. At the urging of his ambitious wife, he makes a fatal decision: he will fulfill the prophecy himself by murdering King Duncan as he sleeps. But as one atrocity leads inexorably to another, Macbeth discovers that fate often keeps its promises in unexpected ways.

## Sunday, July 12

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast and discussion of weekend's events

2 p.m. *West Side Story* based on a conception of Jerome Robbins – Festival Theater  
(for those who wish to stay a little longer)

Explosive dance numbers and a brilliant musical score ignite this modern-day retelling of Romeo and Juliet, presented for the first time on the Festival Theatre stage. Two rival gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, wage a turf war in the mean streets of New York City. But when Tony, best friend of Jets leader Riff, falls in love with Maria, sister to Sharks leader Bernardo, simmering tensions escalate to a shocking finale.