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## **New Century Theatre Announces Upcoming Summer Season**

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY. FOUR NCT PRODUCTIONS IN 2008  
CELEBRATE, LAMENT, AND LAUGH AT FAMILIES  
AND THE TIES THAT BIND, CHAFE, BURN AND ITCH.

“When our relatives are at home, we have to think of all their good points  
or it would be impossible to endure them.”  
~George Bernard Shaw

**Northampton, MA** – American composer Anthony Brandt was credited as saying, “Other things may change us, but we start and end with the family.” Like them or not, most everyone has one and we spend a good deal of our lifetime being pulled towards them or avoiding them. So it isn’t surprising that so much of our American theatre cannon focused on family. New Century Theatre’s 2008 season is four-fold exploration of family and its powerful hold on our lives - positively and otherwise.

### **The House of Blue Leaves** by John Guare - Directed by Rand Forester (June 19-28)

New Century Theatre opens its 2008 season with a biting comedy that the New York Times called an “Enchantingly zany and original farce.” Artie Shaughnessy’s life just hasn’t turned out the way he wanted. By day he’s is a zookeeper from Sunnyside Queens by day and by night, he’s a frustrated songwriter who can only dream of Hollywood. His schizophrenic wife needs constant care and his embittered son is AWOL from Fort Dix. On a day when the Pope visits New York City for the very first time, Artie’s mistress sees it as a sign and urges Artie to reach out to Hollywood for fame and fortune. Add to this lunacy a big time Hollywood producer, his hard-of-hearing fiancé, three wayward sight-seeing nuns, and a bomb plot at Yankee Stadium and you have a “brilliant play...beautifully fashioned....Wacky and sometimes sad [with] ...combined hilarity, poignancy, outrageous stage asides and tragedy.” – THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

### **Well** by Lisa Kron - Directed by Keith Langsdale (July 3-12)

A 2006 Broadway hit. WELL is touching and utterly original comedy for anyone who has ever had mother. All Lisa Kron wants to do is present a nice, orderly little play about growing up, and how she was cured of her debilitating allergies. But her mother, who just so happens to be watching from her onstage La-Z-Boy, has a slightly different agenda. What begins as an occasional question or interruption grows into a scene-stealing performance that threatens to bring down the curtain. The San Francisco Chronicle praised WELL for its “infectious humor and great humanity.” The New York Times made a “Top Ten Pick”. Directed by Keith Langsdale, WELL is celebrates mothers and daughters, mind over body, social activism, and well, theatre itself.

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**Rabbit Hole** by David Lindsay-Abaire - Directed by Ed Golden (July 17-28)

Becca and Howard Corbett have everything a family could want until a fateful moment changes everything, shattering their idyllic lives and home. Winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for drama, RABBIT HOLE is a transcendent, honest and compassionate look at a grieving family as they struggle to navigate the healing process. Nominated for five Tony Awards this a stunningly beautiful, funny, and bittersweet play with universal appeal. Directed by Ed Golden, this production by the author of KIMBERLY AKIMBO is not to be missed.

**Arsenic and Old Lace** by Robert Kesselring - Directed by Jack Neary (July 31 - Aug. 9)

New Century Theatre closes out its 2008 season with one of the most beloved madcap American comedies of all time. The year is 1941 and the elderly Brewster sisters, two of the sweetest spinsters you could ever meet, operate a bachelor rooming house in Brooklyn. With a macabre sense of charity and a little help from arsenic-laced elderberry wine, the sisters are poisoning their lonely guests and burying them in their basement. Their three nephews, Teddy, who believes himself to be Teddy Roosevelt; Jonathan, a homicidal maniac with an uncommon resemblance to Boris Karloff; Mortimer, who seems normal but turns out he's a theatre critic. Join director Jack Neary and stellar cast for this hilarious finale to NCT's eighteenth season.

**PaintBox Theatre 2008**

New Century Theatre is proud to welcome PaintBox Theatre back for a forth spectacular season. Most shows sold-out last year so get your season tickets or single tickets early this time around. Founder and Artistic Director Tom McCabe has adapted and directed three more classic tales - presenting them in a way that unique to PaintBox Theatre. High energy and lots of audience participation are hallmarks each PaintBox show. Audiences of all ages will have a great time. All shows are presented onstage at Theatre 14 in the Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. For information and reservations, please call (413) 587-3933 or go to [newcenturytheatre.org](http://newcenturytheatre.org) for more information.

**NEW CENTURY THEATRE 2007 SEASON AT-A-GLANCE**

**Curtain Times:**

**7:30 p.m. - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays**

**8:00 p.m. - Fridays and Saturdays**

**2:00 p.m. - First Sunday of each production: June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3**

**Where:**

Theatre 14, Mendenhall Center of the Performing Arts, Green Street, Smith College Campus, Northampton (accessible, air-conditioned).

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**Season Subscriptions and Single Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [www.newcenturytheatre.org](http://www.newcenturytheatre.org) or by phone: (413) 587-3933.**

**Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday Night Subscription @ 7:30 p.m. - \$85**  
**Friday and Saturday Night Subscriptions @ 8:00 - \$95 / Senior \$87**  
**Friday and Saturday Night Senior Subscription (Fri-Sun) - \$87**  
**Sunday Matinee Subscription @ 2:00 p.m. - \$95 / Senior \$87**  
**Sunday Evening @ 7:30 p.m. - \$95 / Senior \$87**

**Single Tickets: \$28, Seniors (65+) \$26, Student Rush \$14.**  
**Box Office phone: 413-585-3220**  
(Box Office open for Single ticket sales and reservations after June 3, 2008.)

**THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES (June 19-28)** by John Guare - Directed by Rand Forester

**WELL (July 3-12)** by Lisa Kron • Directed by Keith Langsdale

**RABBIT HOLE (July 17-26)** by David Lindsay-Abaire • Directed by Ed Golden

**ARSENIC AND OLD LACE (July 31-Aug. 9)** by Robert Kesselring • Directed by Jack Neary

**2007 NCT PAINTBOX THEATER-AT-A-GLANCE**

**All productions Adapted and Directed by Tom McCabe**

**Time:** Wed. thru Sat. at 10:30 am. on dates of shows.

**Where:** Theatre 14, Mendenhall Center of the Performing Arts, Smith College Campus, Green Street, Northampton (accessible, air-conditioned).

**Tickets:** Season Pass \$18. Single Tickets \$7. Groups of 14 or more \$5.

**THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA (July 9-12)**

**THE GREAT RACE OF THE TORTOISE AND THE HAIRE (July 23-26)**

**ALADDIN (Aug. 6-9)**

**2008 Season Sponsors:**



**2008 Production Sponsors:**



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