

The Umbrella Reschedules Season to Ease Cautious Audiences, Artists

Larger Productions Wait Out Worst of Omicron Surge; Black Box Play Moved to Next Season

February 17, 2022

Concord, MA—The Umbrella Stage Company has completely rearranged the back half of its 2021-2022 season in response to changing public health conditions and concern for its community of artists, audiences, teachers and students. With heightened levels of caution amidst the spike in omicron cases, it has rescheduled its remaining mainstage productions as follows:

April 15 - May 8, 2022 (press showing April 16) - ***Head Over Heels***, an exuberant musical comedy from the visionaries behind *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *Avenue Q*, fueled by music from the Go-Gos, directed by Brian Boruta.

May 20 - June 6, 2022 (press showing May 21)- ***The Colored Museum*** – a fresh new presentation of George C. Wolfe's provocative play that redefines our ideas of what it means to be Black in America, directed by Pascale Florestal. Related community engagement events and visual arts exhibitions have also been rescheduled in parallel with the production.

In addition, the world premiere of ***Middleton Heights***, a new full-length play commission from playwright Hortense Gerardo will now kick off The Umbrella's next season, September 30 - October 23, 2022, when audiences may feel more comfortable returning to the smaller Black Box theater.

Throughout this season, The Umbrella had eased the concerns of artists and audiences through implementing rigorous Covid safety protocols, exceeding local requirements as it slowly welcomed theatergoers back to its new, state-of-the-art facilities for Audrey Cefaly's romantic comedy, ***The Last Wide Open***, the musical epic, ***The Old Man and The Old Moon***, and seasonal concert, ***Holidays Under The Umbrella***.

The Umbrella joined its peer theaters in implementing heightened cleaning, mask mandates, fully vaccinated workplaces, and required proof of full vaccination or negative Covid test for adult attendees to protect community members. It also kept seating down to roughly half capacity to allow for optimal audience distancing from the cast and each other.

ABOUT THE UMBRELLA STAGE COMPANY REMAINING PERFORMANCES 2021/2022

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See <http://TheUmbrellaStage.org>

Season Courtesy Media Folder [Here](#)

HEAD OVER HEELS - April 15 - May 8, 2022

Press Showing: April 16, 8PM

Adapted by James Magruder, Concept and Original Book by James Whitty, Music by The Go-Go's, Directed by Brian Boruta

Head Over Heels is the bold new musical comedy from the visionaries that rocked Broadway with *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Avenue Q* and *Spring Awakening*. This laugh-out-loud love story is set to the music of the iconic 1980's all-female rock band The Go-Go's, including the hit songs, "We Got the Beat," "Our Lips Are Sealed," "Vacation," Belinda Carlisle's "Heaven is a Place on Earth" and "Mad About You." A hilarious, exuberant celebration of love, it follows the escapades of a royal family on an outrageous journey to save their beloved kingdom from extinction—only to discover the key to their realm's survival lies within each of their own hearts.

THE COLORED MUSEUM - May 20 - June 6, 2022

Press Showing: May 21, 8PM

By George C. Wolfe, Directed by Pascale Florestal

The Colored Museum has electrified, discomforted, and delighted audiences of all colors, redefining our ideas of what it means to be black in contemporary America. Its eleven "exhibits" undermine black stereotypes old and new and return to the facts of what being black means. The production is directed in a fresh, relevant new way for The Umbrella Stage Company by versatile director, dramaturge, educator, writer and collaborator Pascale Florestal, recently spotlighted in WBUR's "2021 Artery 25: Artists Of Color Transforming The Cultural Landscape".