

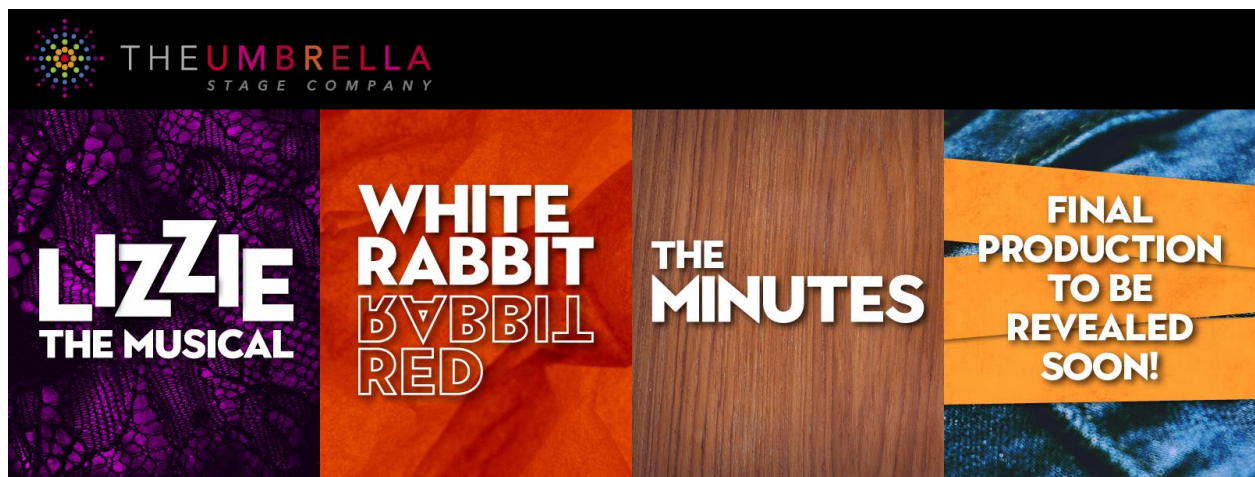


THE UMBRELLA<sup>SM</sup>  
STAGE COMPANY

## The Umbrella Stage Company Announces its 2023/24 Season

The Greater Boston Premiere of Tracy Letts' *The Minutes*, 2022 Tony Award Nominee for Best New Play

Two unique pieces in rotation in the Black Box and Main Stage this Fall



CONCORD, MA— May 3, 2023 —The Umbrella Stage Company is excited to announce its 2023/24 Season featuring a lineup of plays and musicals that exemplify brave storytelling and reimagine the theater experience.

The Season opens in September and October when – for the first time – the Company will present two productions in rotation in its Black Box and Main Stage theaters. *Lizzie, The Musical* – a cutting, fresh, rock-band retelling of the Lizzie Borden story – will kick things off in the Main Stage Theater 144 with an inaugural weekend of shows. It will be followed by the opening of *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* in the Black Box, an important and unconventional work that engages audiences in the improvisational and surprising pursuit of answers to timely and resonant questions.

The spring lineup features the Greater Boston Premiere of *The Minutes* by the multifaceted, award-winning actor and playwright Tracy Letts. Called “among the best new plays on Broadway in years” by *Variety*, *The Minutes* is the latest of Letts’ fiercely funny and foundation-rocking works.

The season will close in June with a fun, enduring, and uplifting musical never before seen on The Umbrella's stages. Due to licensing restrictions, the title will be released this fall.

"This year, we're presenting pieces that challenge our perspective as well as the conventions of traditional theater," shares Director of Performing Arts Brian Boruta. "The stories of the 2023/24 season lift up important questions: What is true? Whose stories do we hear – or even get to hear? How far would we go for what we believe? Our goal is to create four distinct theater experiences that will be compelling and meaningful, spark conversations, and spread joy."

Four-show and flexible subscriptions will go on sale this spring.

The Season will additionally feature a December return of the popular Holiday Pops concert in partnership with Firebird Orchestra, a fun and festive event for the whole family.

Tickets for The Umbrella Stage Company's Spring 2023 production of [The Color Purple](#) (May 12 - June 4) are on sale now.

Shows run Thursdays at 7:30pm, Friday-Saturday at 8PM and Sundays at 3PM. The Umbrella is ADA accessible and a proud partner in the Massachusetts Cultural Council's EBT Card-to-Culture program. It offers free parking and free admission to its visual arts galleries. It is easily accessible by Route 2 and is roughly three blocks from a Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line stop.

### ***Lizzie, The Musical***

**By Steven Cheslik-deMeyer, Tim Maner, and Alan Stevens Hewitt**

**Main Stage Theater 144**

**Sep 22 - Nov 5, 2023**

The subject of centuries-old, sing-song villainy, Lizzie Borden turns searing rock anthem anti-hero and has audiences raging in their seats.

Lizzie was famously acquitted and yet the question lingers... did she do it? Now, as the story is retold by four women defying musical theater stereotypes, fronting a six-piece rock band, and delivering a score that epitomizes *riot grrrl* power, Lizzie finally gets her say. Nominated for three Drama Desk awards and named best musical eight times over in regional awards around the country and the world, this musical is totally whack (in a good way)!

"Presented with wall-rattling glee...deliciously watchable!"- *The New York Times*

“Take a pure American gothic tale that grabbed the headlines in a small New England town in 1892 and quickly went on to become a cause celebre across the nation. Set it to a volcanic, quasi-operatic punk rock beat that captures the sense of female rage, retribution and betrayal, and feels custom-made for the current climate. And then just let it roar.” - *Chicago Sun Times*

### ***White Rabbit Red Rabbit***

**By Nassim Soleimanpour**

**Black Box**

**Oct 5 - Nov 12, 2023**

No rehearsal. No director. One actor. A script in a sealed envelope. Theater stripped to its essential elements in a no-net night of unexpected comedy and shared discovery.

Forbidden to leave his native Iran, Soleimanpour wrote a play to travel the world in his place. Since its award-winning premiere at the Edinburgh Festival it has been translated into more than 30 different languages and performed over 3,000 times. At each incredibly unique performance, a different actor – one who has never before seen or read the play – brings the voice of the absent playwright to life, challenging audiences to question whose stories get told and what happens when we are fully present together.

“...playful, enigmatic and haunting...” - *The New York Times*

"Wildly unpredictable and completely unforgettable, *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit* is a punch in the air for self-expression; a testament to the power of words to transcend cultures and borders.

You have to be there." - *New Zealand Herald*

### ***Holiday Pops***

**in partnership with Firebird Orchestra**

**Main Stage Theater 144**

**Dec 15 - 17, 2023**

A return of last year's popular concert featuring the Firebird Orchestra, the Firebird Vox Chorus, and special guest performers.

**GREATER BOSTON PREMIERE**

***The Minutes***

**By Tracy Letts**

**Main Stage Theater 144**

**Mar 1 - 24, 2024**

An evening in Big Cherry – a small town in anywhere USA – and the city council meeting unfolds in real time, unmasking undercurrents that threaten to undo life as they know it ... and driving the question, “How far would you go?”

Award-winning playwright Tracy Letts’ (*August: Osage County*) new play was called one of the most thrilling on Broadway in recent years. Nominated as Best New Play by the Tony Awards and Outer Critics Circle in 2022, and for the Pulitzer Prize in drama, *The Minutes* is part biting comedy, part Hitchcockian mystery, and at its dark heart an unflinching allegory about small-town politics and real-world power.

“...both a political comedy and a wicked, methodically plotted horror show... It’s devilishly funny until it’s not. It is thrilling and essential theater ...” - *Variety*

“It’s an important play, a visceral theatrical experience about what has happened to retail American democracy and how this nation decides which stories about itself it wants to believe.”  
- *NY Daily News*

**Spring Musical - To Be Announced in October 2023!**

Main Stage Theater 144

May 10 - Jun 2, 2024

A beloved and heartwarming Broadway musical from the 2000’s that was nominated for multiple Tony and Drama Desk Awards. Contracts restrict us from sharing the title until next fall. But we can guarantee that you’ll fall in love again with this fun-filled, joyful story, and its cast of unforgettable characters.