HARLEQUIN



Season 2025: "Hope & Heroes"

Most people are at least somewhat familiar with the myth of Pandora's box. Zeus gives Pandora a box with strict instructions not to open it. Out of curiosity she of course does, thereby unleashing disease and plagues on humanity. It's the ubiquitous myth to justify the existence of evil in the world, replete with historical patriarchy and misogyny (Eve and the apple, of course).

How many of us recall from the tale, however, that hope is imprisoned in the box and survives, long after all other worldly evils have disappeared? I, for one, had not.

As we recover from our own disease and plagues in these coming years it's easy to descend into vulnerability, remembering that our lives are forever saturated with the possibility of catastrophe. But - in point of fact - it's just as easy to pick your head up and look around. I challenge you to do so. What I see, everywhere I look nowadays, is hope.

And it's this hope that really allows us to be human. This ability to look past our own vulnerability and see possibility. Societies and civilizations were built on this. Without it, we couldn't accomplish anything.

If hope allows our humanity, it's our heroes that define it. We need heroes to help define the limits of our aspirations, our hope. Our ideals are largely defined by the heroes we choose. And our ideals - things like courage, honor, and justice - largely define us.

So for 2025 we want to provide you with some reasons for hope, and we want to introduce you to some of our heroes. If some seem familiar at first, we hope to show you something new. And if some don't look heroic at first glance, we ask you to dig deeper. We'll take you from the West Wing of the White House to a famous apartment on Baker Street. We'll visit the time of our last pandemic, we'll take a close look at current events, and we'll ride on the most famous train of all time. And while our heroes may not necessarily make the same choices we would (two lovers in Verona, Italy, for example), they might well shine as bright as we hope we could.

I hope you enjoy our 2025 offerings. I can't wait to see you in the theatre.

Aaron Lamb, Producing Artistic Director

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION south puget sound

HARLEQUIN 2025

March 7 - 23



August 22 - Sept. 7



April 25 - May 18

October 3 - 26





January 24 – Feb. 9



June 20 - July 20



November 28 - Dec. 24





MS. HOLMESE MS. HOLMESE MS. HATSON APT. 2B BY SKATE HAMILL

Comedy, Farce

January 24 - February 9

An irreverent, darkly comic, modern take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth and sidekick – a fast-paced romp that re-examines the classic adventure stories you love with a bold new female lens. In this highly theatrical, small-cast escapade, oddball female roommates Sherlock (yes, it's also a girl's name – wait, is it a girl's name? Is it even a name?) Holmes & Dr. Joan Watson join forces to emerge from the pandemic fog as a deeply codependent, quasi-dysfunctional, Odd Couple adventure duo... solving mysteries and kicking butts, until they come face to face with a villain who seems to have all of the answers. Extremely thrilling. Occasionally shocking. Highly amusing. By Jove, we've done it.

IF YOU LIKED: Noises Off (2020), Baskerville (2023), The Revolutionists (2023), Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol (2018)



Drama, Thriller

March 7 - 23

A true story, still unfolding. June 3, 2017. A 25-year-old former Air Force linguist named Reality Winner is surprised at her home by the FBI, interrogated, and then charged with leaking evidence of Russian interference in U.S elections. Reality subsequently received a record-breaking sentence. The verbatim FBI transcript of her interrogation is the heart of *Is This a Room*, conceived as a play by Obie Award-winner Tina Satter, in which an extraordinary human drama unfolds between the complex and witty Reality, and the agents who question her. As Reality's autonomy shrinks before her eyes, a simmering real-life thriller emerges, asking what it is to have honor in this American moment, and how the personal can reverberate globally.

"...a 65-minute verbatim transcript has now become the basis for one of the thrillingest thrillers ever to hit Broadway..." – New York Times

"Impeccable drama." - Deadline

by William Shakespeare Adapted by Aaron Lamb

Shakespeare, Classic

April 25 - May 18

When two young lovers lock eyes across a crowded dance floor, their hearts are forever bound. But can their love survive the brutal blood feud that has torn apart their rival families, the Capulets and Montagues? The greatest love story of all time, Shakespeare's classic *Romeo and Juliet* has captivated audiences and artists for centuries.

Now, in a nation divided like no other time in recent history, the question posed by these two young people rings loud and long: can true love survive in a divided community? This fresh new adaptation by Artistic Director Aaron Lamb seeks to find modern parallels and star-crossed relevance with the young lovers we've known for centuries.

IF YOU LIKED: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) (2024), Cymbeline (2017), Rock 'n Roll Twelfth Night (1996, 1998, 2003, 2007), any Shakespeare (or any theatre, really)

HARLEQUIN Presents

HQP BOLD VOICES

Play Readings

Get a chance to hear newer, edgier work that wouldn't normally get a chance on the mainstage!

READING #1 February 22-23, 2025 READING #2 August 2-3, 2025

Musical Theatre Cabaret

Join us for HQP's Musical Theatre "Open-Mic" Cabaret. Hear some of the newest and most exciting musical theatre on the boards today, as well as many of the standard classics. Join a curated group of local and regional artists with a full band on the Harlequin Stage!

November 8, 2025

Tickets \$25 for Readings, \$40 for the Cabaret. Or add all three to your subscription for only \$60

2025 ONE-NIGHT-ONLY SPECIAL EVENTS

A Valentine's Oratorio

Directed by Kathy Dorgan A romance-filled evening of staged readings curated by local playwright Bryan Willis.

February 14, 2025

Halloween at Harlequin

Celebrated local author Jim Lynch (*The Highest Tide, Border Songs*) shares a new (scary!) short story, followed by *Edgar Allan Poe - The Poet's Journey,* adapted by local playwright Bryan Willis and starring Bradford Farwell (*Indecent,* Seattle Rep), who brings Mr. Poe's life, obsessions and genius to Harlequin.

October 31, 2025



book, music, and lyrics by Jonathan Larson



"What makes Rent so wonderful is its extraordinary spirit of hopeful defiance and humanity."

- The New York Times

Rock Musical, Cult Classic

June 20 – July 20

Set in the East Village of New York City, during the previous pandemic, *Rent* is about falling in love, finding your voice and living for today. Based loosely on Puccini's *La Boheme*, Jonathan Larson's play follows a year in the life of a group of young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Rent* has become a pop cultural phenomenon, with songs that rock and a story that shaped a generation of audiences and taught us all to measure our life in love.

"Rent is a rousing anthem to living each day as it comes." - The Los Angeles Times

POTUS

(Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive)

by Selina Fillinger

Comedy, New Play

August 22 - Sept. 7

XXXXXXX

When the President unwittingly spins a PR nightmare into a global crisis, the seven brilliant and beleaguered women he relies upon most risk life, liberty, and the pursuit of sanity to keep the commander-in-chief out of trouble. (Any resemblance to past White House shenanigans is purely coincidental.) In a searingly funny Broadway hit, POTUS follows how seven women of dramatically different backgrounds minimize the damage done by male arrogance and political posturing, in an endearing homage to the women who keep things running behind the scenes.

IF YOU LIKED: Building Madness (2023), Noises Off (2020), The Women (2018)

"The likelihood that you will laugh until your face hurts is one of near certainty." – Entertainment Weekly

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

By Agatha Christie Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

Mystery, Classic, Costume Drama

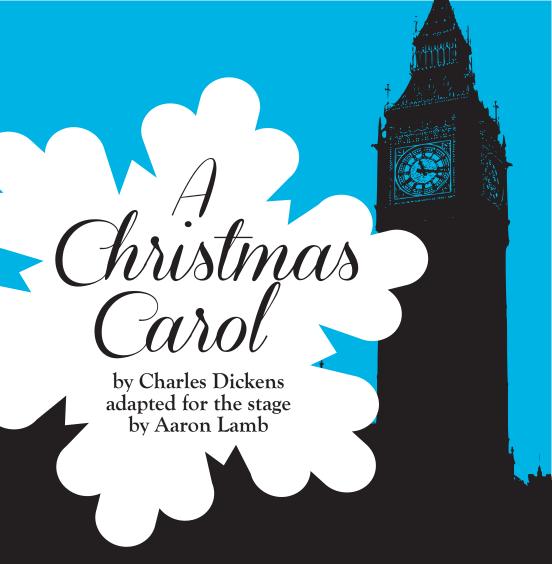
October 3 - 26

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer.

What do you get if you combine an international cast of characters, a world renowned detective, and a murder on a cross country train during a snowstorm? It should be clear to anyone that this lethal concoction produces one of the most famous and heart racing mysteries of all time, by one of the greatest authors of all time, Agatha Christie.

IF YOU LIKED: Deathtrap (2024), Baskerville (2023), Murder for Two (2022)

"A first class ride all the way!" - The Guardian



Holiday, Classic

November 28 - Dec. 24

Hailed as the greatest ghost story ever told, we continue our holiday tradition at Harlequin with Artistic Director Aaron Lamb's fresh adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic story of transformation, absolution, and grace. Join us for a holiday classic that's sure to please, packed with holiday music and a healthy dose of holiday cheer, and the kind of ghostly special effects that only Harlequin can deliver.

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* Shows with reserved seating only: seating layouts subject to change.

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Invite for two to a technical dress rehearsal		\checkmark	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark
Invite for two to attend an artistic director's brunch			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Complimentary tickets to the 2025 Gala				\checkmark	\checkmark
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Artistic Director's Circle (\$10,000+): Benefits are highly personalized; if interested in giving at this level, please contact Brennan Tucker at brennan@harlequinproductions.org.



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