



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Written by Heather Osteraa

## **The Western Stage Announces its 2020 Season**

*Theatre that brings us Home*

SALINAS, Calif. – For 45 years, The Western Stage has produced quality productions and served as an educational and cultural center for the Salinas Valley community. For its 2020 season, The Western Stage has chosen the theme of “Home” – encompassing both a physical place as well as the abstract qualities of home, which can only be perceived by the heart. The upcoming season explores the people and places that we hold dear, those that provide safety, familiarity and warmth – a place to turn to for refuge, acceptance and support. Fittingly, it also will coincide with Hartnell’s Centennial Celebration. What makes a home? What in our nature prompts us to build homes for ourselves, and how do we cope when the home we’ve known takes on a new identity? We invite you to join us as we seek to prove that “there’s no place like home.”

*You will often hear Western Stage company members and volunteers refer to us as their “home theatre.” We have a philosophy at The Western Stage, that any member of the company who has passed through our doors, whether for one show or 45 seasons, owns a brick in the building. My hope is that this feeling of camaraderie shared among the company is also passed on to our patrons and friends in the audience. – Jon Selover, Artistic Director*

### **Season 2020**

#### **“A Doll’s House Pt. 2”**

By Lucas Hnath

May 30-June 20, 2020      Studio Theater

Who’s that knocking on the door? Nora is back in this audacious comedy. It’s been 15 years since she slammed that same door on her marriage and children in the revolutionary final scene of Ibsen’s 1879 ground-breaking masterwork. Now a successful yet scandalous writer, she’s being blackmailed by a judge and needs her former husband’s help. But her family has a few grievances they need to air first. A blistering and very funny meditation on marriage and the high cost of personal fulfillment.

#### **“Noises Off”**

By Michael Frayn (Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. a Concord Theatricals Company)

June 27-25, 2020      Mainstage

Called “the funniest farce ever written.” A joyfully out-of-control British farce about the auspiciously titled play-within-a-play “Nothing On,” told in three acts: dress rehearsal, the opening performance and a performance towards the end of an exhausting run. Brimming with slapstick comedy. Step behind the curtain and meet the under-rehearsed and overworked cast and crew as they bring down the house – literally!

**\*\*MORE\*\***

### **“Cry Baby”**

With book by Mark O’Donnell & Thomas Meehan; music and lyrics by David Javerbaum & Adam Schlesinger  
(Based on the Universal Pictures film written and directed by John Waters)

Aug. 22-Sept. 12, 2020      Mainstage

Set in 1954, this musical centers on square rich girl Allison, who turns her attention from her squeaky clean boyfriend to the coolest boy in town, Wade “Cry Baby” Walker, who is a rock ’n roll high school rebel. The conservative squares face off with the leather-clad delinquents in this rockabilly musical based on John Waters’ cult film.

### **“Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play”**

By Anne Washburn; score by Michael Friedman, lyrics by Anne Washburn

Sept. 12-Oct. 3, 2020      Studio Theater

What if pop culture of one era evolved into the mythology of another? Disaster has struck, the world is in darkness, and in the aftermath, a group of survivors gather around a campfire and begin to piece together the plot of “The Simpsons” episode “Cape Feare” entirely from memory. Seven years later, this and other snippets of pop culture have become the live entertainment of a post-apocalyptic society, sincerely trying to hold onto its past. Seventy-five years later, these are the myths and legends from which new forms of performance are created.

### **“Native Gardens”**

By Karen Zacarias

Oct. 31-Nov. 21, 2020      Studio Theater

Do fences make good neighbors? In this brilliant new comedy, cultures and gardens clash, turning well-intentioned neighbors into feuding enemies. Pablo, a rising attorney and doctoral candidate, and Tania, his very pregnant wife, are realizing the American dream when they purchase a house next door to Frank and Virginia, a well-established D.C. couple with a prize-worthy English garden. But a delicate disagreement over a long-standing fence line soon spirals into an all-out border dispute, exposing both couples’ notions of race, taste, class and privilege. The hilarious results guarantee no one comes out smelling like a rose.

### **“The Wizard of Oz”**

By L. Frank Baum with music & lyrics by Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg; background music by Herbert Stothart

Nov. 14-Dec. 5, 2020      Mainstage

This faithful adaptation of the 1939 classic film features all the most beloved songs brought to life onstage. Young Dorothy Gale is swept away by a tornado from her Kansas farm over the rainbow to the magical land of Oz. There, she encounters a host of whimsical characters and, to make it home safely, she must learn an important lesson. This beloved tale has been entertaining audiences for generations.

## **DETAILS**

**WHAT:** The Western Stage announces its 2020 season – “Home”

**WHEN:** June – December 2020

**WHERE:** The Western Stage at Hartnell College, 411 Central Ave. Salinas, CA 93901. Center for Performing Arts, Building K.

**TICKETS AND INFO:** \$26 general admission, \$24 for seniors and military and \$12 for children age 5-15. Hartnell students receive two free tickets with student I.D. Other students \$20 with ID or \$5 Student Rush (cash only) on day of performance. For single or group tickets and information, go to [westernstage.com](http://westernstage.com) or call (831)-755-6816 (5-8 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday).

**PRESS:** Contact Customer Relations Manager Berniz House by phone: (831)-759-6012 or email: [bhouse@hartnell.edu](mailto:bhouse@hartnell.edu).

### **ABOUT THE WESTERN STAGE**

Founded in 1974, The Western Stage (TWS) has evolved over the past four decades into one of the most respected community-based theaters on California's Central Coast. TWS is committed to enriching the culture of its community by bringing together professional artists, theatre students and community members to produce a dynamic season of plays that enhances the lives of both the artist and audience, developing new works that speak to the history and culture of the Salinas Valley and providing educational opportunities that allow students of all skill levels to explore and develop their unique talents. [www.westernstage.com](http://www.westernstage.com)

### **HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – ESTABLISHED IN 1920**

The Hartnell CCD serves over 17,000 students annually through its main campus in Salinas, the Alisal Campus in East Salinas, the King City Education Center, and various outreach learning centers throughout the Salinas Valley. Hartnell College, a Hispanic Serving Institution, provides associate degree and certificate programs, workforce-training, courses in basic skills, and prepares students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Hartnell College is recognized for its innovative public and private partnerships that support world-class education for STEM, career technical education, fine and performing arts, humanities/social sciences, nursing/healthcare, and athletics. We are proud to be the winners of the 2015 Innovation Award for CSin3 – a Computer Science bachelor's degree in three years. **We are growing leaders through opportunity, engagement, and achievement.** For more about Hartnell CCD, visit [www.hartnell.edu](http://www.hartnell.edu).

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