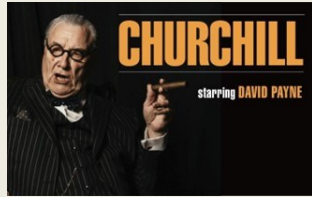


## Featured Performing Arts Events



### **Churchill**

Starring David Payne  
September 19 and 20, 2023  
SPI Convention Center

Winston Churchill has just been awarded honorary US citizenship by President John F. Kennedy. In recognition of this unprecedented occasion, The American-Oxford Society has asked the former Prime Minister to address them and discuss what this honor means to him. In this often funny, sometimes touching and always engaging one-man-show, veteran British actor, David Payne brings Churchill to life onstage. Audiences will be delighted to hear of his exploits during the Boer War, his constant battles with Britain's fellow politicians, and his special relationship with America and America's presidents. But most telling of all, Churchill enlightens the audience with intimate and touching details of the two special women in his life—his wife Clementine and Queen Elizabeth. With elements of *The Crown* and *The Darkest Hour*, David Payne gives audiences an opportunity to spend an evening with one of the greatest historical figures in the world—Sir Winston Churchill.



### **The Savannah Sipping Society**

By Jones, Hope and Wooten  
October 5 and 6, 2023  
The Courtyard at 2500 Padre Blvd

In this delightful, laugh-a-minute comedy, four unique Southern women, who all need to escape

the sameness of their day-to-day routines, are drawn together by Fate – and an impromptu happy hour. They decide it's high time to reclaim the enthusiasm for life that they've lost through the years. Randa is struggling to cope with a surprise career derailment. Dot, still reeling from her husband's recent passing, faces the unsettling prospect of starting a new life from scratch. Marlafaye, a good ol' Texas gal, has blasted into Savannah in the wake of losing her tom-cattin' husband to a twenty-three year old dental hygienist. Jinx, also new to town, offers her services as a much-needed life coach for these women. Over the course of six months, filled with laughter, hilarious misadventures, and the occasional liquid refreshment, these women successfully bond and find the confidence to jumpstart their new lives.

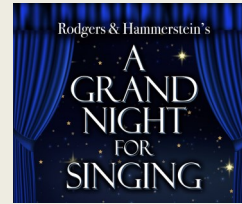


### **Rough Crossing**

By Tom Stoppard  
October 15, 16, and 17, 2023  
SPI Convention Center

Two established playwrights hoping to refresh their careers take their show on the road. Or, rather, on the high seas, along with their two established stars who also happen to be former lovers. The plan is to ride the wake of a brilliant, young composer for their new musical. He happens to be engaged to the leading lady. But when the writers and the composer stumble across a tryst between the female star and her leading man, the writers need to pull out all the stops to keep their young musical phenom from going overboard. Stoppard's sharp and sparkling wit is on full display, punctuated by pratfalls, and led by a cast of characters teetering just on the edge of ridiculous. Even when they're behaving badly you can't help but cheer

them on. Their hearts, after all, are in the right place – mostly. It's about as much fun as you can have on a stage.



### **A Grand Night for Singing**

Music by Richard Rodgers  
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II  
Music Arrangements by Fred Wells  
Conceived by Walter Bobbie  
November 6, 7, 8, 2023  
SPI Convention Center

Taste and imagination, the two key ingredients for a first-rate revue, abound in this fresh take on the Rodgers & Hammerstein canon conceived by Tony Award winner Walter Bobbie. Over three decades after the duo's final collaboration, *The Sound of Music*, took Broadway by storm, this new R&H musical opened the 1994 Broadway season with flair and distinction, garnering wildly enthusiastic notices and earning two Tony Nominations including Best Musical. The brilliant invention lavished on this revue, with innovative musical arrangements, including a sultry Andrews Sister-esque "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair," a swingin' "Honeybun," worthy of the Modernaires, and a jazzy "Kansas City," prove how terrifically up-to-date the remarkable songs of R&H remain.



### **Move Over Mrs. Markham**

By Ray Cooney and John Chapman  
January 22, 23, and 24, 2024  
SPI Convention Center

Philip and Joanna Markham have an elegant London flat in the process of being redecorated by Alistair Spenlow. The flat is the top floor of the children's publishing house owned by Henry Lodge. Philip Markham is Henry's junior partner. Linda, Henry's wife, and Joanna are friends. As the Markhams are supposed to be out at a "dreary publishing dinner" that night, Linda has decided to tryst in their flat with her new lover Walter Pangbourne. Henry is planning to have his way in the same flat with his new flame, Miss Wilkinson, a long distance operator. Sylvie, the Marham's maid, and Alistair are planning to make whoopee there, as well. To add to the confusion, Philip finds a scrap from Linda's love letter and suspects that Joanna is having an affair with Alistair. So the Markhams are not going out to dinner. The only one not involved with whoopee is the renowned children's book author, Olive Harriet Smythe, who pops in midway in the second act to offer a lucrative publishing contract to Henry and Philip. It looks like it will be a disastrous evening, but –spoiler alert– there are happy endings. Good romantic farces always finish with happy endings. It might be a rule set by Shakespeare.

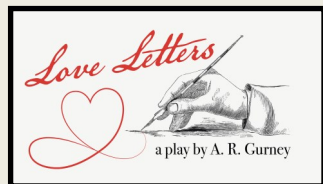
#### **Save With a Season Ticket**

Purchase a season ticket for all seven featured events and see one show for free.

**Member Price: \$150.00**

**Non-Member Price: \$180.00**

## Featured Performing Arts Events



### **Love Letters**

By A. R. Gurney  
February 5, 6, 7, 2024  
SPI Convention Center

Andrew Makepeace Ladd III and Melissa Gardner are childhood friends whose lifelong correspondence begins with birthday party thank-you notes and summer camp postcards. Romantically attached, they continue to exchange letters through the boarding school and college years – where Andy goes on to excel at Yale and law school while Melissa flunks out of a series of “good schools.” While Andy is off at war Melissa marries, but her attachment to Andy remains strong and she continues to keep in touch as he marries, becomes a successful attorney, gets involved in politics and, eventually, is elected to the U.S. Senate. Meanwhile, her marriage in tatters, Melissa dabbles in art and gigolos, drinks more than she should, and becomes estranged from her children. Eventually she and Andy do become involved in a brief affair, but it is really too late for both of them. However, Andy’s last letter, written to Melissa’s mother after her untimely death, makes it eloquently clear how much they really meant to and gave to, each other over the years—physically apart, perhaps, but spiritually as close as only true lovers can be.



**The Dinner Party**  
By Neil Simon  
May 9 and 10, 2024  
SPI Convention Center

Here is a decidedly French dinner party served up in a chaotic mode that only a master of comedy could create. Five people are invited to dine at a first-rate restaurant in Paris. They do not know who the other guests will be or why they have been invited. Tossed together in a private dining room, they have a sneaking suspicion that this unorthodox dinner party will forever change their lives. The males arrive first. Albert Donayn, a used card salesman and painter, Claude Pichon, a bookshop owner, and Andre Bouville, a men’s clothing tycoon. They discover that they share the same divorce lawyer. They believe that he is their host, and they briefly imagine that they will be meeting three beautiful, single women. Instead, their ex-wives arrive.



If you’re planning to support El Paseo Arts’ 19th Season of Events as a member, sponsor, or volunteer, mark your calendar now for the special Member, Sponsor, and Volunteer Appreciation Event in June.

There’s entertainment, food and drink and an opportunity to share your thoughts on the season and suggestions for future shows.

### **Educational Programs**

Supporting and promoting arts education is a major part of El Paseo Arts Foundation’s mission.

Each spring, El Paseo Arts and its patrons have been honored to award scholarships to graduating seniors who wish continue advanced study in the arts. The Foundation also awards scholarships for students to attend summer art camps at ArtSpace.

Each year the Foundation tries to sponsors a professional arts performance for the Point Isabel School District. The performances chosen for the students not only introduce them to high quality fine arts performances, but focus on learning skills that support their educational goals. El Paseo Arts also provides free student passes to age appropriate events throughout the year.



### **Get Involved With the Arts**

If you want to play an active role in expressing your creativity and supporting the arts in our community, there are a variety of ways for you to become an El Paseo Arts volunteer.

**House Management:** For every event our House management team plays an important role. We always need volunteers to greet our guests, take and sell tickets, or serve as ushers, passing out programs.

**Production Crew Members:** Our local productions require a lot of work that the audiences never see. We need volunteers to help paint sets, move set pieces, and construct the sets. We need help finding props that are needed for the show, and we need help with costuming. We also need individuals who are interested in learning how to run the lighting and sound systems. If you really want to see what it takes to put on a show, join us backstage during the productions to help the cast with props and costumes.

**Performers:** Auditions are open to everyone, and we are always looking for new performers. It’s hard work, but it’s so much fun that if you do it once, you’ll come back again and again.



Welcome to our  
19th Season

Performing Arts  
Events and Programs  
In the Lower Laguna Madre

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