

Theater @ The Wallis

American Musical Theater Classic

Guys & Dolls

Comes to The Wallis for the Holidays for only 24 performances!

Acclaimed Oregon Shakespeare Festival Production directed by

Tony Award-winner Mary Zimmerman

Follows last year's sold-out Wallis-OSF hit *Into the Woods*

Dec 1 – 20; Opening Night, Fri, Dec 4

(Beverly Hills, CA – Nov 4, 2015) “Well, hang on to your snap-brim fedora: Ms. Zimmerman’s fetching revival is as good as any production I’ve ever seen of the greatest of all the golden-age musicals,” proclaimed the *Wall Street Journal* when Oregon Shakespeare Festival staged the Broadway musical classic *Guys & Dolls* earlier this year at its Ashland, Oregon-based theatre. Now, for a limited run, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts will present this production for the holidays in the Bram Goldsmith Theater for 24 performances beginning Dec 1 and running through Dec 20.

About *Guys & Dolls*

Guys & Dolls, based on a story and characters by Damon Runyon, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, is one of the most popular shows from the Golden Age of Broadway Musicals. The family-friendly show features what are now some of the most iconic characters in theater history: dashing gambler Sky Masterson, Salvation Army missionary Sarah Brown, crap game organizer Nathan Detroit, and his long-suffering fiancée Miss Adelaide. The score is even more famous, with popular hits including “Luck Be a Lady”, “I’ve Never Been in Love Before” and “Sit Down, You’re Rockin’ the Boat”. Put your money on this musical fable of Broadway.

About the Cast

The cast of *Guys & Dolls* features Alyssa Birrer as Hot Box Girl, Tony DeBruno as Harry the Horse, Richard Elmore as Big Jule, Al Espinosa as Angie the Ox, Robert Vincent Frank as Lt. Brannigan, Rodney Gardiner as Nathan Detroit, Kristin Glaeser as Hot Box Girl, Curtis Holland as Ensemble, Richard Howard as Arvide Abernathy, Kate Hurster as Sarah Brown, Briawna Jackson as Hot Box Girl, Jeremy Peter Johnson as Sky Masterson, David Kelly as Benny Southstreet, Eugene Ma as Joey Biltmore, Robin Goodrin Nordli as Miss Adelaide, Daniel T. Parker as Nicely-Nicely Johnson, Britney Simpson as Hot Box Girl, Jonathan Luke Stevens as Ensemble, K.T. Vogt as General Matilda B. Cartwright, Joe Wegner as Rusty Charlie and Christopher H. Young as Ensemble.



About Mary Zimmerman

Director Mary Zimmerman, an Artistic Associate of Goodman Theatre and a member of Lookingglass Theatre Company, adapted and directed *Metamorphoses* for which she received the Tony Award for Best Direction. She is widely known for her regional theatre productions *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*, *The Odyssey*, *Arabian Nights*, *Argonautika*, *The Secret in the Wings*, *Galileo Galilei*, a new opera with Philip Glass, *The Jungle Book*, and *The White Snake*. She directed *Henry VIII* and *Measure for Measure* at New York Theatre Festival's Shakespeare in the Park and *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Metropolitan Opera and La Scala in Milan.

Mary Zimmerman said of *Guys & Dolls*, "The score has been called no less than 'perfect'; the characters, working in brilliant opposition to each other, have enormous charisma and charm; the language is sharp and original; the setting is nostalgic. There is endless exuberance and life to it."

Tickets Now on Sale:

Tickets range from \$29.00 - \$110.00 are available at www.thewallis.org, by calling 310-746-4000, or in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

About Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF)

A major theatre arts organization, OSF offers a diversity of plays as well as events and activities to enhance your overall experience. The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is a not-for-profit professional theatre founded in 1935. Their season runs from February through early November, and they have three theatres: two indoor stages, the Angus Bowmer Theatre and the Thomas Theatre, and their flagship outdoor Allen Elizabethan Theatre, which opens in early June and runs through mid-October. OSF offers 11 different plays that include three or four by Shakespeare and seven by other classic writers, as well as modern and contemporary work and world premieres. When you visit you can see one or two plays or up to nine plays in one week! For more information visit www.OSFAshland.org.

About The Wallis

The mission of The Wallis is to be a vital cultural hub that uses unique arts events and education programming to entertain, enlighten and inspire children and adults in our community and across the nation. Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented over 100 dance, theatre, opera, classical music and children's programs to an ever expanding audience. The 2014-15 season saw audiences at The Wallis grow to over 44,000 attendees with another 50,000 anticipated for the 2015-16 Season which officially began in September with a sold-out and live-streamed conversation with two-time Academy Award winning actor Denzel Washington followed by four sold-out performances of the Twyla Tharp 50th Anniversary Tour.

Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, California, The Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world's most talented and sought-after artists. With eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles, and its notability as the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe.

Nominated for 26 Ovation Awards, four L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards and the recipient of five architectural awards since opening in 2013, The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat,

state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. For more information, visit www.thewallis.org.

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Calendar Listing for *Guys & Dolls*

Where: Bram Goldsmith Theater
Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

How to get Tickets: **Prices:** \$29 - \$110 (Prices subject to change)
In Person – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210
By Phone – 310-746-4000
Online – www.thewallis.org

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To download, visit <http://www.thewallis.org/press>

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About *Guys & Dolls*

Guys & Dolls, adapted from the famed short stories of Damon Runyon of the 1920's and 1930's opened on Broadway in 1950, winning five 1951 Tony Awards, including the award for Best Musical, in a season that included *Brigadoon*, *Call Me Madam* and Cole Porter's *Out of this World*. The production also garnered the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Musical as well as Donaldson Awards for musical, composer, lyrics, book, director, female debut (Vivian Blaine) and male debut (Robert Alda).

The Frank Loesser score is filled with songs that have become the American songbook: "I'll Know," "A Bushel and a Peck," "Adelaide's Lament," "Guys & Dolls," "If I Were A Bell," "I've Never Been in Love Before," "More I Cannot Wish You," "Luck Be a Lady," and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat."

Reviews for the original production of *Guys & Dolls* were all raves. Brooks Atkinson from *The New York Times* said, "We might as well admit that *Guys & Dolls* is a work of art. It is spontaneous and has form, style, and spirit." John Chapman, of the *Daily News* wrote, "The big trouble with *Guys & Dolls* is that a performance of it only lasts one evening, when it ought to last about a week...I wanted to hang around on the chance that they would raise the curtain...and start *Guys & Dolls* all over again."

At the time it was widely acknowledged that *Guys & Dolls* opened to the most unanimously ecstatic set of reviews in Broadway history, topped only perhaps by Abe Burrows and Frank Loesser's second Broadway musical *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which won the Pulitzer Prize. In fact, the Pulitzer committee had selected to award their prize of *Guys & Dolls* and withdrew the idea because of Abe Burrows' troubles with the House Un-American Activities Committee – and no Pulitzer Prize was awarded that year. *Guys & Dolls* went on to run 1,200 performances on Broadway, and the movie sale was for a record-breaking \$1 million.

Director Mary Zimmerman said, "The world of Damon Runyon purports to be that of outlaws, gangsters, low-lives and fancy girls, and we take them at their word. But in fact, all of them, these 'marginal' people of gritty old New York, end up succumbing to the same old familiar ache: The stripper and the missionary girl, the wayward gambler and procrastinating bookie, in spite of what they believe of themselves or others believe of them, end up looking to find a home, a haven and familial love."

The 1955 film adaptation was written and directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (*All About Eve*). It stars Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons, Frank Sinatra and Vivian Blaine, and further cemented the *Guys & Dolls* legacy in the history of American Musical Theater.

Full biography of Mary Zimmerman (Director)

Mary Zimmerman is the recipient of a 1998 MacArthur Fellowship, the 2002 Tony Award for Best Director of a Play and numerous Jeff Awards (including Best Production and Best Direction). She is an Artistic Associate of Goodman Theatre, a member of Lookingglass Theatre Company and a professor of performance studies at Northwestern University. Ms. Zimmerman has adapted and directed *Metamorphoses*, which appeared on Broadway and at Lookingglass Theatre Company, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum and Second Stage Theatre; *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci* at the Goodman, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Seattle Repertory Theatre and Second Stage Theatre; *Journey to the West* at the Goodman, the Huntington Theatre Company and Berkeley Repertory Theatre; *The Odyssey* at Lookingglass Theatre Company, the Goodman, McCarter Theatre and Seattle Repertory Theatre; *Mirror of the Invisible World* and *Silk*, both at the Goodman; *Arabian Nights* at Lookingglass Theatre Company, Manhattan Theatre Club, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Kansas City Repertory Theatre; *Argonautika* at Lookingglass Theatre Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Shakespeare Theatre Company and McCarter Theatre; *The Secret in the Wings* at Lookingglass Theatre Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, McCarter Theatre and Seattle Repertory Theatre; *Eleven Rooms of Proust* at Lookingglass Theatre Company and *About Face Theatre* (co-produced by the Goodman); a new opera with Philip Glass, *Galileo Galilei*, at the Goodman, *The Barbican* in London and Brooklyn Academy of Music; *Candide* at the Goodman, the Shakespeare Theatre Company and the Huntington Theatre Company; *The Jungle Book* at the Goodman and Huntington Theatre Company and *The White Snake* at the Goodman, McCarter Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Wuzhen Theatre Festival in China.

In addition, Ms. Zimmerman has directed Shakespeare's *Pericles* and *All's Well That Ends Well* at the Goodman and *Henry VIII* and *Measure for Measure* at New York Theater Festival's Shakespeare in the Park. She made her Metropolitan Opera directorial debut in 2007 with *Lucia di Lammermoor*, which she also directed at La Scala in Milan in 2014. Subsequent Met productions include *Armida* and *La Sonnambula*.