
THE DALTONIAN

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ARTS

Late Fall Broadway Roundup!

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 BY MIKA HIGGINS-WOO

Broadway's upcoming fall season is full of unique productions in store for audiences to enjoy. Unusually, out of the eight shows opening on Broadway in September and October, seven of them are straight plays. Even more interestingly, five of those seven are original plays (not revivals). This may not seem significant, but many argue that we have entered a time on Broadway where musical and play adaptations of classic books and movies (i.e., *Mean Girls*, *The Outsiders*, *The Notebook*, *Back to the Future*, *Heathers*, *The Lion King*, *The Great Gatsby*, etc.) have become more common on Broadway than original works. Because of this, original shows are becoming increasingly scarce on the list of upcoming shows coming to Broadway. The new, original shows coming to the stage make this season special.

It should be noted that this season, running the four months from September to December, will bring many upcoming shows. Sixteen shows will be coming to Broadway from now until the end of the calendar year. This article will address only those which will premiere in September and October. Shows that will come out this year in November and December include *Maybe Happy Ending*, *A Wonderful World*, *Tammy Faye*, *Death Becomes Her*, *Swept Away*, *Cult of Love*, *Gypsy*, and *Eureka Day*.

The new plays and musicals opening on Broadway in September and October are:

Shows Starring Famous Actors

The Roommate



% <https://www.newyorktheatreguide.com/show/40630-the-roommate-on-broadway>

Opening September 12, 2024, *The Roommate* is making its Broadway debut. Starring Golden Globe nominee Mia Farrow and three-time Tony Award winner Patti Lupone, this one-act comedy navigates the blooming relationship between innocent Sharon, who has never done anything exciting before, and her new roommate Robyn, who is determined to change that. Confident and from-the-city meets shy and stuck-in-Iowa in a hilarious yet deeply moving journey through the beautiful feeling of creating a powerful friendship. Jen Silverman (they/them), the playwright for this production, has written many off-Broadway and international plays. *The Roommate* marks their Broadway debut. Additionally, three-time Tony winner and five-time Drama Desk winner Jack O'Brien is directing *The Roommate*. He is known for his past direction of *Hairspray*, *The Piano Lesson*, and *The Full Monty*.

McNeal



% <https://www.broadway.com/shows/mcneal/>

Opening September 30, 2024, and starring Robert Downey Jr (*Iron Man, Avengers, Oppenheimer*) and Melora Hardin (*The Office, Family Guy, Gilmore Girls*), *McNeal* is coming to Broadway this season. *McNeal* follows the story of outstanding writer Jacob McNeal, a perpetual nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature. McNeal is on track for fame when, suddenly, his estranged son and an unhealthy obsession with artificial intelligence get in the way of his progress. *McNeal*, an extremely timely show because of its strong themes of AI, examines the pull and push of humanity and inhumanity in the stories we tell today. Obie Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Ayad Akhtar is returning to Broadway for the first time since 2015, when his play *Disgraced* was nominated for Best Play at the Tonys. Bartlett Sher (a Drama Desk, Tony, and Obie Award-winning Broadway director) is directing this show. Some of his past works include *Camelot* (2023), *South Pacific* (2008), *The King and I* (2015), and *To Kill A Mockingbird* (2018).

Theater Canon Classics

Romeo and Juliet



% <https://www.broadwayworld.com/shows/Romeo-+-Juliet-334941.html>

With much anticipation from *Heartstopper* fans across America, another play opening this season (October 24, 2024) will be *Romeo and Juliet*, starring Kit Connor (*Heartstopper*, *His Dark Materials*) and Rachel Zegler (*The Hunger Games*, *West Side Story*). *Romeo and Juliet*, the classic Shakespearean tragedy, is a popular part of the classical theater canon. It has been produced worldwide countless times, including its first run on Broadway in 1754. Well-

versed in Shakespeare's plays, director Sam Gold takes directorial leadership with this production. He won a Tony for his direction of *Fun Home* in 2015 and was nominated for a Tony for his direction of *A Doll's House* in 2017. Gold is determined to make an old classic relevant to new generations and has remarked, "[w]ith the presidential election coming up in November, I felt like making a show this fall that celebrates youth and hope, and unleashes the anger young people feel about the world they are inheriting." And with popular young stars Connor and Zegler making their Broadway debuts in this performance, many young fans who wouldn't usually be drawn to a Shakespeare show have opening night circled in their calendar.

Our Town

STRICTLY LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

Thornton Wilder's OUR TOWN

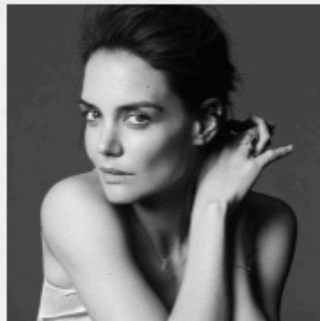
DIRECTED BY KENNY LEON



JIM PARSONS



ZOEY DEUTCH



KATIE HOLMES



BILLY EUGENE JONES

% <https://www.nytix.com/shows/our-town>

Our Town is also considered one of the classics in the canon of American theater. It was written in 1938 by Thornton Wilder and has been performed countless times in theaters around America, from Broadway (1938, 1969, 2002) to Lincoln Center (1988) to schools all around America. Opening this year on October 10, *Our Town* follows the life of Emily and George and their ever-changing relationship from birth to childhood, marriage, and eventually to death. *Our Town* explores the circle of life, teenage love, growing up, and much more. Known for his direction for other Broadway shows such as *Purlie Victorious*, *Some Like it Hot*, *Ohio State Murders*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and many others, Kenny Leon is directing *Our Town* this season. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Leon explains that the casting for this production "will not be all Black and it will not be all white and it will not be all famous. I want all of us to feel included, and I want the play to speak to each and every heart in America." *Our Town* is starring *Big Bang Theory*'s Jim Parsons for his sixth time on Broadway, Billy Eugene Jones (*Purlie Victorious*, *Fat Ham*, *A Raisin in the Sun*), Ephraim Sykes (*Ain't Too Proud*, *Hamilton*), Richard Thomas (*To Kill A Mockingbird*, and 1970s TV show *The Waltons*), Julie Halston (*Hairspray*, *Gypsy*, *Tootsie*), and many others.

Shows Coming From West End

The Hills of California



% <https://www.newyorktheatreguide.com/show/41190-the-hills-of-california-on-broadway>

Starring recent Tony nominee Laura Donnelly and many actresses making their Broadway debut, including Leanne Best, Nancy Allsop, and Sophia Ally, the new play *The Hills of California* is coming to Broadway for the first time. Set in the summer of 1976 amid a heatwave in Blackpool, a British town by the sea, three sisters reunite to return to the home they shared as children. However, when they arrive, they find their mother alone and dying of cancer. This discovery, in addition to the absence of a fourth sibling who emigrated to America years before, starts a mystery in which the girls go digging into deeply buried family secrets. *The Hills of California* is coming directly to Broadway from a long and successful run on the West End. Because of this, the show's creative team and ensemble are British or Irish. Successful English screenwriter and playwright Jez Butterworth wrote *The Hills of California* and will be returning to Broadway as a playwright for the first time since 2012. Working alongside Butterworth on the creative side of this production and returning to Broadway to direct *The Hills of California*, Sam Mendes is a two-time Tony award winner and highly qualified and successful British director of film and stage, screenwriter, and producer. *The Hills of California* is opening on September 29, 2024.

Sunset Boulevard



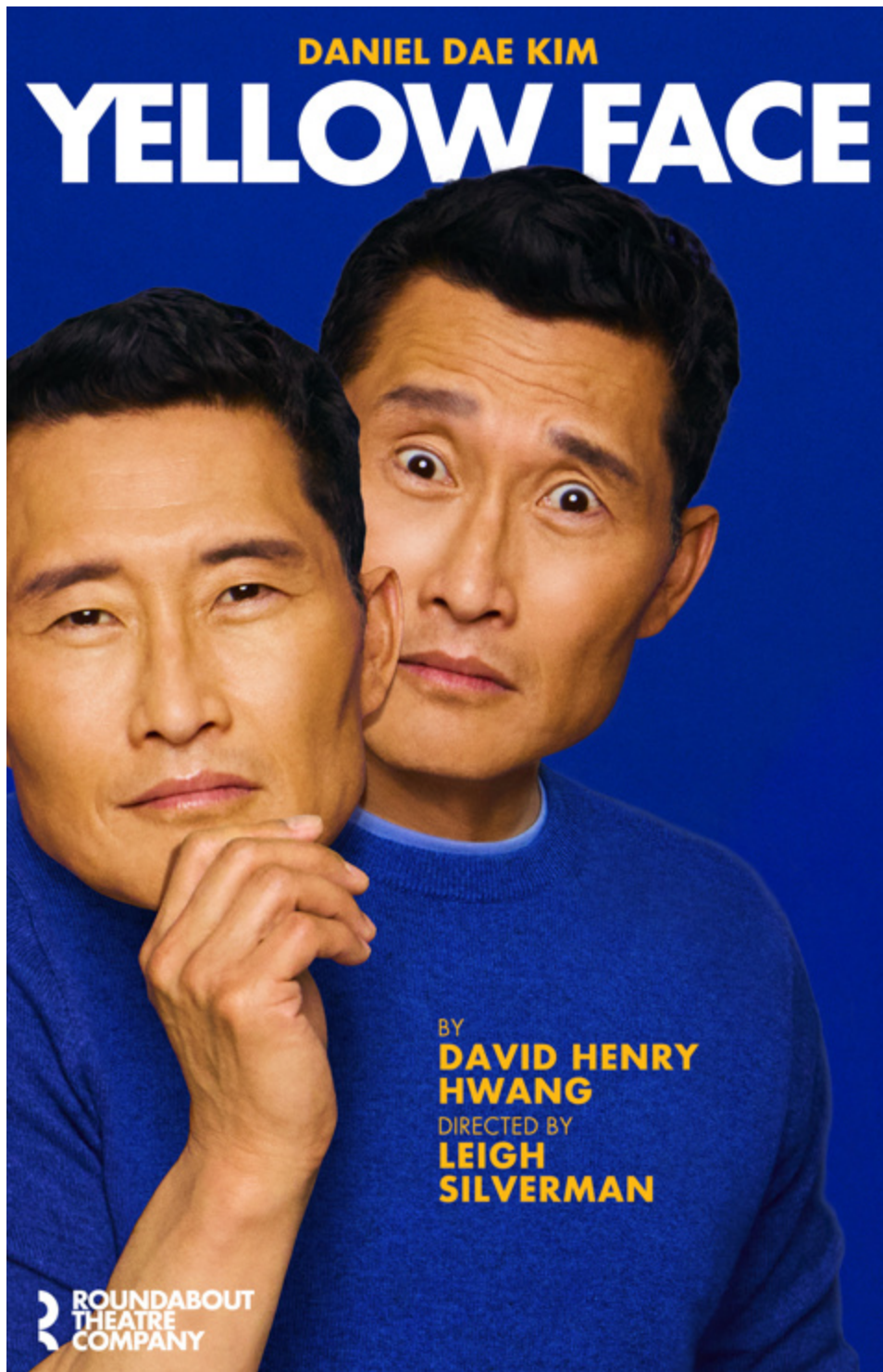
% <https://sunsetblvdbroadway.com/>

Opening October 20, *Sunset Boulevard* is a dark comedy show that follows the story of a successful screenwriter who develops a forbidden relationship with an old film star determined to make a comeback in Hollywood. Based on the classic 1950s film, *Sunset Boulevard* was written in 1993 and has been on Broadway twice. This production is coming straight from its third revival on the West End, where it received an Olivier award. The prolific Andrew Lloyd Webber is in charge of the music for this musical. Webber is also known for his work on *Phantom of the Opera*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Starlight*

Express, School of Rock, Bad Cinderella, and many more. This season, *Sunset Boulevard* is starring 2010 *Dancing with the Stars* winner Nicole Scherzinger (*Moana, Cats, Annie Live!*), Grace Hodgett-Young (*Hadestown*), and David Thaxton (*Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, Come From Away*).

Autobiographical Plays

Yellow Face



% <https://www.broadway.com/shows/yellow-face/>

Yellow Face is opening on Broadway on October 1, 2024. *Yellow Face*, a semi-autobiographical play, follows the story of a young man in theater (Playbill describes this character as playwright Hwang's "doppelganger") who accuses a production of *Miss Saigon* of yellowface casting (casting a white person in the role of an Asian character). This character then proceeds to mistakenly cast a white person in an Asian role in one of *his own*

productions. Ringing with truth, *Yellow Face* explores the complexities and boundaries of race. This production stars prominent TV and film star Daniel Dae Kim, Kevin Del Aguila (known for his Broadway performances in *Some Like it Hot* and *Frozen*), Ryan Eggold (*Amsterdam*), Obie Award winner (for his performance in *Yellow Face* in 2008) Francis Jue and many others. American director Leigh Silverman is returning to Broadway to direct *Yellow Face*. She is coming to this show directly from *Suffs*, a musical currently on Broadway. Silverman won a Tony for Best Direction of the Musical for *Suffs* last season. Additionally, Tony Award-winning playwright, screenwriter, and theater professor at Columbia, David Henry Hwang, is returning to Broadway as the playwright of *Yellow Face*.

Left on Tenth



% https://www.theatermania.com/shows/new-york-city-theater/broadway/left-on-tenth_1744131/

Left on Tenth is a new play by journalist, playwright, and author Delia Ephron, known for her work on movies such as *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and *Hanging Up*. She is also a prolific author of over fifteen novels, and her journalism work has been published in papers such as *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Starring successful TV and film

actress and Dalton parent Julianna Margulies (*The Good Wife*, *ER*, *The Sopranos*), Peter Gallagher (*The OC*, *Law and Order: SVU*), Peter Francis James (*Funny Girl*, *Gossip Girl*) and Kate MacCluggage (*Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*), *Left on Tenth* is a play Ephron adapted from her autobiography of the same name. Five-time Tony Award-winning Susan Stroman is a prolific performer, director, and choreographer and will be directing this production. The plot follows Ephron through her journey of grief as she navigates the world after losing her sister and husband to cancer one after the other. *Left on Tenth* is opening this season on October 23rd.

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