

THE CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE AT-A-GLANCE



Founded in 1915, The Cleveland Play House is America's first permanently established professional theatre company.

Our Mission

To produce plays of the highest professional standards that inspire, stimulate, and entertain our diverse audiences, and to conduct training and educational programs that enhance the quality of life for those we serve and help to insure the future of theatre.

Artistic Leadership

Raymond O'Neil (1915-21); Frederic McConnell (1921-58); K. Elmo Lowe (1959-70); William Green (1970-71); Richard Oberlin (1971-85); William Rhys (1985-88); Josephine Abady (1988-93); and Peter Hackett (1994-2004); Michael Bloom (2004 to present).

Financial Information

The Cleveland Play House has an annual operating budget of \$7.5 million and employs more than 100 employees each year.

Education Programs

The Cleveland Play House also boasts the nation's longest-running theatre education program. In November of 1933, the theatre offered its first "Curtain Pullers" classes, which counts Joel Grey, and Paul Newman among its alumni. The Play House continues to offer a variety of classes and workshops for children, teens, and adults throughout the season and operates Camp Cleveland Play House during the summer months.

Additional education programs include mainstage student matinee festivals, student talk backs, study guides and backstage tours. The Education Department produces The Cleveland Play House Children's Theatre season and manages partnerships with among other organizations, The Cleveland School for the Arts, the Cleveland Municipal School District for their cooperative literacy program, Key Bank Play House College, and University Circle, Inc.

Case Western Reserve University MFA Acting Program at The Cleveland Play House

As America's first resident professional theater company, The Cleveland Play House is committed to the education and training of the next generation of theater artists. Since 1996, CPH has partnered with Case Western Reserve University to offer a Master's of Fine Arts degree in Acting. MFA students spend each of their three years of study in residency at The Play House for a full-immersion experience. Additional graduate-level studies in directing, playwriting, technical theater, and management are being explored as are collaborations with other Cleveland institutions to create a comprehensive theatre program.

New Play Development & FusionFest

The Cleveland Play House's long-standing tradition of developing new work for the American Theatre is the catalyst behind the theatre's New Play Development program.

Through regular meetings and peer critiques, **The Playwright's Unit** provides Cleveland-based playwrights with resources as well as a forum in which to discuss their work. Every spring, the Play House presents readings of up to five new works annually extending playwrights a vehicle for gathering audience reaction and feedback to hone character and/or plot development.

In 2008, The Play House announced the establishment of the first sustained commissioning program in the theatre's history: **The Centennial Project: Nurturing the Next 100 Years**. The program's first three playwrights are among the most well-known, respected and prolific in the American theatre: Lee Blessing, Keith Reddin and Romulus Linney. The world premiere adaptation of *Heaven's My Destination*, authored by Tony Award nominated writer Lee Blessing and based on the comic novel by Thornton Wilder, kicked off this program in May 2009.

Since 2006, the Mainstage Season has concluded with a new multi-disciplinary arts collaborative event, **FusionFest**, created by current Artistic Director Michael Bloom.

Venue

At East 85th and Euclid Avenue, the internationally recognized Philip Johnson-designed Cleveland Play House complex consists of three interconnected buildings totaling 300,000 square feet of space on a 12.5 acre campus with 600 parking spaces. It is the largest regional theatre complex under one roof in the country.

The original 1927 building:

- Drury Theatre – 508 seats
- Brooks Theatre – 128 seats
- CPH Administrative Offices
- Green room/conference room
- Dressing rooms to accommodate 36 actors
- Showers and restrooms
- Backstage areas, currently include the CPH Electrics Shop and storage areas

CPH's Production Center:

- Scene Shop (7,000 square feet)
- Paint Shop (9,500 sq. ft.)
- Properties Shop and Storage (16,000 sq. ft.)
- Costume Shop and Storage (9,000 sq. ft.)
- Three Large Rehearsal Halls (two soundproof)
- Two Classrooms
- The Kohn Theatre Library
- The Schubert Rare Books Library and Conference Room
- Archive Storage
- Bolton Theatre Dressing Rooms for 45 actors
- Showers and restrooms
- Two large freight elevators
- One passenger elevator
- Stages Restaurant – theatre dining facility (200-seat main dining room, 100 seats in private party rooms)
- Museum of Contemporary Art, (MOCA) (20,000 square feet)
- 50,000 square feet nonprofit tenant space

Philip Johnson 1983 Addition:

- Bolton Theatre – 550 seats (can be converted to the 300 seat $\frac{3}{4}$ thrust Baxter Stage)
- Studio One Theatre – 100 seat “black box” theatre
- Grand lobbies, including the Gund Rotunda, Reinberger Lobby, Wade Promenade and Southwest Entrance
- Each year, nearly 150,000 people attend productions, programs, and special events.
- More than 20,000 students from about 350 area schools attend Cleveland Play House productions, as well as drama and playwriting classes each year.
- 12 million people have visited one of CPH's artistic works (more than 1300 productions) over its 93-year history.
- Internationally, The Cleveland Play House has hosted or exchanged productions with the National Theatre of Hungary, The Czech National Theater, Slovak National Theater, and Russia's New Experimental Theater of Volgograd. Associate Artistic Director Seth Gordon directed the Arabic premiere of *Our Town* in Cairo in 2004. In the 2008 season, we hosted a production of *Hamlet* from Tel Aviv's acclaimed Cameri Theatre.