

HEROIC ACTS

2026/2027

LAKELWOOD
PLAYHOUSE
Building community through theatre

88TH SEASON

SEASON 88 - GENERAL AUDITIONS

With the launch of Lakewood Playhouse's 88th Season - **Heroic Acts**, we are beginning the season audition process by holding a series of general auditions to meet everyone in the area who would like to join our community of artists.

All applicants will be considered for roles throughout the season, with specific callbacks for each production.

Lakewood Playhouse strongly encourages performers of all ethnicities, gender identities and abilities to audition. We are committed to thinking outside the box, breaking the rules and expanding who and how we tell stories! Join us! If you require any accessibility accommodations to audition, please contact 253-588-0042.

The 8 productions that make up our 2026/2027 season are:

LAKELWOOD PLAYHOUSE FESTIVAL OF NEW VOICES 2026

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being." - Oscar Wilde

Following the overwhelming success of our inaugural new writing festival last year, Lakewood Playhouse is delighted to announce the return of Festival Of New Voices to celebrate new voices and diverse perspectives.

Writers will be invited to submit new theatrical works which will be read and assessed by a team of local arts professionals. Selected plays will be given public readings as part of the festival, providing playwrights with the invaluable opportunity to hear their words presented aloud, and invite audiences to share their feedback in a talkback following each reading.

The festival will offer the opportunity for playwrights to engage with industry professionals as well as having their work showcased on the Playhouse stage, a process which is instrumental to the development and growth of a new play.

Rehearsals Begin - June 29th, 2026
Performances - July 15th-19th, 2026

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

At its core, Kiss Of The Spider Woman is a story about survival - but at Lakewood Playhouse, it becomes a powerful meditation on what it means to be a hero. Set inside a Latin American prison, two men - Valentín, a hardened revolutionary, and Molina, an imprisoned dreamer condemned for who he is - seem to stand on opposite sides of courage. Yet as their walls slowly come down, acts of heroism emerge not through grand gestures, but through compassion, vulnerability, and the radical choice to see one another fully.

In alignment with Lakewood Playhouse's commitment to storytelling that builds empathy and connection, this production transforms a harrowing tale of persecution into a vivid theatrical experience, where fantasy becomes both refuge and resistance. Molina's dazzling visions of the glamorous Aurora - and her deadly Spider Woman - offer escape, but also illuminate deeper truths about identity, sacrifice, and love.

This is a story where heroism is not defined by strength alone, but by the bravery to imagine, to trust, and to care in a world that punishes all three.

The original Broadway production won seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Book Of A Musical and Best Original Score.

"Compelling, beautiful, funny and moving." - New York Daily News

"Thrilling." - The New York Times

Book by Terrence McNally, Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Based on the novel by Manuel Puig

Callbacks - June 27th, 2026, 12:00-5:00PM

Rehearsals Begin - July 21st, 2026

Performances - September 4th-20th, 2026, *potential extension September 25th-27th*

THE DOCENT

In The Docent, heroism takes root in the quiet, transformative power of connection. As Urban Forestry expert Edna Gregory guides us through the trees of Central Park, her story unfolds into a deeply human journey - one that begins with a young woman finding her place in New York City and blossoms through her profound friendship with Charles, a vibrant soul who opens her eyes to a community, a calling, and a deeper understanding of love.

Set against the backdrop of 1981 New York, this moving tribute honors both the beauty and heartbreak of a pivotal moment in history, revealing how ordinary people rise to extraordinary courage in the face of uncertainty and loss. In keeping with Lakewood Playhouse's mission to uplift voices and foster empathy through storytelling, The Docent - first introduced in our inaugural Festival Of New Voices - celebrates the heroic act of bearing witness, of caring for one another, and of finding light even in the most fragile seasons of life.

World Premiere

By Donna Kaz

Callbacks - August 9th, 2026, 6:00-10:00pm

Rehearsals Begin - September 14th, 2026

Performances - October 9th-25th, 2026

WHERE BLOOMING FLOWERS MEET THE SKY

What does it mean to find your voice - and to use it with courage? Where Blooming Flowers Meet The Sky follows Zhuli, a young artist searching for her place in the world as she writes a new book of poetry. Along her journey, she is visited by three ancestors whose lives were shaped by the struggles and triumphs of the 1960s civil rights era. Through their stories, Zhuli is guided toward a deeper understanding of her own power, purpose, and responsibility.

In alignment with Lakewood Playhouse's mission to amplify diverse voices and cultivate empathy through storytelling, this lyrical and imaginative work celebrates the legacy of those whose bravery paved the way for future generations. Here, heroism lives in memory, in art, and in the act of speaking truth - reminding us that every voice raised in honesty and hope carries the power to shape the world.

Originally written for Tacoma Arts Live in 2024, this play by local artist Darryin B. Cunningham now takes to the Playhouse stage.

By Darryin B. Cunningham

Callbacks - September 6th, 2026, 6:00-10:00pm

Rehearsals Begin - October 19th, 2026

Performances - December 4th-19th, 2026

LUCHADORA!

Heroism sometimes wears a mask - and sometimes it looks like a young girl daring to step into a ring not meant for her. In this vibrant reimagining inspired by the legend of Hua Mulan, the world of 1960s Texas collides with the high-flying spectacle of lucha libre. When Nana Lupita shares the story of her youth, a pink wrestling mask unlocks a journey of courage, identity, and sacrifice. As a determined teen, Lupita defies expectations - training in secret to take her ailing father's place in a championship match - while struggling to balance truth, loyalty, and love.

In the spirit of Lakewood Playhouse's mission to celebrate diverse stories and foster deep human connection, this bold and imaginative tale honors the heroism found in family, culture, and self-discovery. It reminds us that bravery is not only found in grand gestures, but in the quiet, personal battles to stand up for those we love - and to claim our own place in the world.

"An absolute gem. ... A beautiful story with an upbeat message for young people and their parents." - GMToday.com

By Alvaro Saar Rios

Callbacks - September 6th, 2026, 6:00-10:00pm

Rehearsals Begin - October 19th, 2026

Performances - December 4th-19th, 2026

TOPDOG/UNDERDOG

What does it take to rewrite the story you've been handed? In Topdog/Underdog, Suzan-Lori Parks crafts a darkly comic and deeply human exploration of brotherhood, identity, and the weight of history. Lincoln and Booth - two brothers burdened with names that echo a violent past - navigate a world shaped by rivalry, survival, and the longing for something more. As their lives intertwine in a fragile dance of humor and heartbreak, they are forced to confront who they are, who they've been told to be, and who they might still become.

Topdog/Underdog is a bold, thought-provoking story that ignites empathy and dialogue, this Pulitzer Prize-winning play examines the quiet and explosive acts of heroism required to break cycles and claim agency over one's own narrative. Sometimes the bravest act is choosing a different ending.

Topdog/Underdog is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Outer Critics Circle Award. In 2023, it won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play.

"...Topdog/Underdog feels as vital and electric today as it did 20 years ago." - Variety

"...it's tough, it's gritty, it's lyrical, it's beautiful, it's poetry." - Entertainment Weekly

By Suzan-Lori Parks

Callbacks - November 21st, 2026, 12:00-5:00pm

Rehearsals Begin - January 12th, 2027

Performances - February 19th-March 7th, 2027

SAVAGE SAINTS

What does it mean to confront the past - and to survive it? In Savage Saints, Raul Garza examines the enduring spiritual and emotional scars left by the Canadian Indian Residential School System. Through the story of Regina, a memory care nurse, the past and present collide when she encounters a patient who forces her to face a history she has long carried. As memory fractures and resurfaces, Regina must navigate trauma, truth, and the possibility of reckoning.

Savage Saints honors the profound heroism of survival and the strength it takes to bear witness. It is a powerful reminder that healing begins with acknowledgment - and that telling these stories is itself an act of bravery.

Savage Saints was part of Lakewood Playhouse's inaugural Festival Of New Voices.

World Premiere

By Raul Garza

Callbacks - January 23rd, 2027, 12:00-5:00pm

Rehearsals Begin - March 16th, 2027

Performances - April 16th-May 2nd, 2027

COME FROM AWAY

In the face of unimaginable tragedy, ordinary people chose extraordinary kindness. Come From Away tells the remarkable true story of Gander, Newfoundland, where a small town opened its doors to thousands of stranded travelers on September 11, 2001. As cultures collided and uncertainty loomed, the people of Gander responded not with fear, but with generosity - offering food, shelter, music, and a powerful reminder of our shared humanity.

This acclaimed musical celebrates the heroic acts found in compassion, hospitality, and connection. Come From Away reminds us that even in the darkest moments, the simple choice to care for one another can be the most profound act of all - and that heroism often lives in the everyday goodness of people willing to say, "You are not alone."

"...a gently miraculous masterpiece..." - Time Out

"...takes a true story that began on September 11th, 2001, and tells it in an exhilarating fashion that celebrates decency and human kindness." - Broadway World

Book, Music and Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein

Callbacks - March 13th, 2027, 12:00-5:00pm

Rehearsals Begin - April 19th, 2027

Performances - June 4th-20th, 2027, *potential extension June 25th-27th*

GENERAL AUDITIONS

We will be holding five days of general auditions on June 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, and 18th at Lakewood Playhouse.

Saturday, June 13th, Tuesday, June 16th, Wednesday, June 17th, and Thursday, June 18th will be for those wishing to be considered for both musicals and plays in the season. Sunday, June 14th will be for those wishing to be considered for plays only.

For play auditions you will be asked to present a one minute monologue from a play that you love and, if auditioning for musicals, 32 bars of your favorite musical theatre song as well. Musical auditionees will also be required to attend a movement call.

For the 13th, 16th, 17th, and 18th, please sign up for one or two of the general times that work for you and select your preferred Movement Call, we recommend selecting one that is close to your audition slot. You'll receive an email confirming what day and time we will be seeing you!

For the 14th, please sign up to one of the general times. You'll receive an email confirming what time we will be seeing you!

Sign up here:

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, June 13th - Musicals and Plays

12:00-12:30 Movement Call

12:30-2:30 Individual Slots

2:30-3:00 Movement Call

3:00-5:00 Individual Slots

Sunday, June 14th - Plays Only

6:30-10:30 pm Individual Slots

Tuesday, June 16th - Musicals and Plays

6:00-6:30 Movement Call

6:30-8:00 Individual Slots

8:00-8:30 Movement Call

8:30-10:00 Individual Slots

Wednesday, June 17th - Musicals and Plays

6:00-6:30 Movement Call

6:30-8:00 Individual Slots

8:00-8:30 Movement Call

8:30-10:00 Individual Slots

Thursday, June 18th - Musicals and Plays

6:00-6:30 Movement Call

6:30-8:00 Individual Slots

8:00-8:30 Movement Call

8:30-10:00 Individual Slots

Video submissions are also possible if you cannot attend in person. We highly encourage you to submit a video if you've auditioned with us before.

Please submit by June 18th.

General auditions are for 16+, we will hold individual auditions for any show that requires younger performers.

For any further information, please email brookelyne@lakewoodplayhouse.org