

Stratford FESTIVAL



June 5 – 8, 2023

Hosted by Debra Freeberg
and Gary Schmidt

Join theatre experts Debra Freeberg and Gary Schmidt, along with Calvin University alumni and friends, on a four-day adventure to beautiful Ontario, Canada!

We will attend five expertly selected and crafted performances during the renowned Stratford Festival.

Daily discussions, free time between shows, and convivial group dinners will round out our immersive theatre experience.

Don't miss this unique opportunity!

For more information, contact:

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Tour Cost

\$1,345 per person from Grand Rapids, land only, based on double occupancy

Single supplement is \$280

REGISTER ONLINE AT

bookings.wittetravel.com

use booking code 060523FREE

or complete and return the printed registration form.

June 2023

**Monday, June 5
Departure from
Grand Rapids**

We'll meet at Calvin University to board a motorcoach for the drive to Stratford, Ontario. Along the way, we'll stop for Customs as well as a brief break, and arrive in Stratford midafternoon. We'll take an orientation tour of the theatre locations by bus and enjoy refreshments of afternoon tea & scones, followed by hotel check-in and a chance to freshen up. This evening, we'll have a welcome dinner and a talk by Debra and Gary. (D)

**Tuesday, June 6
Stratford**

The morning will be free to explore Stratford and have time for an independent lunch. The Queen's Hotel is located within the heart of Stratford for an easy walk downtown. Then, the festival begins! Our first performance is a matinee of the musical *Rent*. Afterward, we'll have dinner and then we plan to see *A Wrinkle in Time*. We'll then return to the hotel for a good night's sleep. (B, D)

**Wednesday, June 7
Stratford**

After breakfast, we'll meet with Debra and Gary for a discussion about the shows we saw yesterday. Then we have some free time for sightseeing and an independent lunch, before attending a matinee performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Following the show, we'll have a post-show chat and a group dinner. We'll then see our next play, an evening performance of *Casey & Diana*, followed by another post-show chat. (B, D)

**Thursday, June 8
Stratford > Return to
Grand Rapids**

Our last day in Stratford starts with breakfast and another group discussion of the plays, followed by free time for sightseeing and shopping. Midafternoon we'll attend our last performance, a matinee of *King Lear*. Then we'll begin our journey home, stopping for dinner and a rest break along the way. (B, D)

A note about hearing devices:

Theatres offer wireless radio-frequency hearing-assistance receivers that are also compatible with t-coil-equipped hearing aids and cochlear implants. For optimal performance, guests are encouraged to bring their own headphones, though there are a limited number that can be lent. Please request a hearing-assistance device when you register for the tour.

Tour Pace



MODERATE – Activity levels vary from day to day. Sightseeing is often a brisk walk.

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PLANNED PERFORMANCES

Rent

Set in Manhattan in the 1990s and inspired by Puccini's opera *La Bohème*, this rock musical by Jonathan Larson follows a group of young East Village artists, performers and philosophers as they struggle through the hardships of poverty, societal discord and the AIDS epidemic in the search for life, love and art. With a song list that includes the iconic "Seasons of Love," *Rent* tells a story as relevant today as when it took Broadway by storm more than 25 years ago.

A Wrinkle in Time

This new adaptation directed and written by Thomas Morgan Jones is based on the classic fantasy by Madeleine L'Engle, in which a young heroine leads her brother and a friend on a spectacular journey through space and time, from galaxy to galaxy, to save the world and rescue her father who mysteriously disappeared while working on an astounding scientific concept.

Much Ado About Nothing

The story follows Beatrice and Benedick, two quick-witted and sarcastic individuals who are happily single, but whose friends believe they would make a great romantic match. Set in the Early Modern world, an era of ever-changing attitudes towards marriage and power, the play presents a society at once filled with progressive feminist impulses and countervailing forces rooted in traditional patriarchal values. With his astonishing wit and insight, Shakespeare explores the complexities that underlie these growing social tensions.

Casey & Diana

As the Toronto AIDS hospice, Casey House, prepares for the historic visit of Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1991, residents and staff are inspired to beat the odds as a plague continues to ravage a generation. This potent and moving drama by Nick Green, vividly captures a moment in time when a rebel Princess, alongside less famous caregivers and advocates, reshaped the course of a pandemic - and how those stricken by the virus found hard-won dignity, community and love in the face of astonishing hardship.

King Lear

Perhaps Shakespeare's greatest tragedy, *King Lear* is the story of an aging king, who, in demanding a show of devotion from his three daughters, leaves his kingdom divided, his family destroyed, the faithful banished and the hateful left to wreak inhuman havoc in the realm.



Reserve your spot today!



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