

# The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio

## The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio Announces 2024-25 Season Lineup and Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Productions Selected Include Two Musicals, A Comedic Play, and an Audience-Favorite Christmas Classic To Showcase Stories About Self-Discovery**

**Columbus, Ohio, March 25, 2024** - The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a five-show line up for the 2024-25 season.

Kicking off the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season is the musical, *Big Fish* which runs September 12- 29, 2024. With music and lyrics by Tony nominee and Columbus resident Andrew Lippa, this show is based on the acclaimed film directed by Tim Burton. *Big Fish* is a wonder-filled celebration of love and storytelling, where heartfelt truths and fantastical tales are woven together into a vibrant, magical tapestry. As Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman, nears the end of his own story, it's up to his son, Will, to embark on a journey to find the truth at the heart of his father's stories and reveal the man behind the myths. Along the way, he discovers a world where the lines between truth and fiction are blurred and imagination soars, leaving him with a new appreciation for all of the unique ways we express love. Audiences will find the extraordinary in the ordinary with *Big Fish*.

"This is one of the biggest musicals The Contemporary has ever done," said Leda Hoffmann, Artistic Director. "At The Contemporary, we select shows that harness the transformational power of theatre and engage with the current moment to inspire a community of empathy. All the shows in our season dive into self-discovery and characters figuring out who they are in relation to their families and communities. They challenge the audience to think about others in different ways even as they laugh their way through our 40<sup>th</sup> season."

Audiences should mark their calendars for October 31 to November 17, 2024 when The Contemporary will feature another exciting play which will be announced later this spring.

After a triumphant, critically acclaimed run last holiday season, *A Christmas Carol* returns to The Contemporary stage running December 12 – 22, 2024. Audiences will once again journey into a masterful solo retelling of Charles Dickens' famous Christmas story, where every Ghost, every Cratchit, and Scrooge himself are brought to life in the virtuosic performance of audience-favorite Angela Iannone. This one-person show shines a dazzling new light on a beloved classic, leaving you utterly spellbound and filled with the holiday spirit.

From March 6-23, 2025 audiences will be treated to Pulitzer Prize–winning *Fat Ham*, written by James Ijames, which is a witty take on Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* where the only real death is the patriarchy. To be or not to be certainly is the question for Juicy, a young, queer Black man. Juicy grapples with identity, family, responsibility, and honesty as generations clash at a backyard barbecue, serving up all of the drama, wit, and existential angst of the Bard with a generous side of humor and heart. See what the *New York Times* calls “a hilarious yet profound tragedy smothered in comedy.”

“*Fat Ham* is a very new show, right off Broadway,” said Christy Farnbauch, Executive Director. “It is a joyous look at self-discovery and resilience.”

The last show of the season is the musical *The Last Five Years*, running April 24 – May 11, 2025. With an incredible score by Tony Award-winner Jason Robert Brown, *The Last Five Years* winds its way through the joyful, sad, and bittersweet moments of a couple over the course of their five-year relationship. See the highs and lows from both sides of the story, starting at the end with Cathy and the beginning with Jamie. This emotionally powerful and intimate musical has captivated both audiences and critics, winning a Drama Desk Award, a film adaptation, and performances around the world. In this love story, the end is just the beginning.

“If you are a musical theatre person, you know these songs including A Summer in Ohio, Still Hurting, Moving Too Fast, and more,” said Hoffmann. “If you don’t know them yet, be prepared to be singing them from here on out.”

Information on the Theatre for Young Audiences production for the 2024-25 season will be announced later.

“The 40<sup>th</sup> season at The Contemporary is truly extraordinary,” said Christy Farnbauch, Executive Director. “These shows will pull at your heartstrings, make you laugh, and leave you feeling connected to the world and human beings in a new way.”

Audience members can lock in the lowest price of the season with the Classic Subscription for \$179. This package includes a ticket to *Big Fish*, *Fat Ham*, *The Last Five Years*, the play to be announced soon, plus *A Christmas Carol* at no extra cost. This offer is limited, so the public is encouraged to purchase their seats today. Additional subscription options and single tickets will go on sale later this spring.

To purchase subscriptions now, visit [TheContemporaryOhio.org/season-pass](https://TheContemporaryOhio.org/season-pass), contact the CBUSArts Ticket Center at [tickets@cbusarts.com](mailto:tickets@cbusarts.com) or 614.469.0939.

### **About The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio**

The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio is central Ohio’s leading professional Equity theatre company, providing exceptional productions and educational programs for adults and young people, in response to our community’s needs. We believe theatrical storytelling transforms people of all ages by immersing them into immediate, communal experiences. The

Contemporary exists to harness the transformational power of theatre that engages with our current moment to inspire a community of empathy. For more information, visit [TheContemporaryOhio.org](http://TheContemporaryOhio.org).

### **The Contemporary Ohio's Vision**

We strive to become an anti-racist, nationally recognized contemporary theatre company that anchors a thriving Columbus theatre ecosystem in an empathetic, equitable world.

### **The Contemporary's Purpose/Mission**

To harness the transformational power of theatre that engages with our current moment to inspire a community of empathy.

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