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## Setting the Stage for Summer: A preview of what area theaters have in store this season



Photo by Joan Marcus

Bucks County Playhouse is off to a rocking start this summer with "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story."

By Anthony Stoeckert

If you're looking for a good story this summer, you're bound to find a few of them on the stages of the area's theater groups.

Some of the stories will be old, some will be new, some will be told with music, some will be funny, others touching, and a few will be told in iambic pentameter

While many of the area's theaters present their seasons from fall to spring, there are still plenty of plays and musicals to see in the summer at theaters and festivals that keep busy during the hot months.

**The Bucks County Playhouse's** summer season is underway in New Hope, Pennsylvania, with the return of "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story," through June 17. The musical tells the story of Holly's brief but powerful career in rock 'n' roll, from his first recording sessions to his death in a plane crash. It features such hits as "That'll be the Day," "Rave On," "Oh, Boy!" and others.

Summer is a time for laughter, and the Bucks Playhouse is promising lots of laughs with "The Nerd" a comedy by Larry Shue. In the play, Willum's birthday party gets disrupted when a fellow ex-soldier who saved Willum's life in Vietnam shows up for a visit. Willum is thrilled to finally meet the man who saved his life but finds out that Rick plans on staying a long, long time. The play runs June 23 through July 15.

Next up is one of the great American musicals, "Guys and Dolls," running July 21 through Aug. 12. The classic based on the stories of Damon Runyon about gamblers in New York City features such classic songs as "Luck Be a Lady," "A Bushel and a Peck," "If I Were a Bell," and "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat."

Summer will wrap up at Bucks with "Other Desert Cities," Jon Robin Baitz's play about Brooke, who returns to her parents home in Palm Spring on Christmas Eve with a copy of her soon-to-be-published tell-all memoir. It runs Aug. 18 through Sept. 2.

For tickets and information, go to [bcptheater.org](http://bcptheater.org).