

# Stratford FESTIVAL



June 25 – 28, 2024

OR

September 16 – 19, 2024

Hosted by  
Debra Freeberg  
and Gary Schmidt

*Established in 1952,  
the renowned Stratford  
Festival is now North  
America's largest classical  
repertory theatre company.*

**Each season, from April through November, a dozen or more productions are performed in four distinctive venues. Productions include classics, contemporary dramas, and musicals—with special emphasis on the plays of William Shakespeare—and draw visitors from around the world.**



***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, a Festival Treasures Tour, 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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Dr. Gary Schmidt  
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**Tour Cost**

\$1,645 per person from Grand Rapids, land only, based on double occupancy

Single supplement is \$325

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
**bookings.wittetravel.com**

**use booking code**

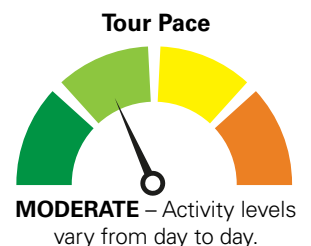
**062524FREE – OR – 091624FREE**

or complete and return the printed registration form.

**Physical activity and hearing devices:**

A motorcoach will be provided for transfers to and from the theatres, but walking is required to explore Stratford on foot. The Festival Treasures Tour is accessible, with no stairs, but there's limited ability to sit or rest during the tour. This tour lasts about an hour.

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.



To make this experience available to more participants, there are two 2024 options to choose from:

June 25-28 – or – September 16-19.

The Stratford Festival has a different line-up of performances each week, and the plays selected for each tour are listed with the day-by-day itinerary.

## Performances for June

**June 25 – 28, 2024:**

*Romeo and Juliet*  
*Something Rotten!*  
*Twelfth Night*  
*Wendy and Peter Pan*  
*Cymbeline*



## Performances for September

**September 16 – 19, 2024:**

*Romeo and Juliet*  
*Something Rotten!*  
*Twelfth Night*  
*Hedda Gabler*  
*London Assurance*

### JUNE 2024

**Tuesday, June 25**

#### Departure from Grand Rapids

We'll meet at Calvin University's Prince Conference Center and 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 around 3:00 p.m. We'll take an orientation tour of the theatre locations by bus and enjoy refreshments of afternoon tea and scones, followed by hotel check-in and a chance to freshen up. This evening, we'll have a welcome dinner, followed by a talk from Debra or Gary. (D)

**Wednesday, June 26**

#### Stratford

After meeting for breakfast and some leisure time, half of our group will enjoy a Festival Treasures Tour of the warehouse and archives at 11:00 a.m. while the other half has time at leisure to explore Stratford. We'll have time for an independent lunch and then the festival begins! Our first performance is a matinee of *Romeo and Juliet* at 2:00 p.m. We'll have dinner and then attend the musical *Something Rotten!* at 8:00 p.m., followed by a post-show chat. We then return to our hotel for a good night's sleep. (B, D)

**Thursday, June 27**

#### Stratford

This morning, we'll have breakfast followed by a discussion led by Debra and Gary about the shows we saw yesterday. Then half of our group will enjoy a Festival Treasures Tour of the warehouse and archives at 11:00 a.m. while the other half has time at leisure to explore Stratford. At 2:00 p.m., we'll see a matinee performance of *Wendy and Peter Pan*. Enjoy a group dinner before the next play, *Twelfth Night*, followed by another post-show chat. (B, D)

**Friday, June 28**

#### Stratford > Return to Grand Rapids

Our last day in Stratford starts with breakfast and another group discussion of the plays. The rest of the morning is free for sightseeing, shopping, and an independent lunch. At 2:00 p.m., we'll attend our last performance, a matinee of *Cymbeline*. Then we'll begin our journey home, stopping for dinner and a rest break along the way. (B, D)

### SEPTEMBER 2024

**Monday, September 16**

#### Departure from Grand Rapids

We'll meet at Calvin University's Prince Conference Center and 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 around 3:00 p.m. We'll take an orientation tour of the theatre locations by bus and enjoy refreshments of afternoon tea and scones, followed by hotel check-in and a chance to freshen up. This evening, we'll have a welcome dinner, followed by a talk from Debra or Gary. (D)

**Tuesday, September 17**

#### Stratford

After meeting for breakfast and some leisure time, half of our group will enjoy a Festival Treasures Tour of the warehouse and archives at 11:00 a.m. while the other half has time at leisure to explore Stratford. We'll have time for an independent lunch and then the festival begins! Our first performance is a matinee of *Romeo and Juliet* at 2:00 p.m. We'll have dinner and then attend *Hedda Gabler* at 8:00 p.m., followed by a post-show chat. We then return to our hotel for a good night's sleep. (B, D)

**Wednesday, September 18**

#### Stratford

This morning, we'll have breakfast followed by a discussion led by Debra and Gary about the shows we saw yesterday. Then we'll attend a "Meet the Festival" event at 9:30 a.m., which is part of Scholars & Experts Week. The rest of the morning is free for sightseeing, shopping, and an independent lunch. At 2:00 p.m., we'll see a matinee performance of the musical *Something Rotten!* Enjoy a group dinner before the next play, *Twelfth Night*, followed by another post-show chat. (B, D)

**Thursday, September 19**

#### Stratford > Return to Grand Rapids

Our last day in Stratford starts with breakfast and another group discussion of the plays. Then half of our group will enjoy a Festival Treasures Tour of the warehouse and archives at 11:00 a.m. while the other half has time at leisure to explore Stratford. At 2:00 p.m., we'll attend our last performance, a matinee of *London Assurance*. Then we'll begin our journey home, stopping for dinner and a rest break along the way. (B, D)



## PLANNED PERFORMANCES

### **Romeo and Juliet**

When two young star-crossed lovers lock eyes across a crowded dance floor, their fate—and the fate of two rival families, the Capulets and Montagues—is sealed. The most celebrated romance of all time, *Romeo and Juliet* is a cautionary tale, timeless in its warning against insatiable revenge, blind hatred, and familial pride.

### **Something Rotten!**

The Bottom brothers, two struggling playwrights in Renaissance London, need a hit. That's easier said than done when your chief competition is William Shakespeare. The Bottom brothers' plan: write the world's first musical! This is a rollicking song-and-dance extravaganza that sends up the Bard and Broadway and everything in between.

### **Twelfth Night**

In Shakespeare's celebrated romantic comedy, Viola finds herself shipwrecked on the island of Illyria. For protection, she disguises herself as a young man, Cesario, and enters the service of Duke Orsino to deliver love letters to Countess Olivia. Drama arises in a tangle of mistaken identities and passions, with Olivia falling for Cesario, whose heart belongs to Orsino, who is still smitten with Olivia. When Viola's twin brother appears, complications peak!



### **Hedda Gabler (only in September)**

The honeymoon is barely over and the mercurial Hedda Gabler is already bored with her husband and the respectable life he represents. When new people with old ties to the couple arrive on the scene, she seizes the chance to challenge what society would have her accept as "happiness," instead asserting her powerful will and wreaking havoc on everyone in her reach. Henrik Ibsen's masterwork shocked late-19th-century audiences with its complex portrait of female identity and independence.

### **London Assurance (only in September)**

Sir Harcourt Courtly, an over-the-hill London fop, arrives at Oak Hall to claim his wealthy and scandalously young bride. But Courtly's plan for a get-rich-quick weekend in the country is scuttled by the arrival of his dissolute son, Charles, disguised as "Augustus Hamilton" and the witty Lady Gay Spanker. Celebrated as one of the great British stage comedies, *London Assurance* is a brilliant precursor to the works of Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw.



### **Wendy and Peter Pan (only in June)**

Ella Hickson's smash adaptation of J.M. Barrie's beloved *Peter Pan* puts Wendy center stage in a reimagined journey to Neverland, home of Hook and the Lost Boys. Join Wendy Darling, Peter Pan and all your favorite characters in this thoroughly modern adventure that delivers the same unforgettable thrills, spills, and fairy dust of the original tale.

### **Cymbeline (only in June)**

Forbidden love. Familial strife. Political intrigue. In *Cymbeline*, the final play from Shakespeare's First Folio, the playwright fuses romance, comedy, and tragedy to create a unique fantasia brimming with mistaken identities and gender-swapping disguises. Set in an ancient British kingdom, the story introduces Imogen, one of Shakespeare's most beloved heroines, as well as the dastardly Iachimo, a worthy contender for all-time greatest villain.



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