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Summer Theater Preview: Stories on Stage

All the world may not be a stage, but there are lots of stages in the area that will be busy with theatrical presentations all summer long.

Drama, comedy, musicals, new plays and classics will be performed by professional and community groups over the next few months, so start making your plans, and start ordering your tickets.

Bucks County Playhouse's summer season kicked off with "An Act of God," David Javerbaum's comedy in which God returns to Earth with a new set of Ten Commandments. It runs through June 16.

Last year, Bucks County Playhouse had a smash with "Guys and Dolls," and this summer will offer another musical classic when "42nd Street" is presented at the theater in New Hope, Pennsylvania. The ultimate backstage musical is about Peggy Sawyer, who comes to New York seeking to become a Broadway star. Based on the classic movie, it features legendary songs such as "We're in the Money" and "Lullaby of Broadway."

Next up will be "Million Dollar Quartet," running Aug. 10 through Sept. 15. The musical is about an impromptu 1956 studio session by Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins. The song feature 21 songs including "Blue Suede Shoes," "Walk the Line," "Great Balls of Fire" and others.

The Playhouse also will present a world-premiere concert adaption of "Show Boat," the legendary show by Oscar Hammerstein and Jerome Kern, June 23, 9 p.m. The benefit will feature Broadway performers and narration by Ted Chapin, President and Chief Creative Officer of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization. Two-time Tony nominee Laura Osnes (Broadway's "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella") leads the cast as Magnolia alongside James Snyder (Broadway's "Cry-Baby," Encore's "Grand Hotel") as Gaylord Ravenal. Emmy-award winner, Jessica Walter (Bucks County Playhouse's "Steel Magnolias" and TV's "Arrested Development") returns to the Playhouse as Parthy.

For tickets and information, go to buckscountyplayhouse.org or call 215-862-2121.