



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ArtsWest Announces the 2026-2027 Season: *A Visible Existence***

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**SEATTLE, WA** (June 15, 2026) – ArtsWest announces their 2026-2027 Season: *A Visible Existence*. This season is packed with bold contemporary plays that ask a simple but urgent question: how can art reveal the hidden worlds we carry inside?

The season begins with ***The Chinese Lady*** by Pulitzer Prize finalist Lloyd Suh. For the holidays, the joyful original Christmas musical ***Snowed In*** by Corinne Park-Buffelen and Mathew Wright, with music by Alma David Taylor, returns. The new year begins with the Tony Award-winning ***Red*** by John Logan, about the famous Abstract Expressionist Mark Rothko. ***anthropology*** by Lauren Gunderson is a thrill ride about the potential and consequences of A.I. To end the season, ArtsWest presents ***P.Y.G. or The Misedumacation of Dorian Belle*** by Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm, a hilarious comedy and blistering satire inspired by Shaw's *Pygmalion* with a hip-hop spin.

This season brings together bold stories, unforgettable personalities, and thrilling theatrical experiences - from intimate storytelling to high-energy musical celebration, from sharp comedy to gripping psychological suspense. Across these plays, artists, dreamers, outsiders, and communities struggle to connect, to create, and to understand themselves and one another through art, memory, music, and imagination.

Each of these stories explores the messy, funny, vulnerable, and deeply human desire to matter - and to be truly known.

- In Lloyd Suh's ***The Chinese Lady***, the true story of Afong Moy, a woman displayed as a living exhibit in 1800s America reveals an intimate, funny, and deeply moving exploration of performance, identity, and who gets remembered in the telling of history.
- Corinne Park-Buffelen's holiday favorite ***Snowed In*** celebrates the messy joy of collaboration as a group of artists trapped together by a winter storm attempt to create the perfect holiday show — discovering friendship, music, and unexpected connection along the way.
- In John Logan's ***Red***, master painter Mark Rothko and his young assistant clash over art, ambition, legacy, and what it means to create work that truly matters.

Intense, funny, and visually thrilling, the play offers a searing portrait of the artist's struggle to leave a mark on the world.

- **anthropology**, by Lauren Gunderson, America's most-produced playwright, blends emotional intimacy with psychological suspense in a gripping story about grief, artificial intelligence, and the desperate human need to stay connected to the people we love.
- In Terrance Arvelle Chisholm's **P.Y.G. or The Mis-Education of Dorian Belle**, a reality-show-style collision of hip-hop, celebrity culture, race, and performance spirals into a wildly entertaining exploration of identity, image, and authenticity in a world obsessed with fame.

Together, these plays remind us that to create is to insist on our existence - to reach toward one another, to shape meaning from chaos, and ultimately, to make our existence visible.

## **The Chinese Lady**

by Llyod Suh

Directed by Zenaida Rose Smith

September 17 – October 11, 2026

### **The true story of Afong Moy, a Chinese woman displayed as a living exhibit in 1800s**

**America.** Told in first person from her point of view, she holds nothing back as she recounts a half-century of performing her culture to curious onlookers. Her dreams and aspirations shift with the passing of time as she discovers what it means to reclaim her story. *The Chinese Lady* is funny, heartbreaking, and devastatingly contemporary portrait of America through the eyes of a young Chinese woman.

“Piercing and intimate.” – *The New York Times*

“Afong Moy might not have fulfilled her intention of educating and connecting the world in her life, but *The Chinese Lady* sure has the promise and potential [to] do so.” – *The Front Row Center*

## **Snowed In**

by Corinne Park-Buffelen & Mathew Wright, music by Alma David Taylor

November 28 – December 20, 2026

***Snowed In* is a joyful holiday musical that has become a Seattle theater tradition.** Inspired by classic holiday TV specials and musicals about putting on a musical, *Snowed In* takes you on a journey of song, dance, friendship, family, and the true meaning of the holidays.

ArtsWest has sent four incredible artists on a cozy retreat to write the most perfect holiday show the world has ever seen. But when a blizzard hits and tensions rise, the crumpled-up notebook pages start to pile up even faster than the snow. Will they finish the show in time? Or will they have to rely on a sprinkle of holiday magic to pull the whole thing off?

“*Snowed In* sidesteps the overwrought and overfamiliar qualities of so many holiday shows without tipping into full-on counterprogramming mode... Even the less seasonally inclined (or those with “resting Grinch face,” as [one character] puts it) might just find themselves won over by the festivities.” – *Seattle Times*

“A musical menagerie of fun, with songs that are comical and catchy and humor that is delivered expertly by a cast of triple threats.” – *Shows I've Seen*

## **Red**

by John Logan

Directed by Mathew Wright

February 4 – February 28, 2027

### **In John Logan's critically-beloved, Tony Award-winning play, Master abstract expressionist Mark Rothko and his assistant, Ken, debate the nature of art and success.**

As Rothko's iconic paintings are created live onstage, the pair goes head-to-head in a thrilling battle over artistic purpose. But when Ken gains the confidence to challenge him, Rothko faces the agonizing possibility that his crowning achievement could also become his undoing. Raw and provocative, *Red* is a searing portrait of an artist's ambition and vulnerability as he tries to create a body of work that could define his legacy.

"Intense and exciting... a study in artist appreciation, a portrait of an angry and brilliant mind that asks you to feel the shape and texture of thoughts... *Red* captures the dynamic relationship between an artist and his creations." – *The New York Times*

"John Logan sends American abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko into battle with his demons in this electrifying play of ideas." – *Variety*

## **anthropology**

by Lauren Gunderson

April 8, 2027 – May 2, 2027

**A thrill ride about the potential and the consequences of A.I.** After the disappearance of her sister, Angie, Merrill's life is turned upside down. To cope with the grief and unanswered questions, Merrill uses A.I. to create a version of her sister – Merrill's version. But as A.I. Angie learns and evolves, history repeats itself. Angie's developing intelligence may not be what Merrill had planned, but when A.I. Angie reveals a secret this sci-fi family drama turns into a gripping, suspenseful true crime race against time.

"Up-to-the-minute, grappling with AI and its philosophical implications in a thoroughly engaging way...[It] engages with our tech-mediated lives and with speculative futures in a way theatre rarely does." – *The Standard*, UK

"Gunderson prods and pokes around at the ethical implications but deliciously never settles for an answer. Instead she throws down the gauntlet whilst weaving together a cerebral thriller where each twist and turn tugs on the heart strings." – *Broadway World*, UK

## **P.Y.G or The Mis-Education of Dorian Belle**

by Terrance Arvelle Chisholm

June 10, 2027 – July 3, 2027

**Inspired by Shaw's *Pygmalion*, this scathing comedy is a blistering and entertaining look at cultural and racial appropriation in an exchange of ideologies, vernacular, and alleged street cred.** Canadian pop sweetheart, Dorian Belle, isn't so sweet anymore – he's ready to be taken seriously. So, get his people on the phone, turn on the cameras, and let it roll! Dorian's team hires his favorite hip-hop artists from Chicago's premiere rap group Petty Young Goons to help change his image, and it's all caught on camera for a new reality TV show.

"A stimulating blend of empathy and entertainment... this play excels in nearly every way, tackling questions of authenticity and accountability with ample wit and ferocious generosity." – New City Stage

"What gives this show heart as well as heat is that Chisholm's take-no-prisoners approach still lets us feel sympathy for the characters... smart, savvy, and sometimes achingly truthful." – Chicago Reader

"Pop-savvy new satire." – Washington Post

## **Additional Season Information**

<https://www.artswest.org/2026-27-season/>

<https://www.artswest.org/subscriptions/>

## **Social Media**

Facebook | @ArtsWestPlayhouseandGallery

Instagram | @artswestplayhouse

## **For Calendar Editors**

[www.artswest.org](http://www.artswest.org)

Location | 4711 California Ave SW Seattle, WA 98116

Box Office Phone | 206.938.0339

Box Office Hours | Thursday - Saturday. 2:00 - 7:00pm, Sundays 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

Subscriptions are on sale now and range from \$220 - \$600

Single Tickets range from \$10 - \$49

**The season runs :** September 17, 2026 – July 3, 2027

## **Dates**

*The Chinese Lady* by Llyod Suh | September 17 – October 11, 2026

*Snowed In* by Corinne Park-Buffelen & Mathew Wright, music by David Taylor Gomes |  
November 28 – December 20, 2026

*Red* by John Logan | February 4 – February 28, 2027

*anthropology* by Lauren Gunderson | April 8 – May 2, 2027

*P.Y.G or The Mis-Education of Dorian Belle* by Tarrant Arvelle Chisholm | June 10 – July 3, 2027

## **About ArtsWest**

ArtsWest is a vibrant center for both theater and visual arts located in the West Seattle Junction. This 149-seat theatre provides a unique setting for audiences and artists as stories of human emotion unfold in an intimate space. Winner of the American Theatre Wing's National Theatre Company Award, and winner of multiple Gregory Awards, ArtsWest has produced work by such varied playwrights as Dominique Morisseau, Henrik Ibsen, Annie Baker, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Taylor Mac, and David Henry Huang. ArtsWest produces artistic events that provoke conversation, incite the imagination, and use live theater as a powerful agent of change.

[www.artswest.org](http://www.artswest.org)