McCarter’s mission is to create world-class theater and present the finest performing artists for the engagement, education, and entertainment of our community.

We are committed to:

• Sharing stimulating, diverse and provocative stories;
• Working at the intersection of art and scholarship;
• Making the arts accessible to a broad range of audiences.

An independent, nonprofit regional theater, we live in the heart of the Princeton University Arts District and provide educational programming in Princeton, Trenton and throughout central New Jersey.
Emily Mann has served as Artistic Director and Resident Playwright since 1990. Her leadership has earned McCarter two Tony Awards®: one for Outstanding Regional Theater in 1994 and one for Best New Play for Christopher Durang’s Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike in 2013.

Early in 2019, Mann announced her decision to retire following the 2019-2020 Season. This final season, titled ‘Signature Emily,’ will reflect her abiding interest in giving voice to the stories of women, minorities, and those whose voices are less often heard on the American stage.

The 2018-2019 season marked Michael S. Rosenberg’s first official year as Managing Director of McCarter. Rosenberg comes to McCarter following a successful tenure as Managing Director of the La Jolla Playhouse in California and several years working in the New York theater world.

Bill Lockwood has curated McCarter’s Presented Series for 56 years, and continues to delight and surprise our audiences. His reputation for identifying promising new artists and programming some of the world’s greatest performers is unparalleled.
“McCarter is my cornerstone for connecting with the arts.”
– McCarter patron
Theater Series

McCarter Theatre Center produces a five-play Theater Series each season, in addition to our annual holiday production of A Christmas Carol. Under the direction of Artistic Director and Resident Playwright Emily Mann, McCarter has produced more than 50 world premiere productions and continues to attract the nation’s finest established and emerging playwrights, actors, directors, and designers.

The Age of Innocence

By Edith Wharton
Adapted for the stage by Douglas McGrath
Directed by Dough Hughes
In association with Hartford Stage
September 7 - October 7, 2018

When is it wrong to love someone? Is love the highest ideal, or is kindness, and a sense of duty to each other, even greater than love? These are the questions asked by Edith Wharton in her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Set in New York in the Gilded Age, The Age of Innocence is both ravishingly romantic and heartbreakingly unsentimental.

Detroit ‘67

By Dominique Morisseau
Directed by Jade King Carroll
In association with Hartford Stage
October 9 – 28, 2018

It’s the summer of 1967, and the songs of Motown are breaking records and breaking barriers. Chelle and her brother, Lank, are running an unlicensed after-hours joint out of their basement—risky business—especially during a brutal police crackdown that has set off riots throughout the city. When Lank offers refuge to a mysterious stranger, he and Chelle clash. Pent-up emotions erupt, and they must navigate the chaos both outside and within.

Sponsored by The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation

The Niceties

By Eleanor Burgess
Directed by Kimberly Senior
World Premiere Production
January 11 – February 10, 2019

They’re both liberal. They’re both women. They’re both brilliant.

But very quickly, discussions of grammar and Google turn to race and reputation. And before they know it, they’re in dangerous territory, facing stunning implications that can’t be undone.

The Washington Post hails it as “scintillating,” adding that it’s “one of the best plays about who gets to tell the story of America, and how.”
Ken Ludwig’s The Gods of Comedy
Directed by Amanda Dehnert
March 12 – 31, 2019
World Premiere Production

A young woman calls on the gods of Ancient Greece to save her love life—but it’s not the gods of love who show up to help…

McCarter favorite Ken Ludwig (Baskerville, Agatha Christie’s Murder on the Orient Express) is back with a hilariously divine new play filled with madcap mayhem, a touch of romance, and lots of laughs.

Sponsored by

Hospitality Sponsor: Residence Inn Marriott

Skylight
By David Hare
Directed by Emily Mann

Former lovers unexpectedly reunite years after the end of their passionate affair. Intimate conversations about their past—and present—turn explosive and the two question if they can ever be together again. Experience David Hare’s award-winning masterpiece on impossible love.

Sponsored by

Hospitality Sponsor: Residence Inn Marriott
Presented Series

McCarter is the crown jewel of all the cultural activities in this area, and we are grateful, and proud, to be associated with your company.

— McCarter patron

Momix
Music Series

From Eric Owens and Lawrence Brownlee to Jan Lisiecki, the 2018-2019 Music Series enjoyed another season of superb performances from all over the world. This season's landmark event included a special performance by Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s All-Star Piano Quartet.

The Music Series at McCarter is sponsored by The Edward T. Cone Foundation

6 
performances

4,320 
attendees

Jan Lisiecki

Midori

Jordi Savall & Le Concert des Nations performing Ofrena Musical
Dance Series

The 2018-2019 Dance Series featured the return of several familiar names, including BalletX, known as ‘the pride of Philadelphia’.

Also this season were notable performances by Jessica Lang Dance, Mark Morris Dance Group, and Farruquito.

The Dance Series at McCarter is sponsored by The Jerome Robbins Foundation.

McCarter honors us with a celebration of cultural and religious diversity found in electrifying evenings of music and theatrical works.

– McCarter patron

5 performances
2,771 attendees

(top) Mark Morris Dance Group
(bottom) BalletX
Signature Series

The Signature Series at McCarter is always an eclectic mix of world music, jazz and pop, spoken word, family performances, and less-easily categorized performances. This season’s highlights included: the perennial favorite The Hot Sardines, Mary Chapin Carpenter, David Sedaris, Bollywood Boulevard, Andy Borowitz, GATZ, Angelique Kidjo, Joan Baez, and many more.

The Signature Series at McCarter is sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies

The presentation of Harrison Greenbaum was made possible by the David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project.

Jazz in June

A newest addition to our Presented Series was McCarter’s second annual Jazz in June Festival, featuring artists such as: Cecile McLorin Salvant with Fred Hersch, Christian McBride and Tip City, Bill Frisell Trio, Bill Charlap Trip and Vijay Iyer Sextet.

For further information, please visit: mccarter.org
McCarter devotes significant time and resources to delivering in-school residencies that fulfill New Jersey core curriculum standards for theater arts learning. Underserved Title-1 schools in nearby Trenton are a particular focus. McCarter now delivers theatre arts curriculum at every level of the Trenton public school district: elementary, middle, and high school.

In-school residencies vary in length and content but all involve a professional teaching artist working in concert with school educators to develop lesson plans that meet the needs of individual classes and align with state standards for a theater arts curriculum.

In 2019, the McCarter Education staff and its corps of 28 teaching artists delivered 21 in-school residencies, of which 11 occurred in Trenton. Others were held in Princeton, New Brunswick, West Windsor, and at the Middlesex County Vocational Technical School.

McCarter dovetails the teaching it brings to local classrooms with resources provided by the annual Theater Series, and welcomes school groups to student matinees and discussions throughout the year.


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**Education**

- **7,328** students attending
- **11** student matinees
- **21** in-school residencies serving
- **2,120** students
- **364** students in after-school and summer camp classes
- **1,068** fully-subsidized student matinee tickets
- **$23,000** in scholarships

*Summer Camp – Musical Theatre – Matilda*
Engagement

Throughout the Theater Series, the McCarter Engagement team delivered pre-show “Inside Story” talks and post-show discussions specially-tailored to the themes and artistic decisions of each production. Plays focused on hot-button issues, such as Detroit ’67, warrant even greater time and attention by the Engagement staff to meet the questions and concerns raised by each audience.

Highlights include The Migration Plays.

Continuing McCarter’s tradition of producing timely, socially relevant work that engages with the central questions of our culture, McCarter partnered with Princeton University’s Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) on a new initiative in the model of the 2017/2018 Princeton and Slavery Plays.

McCarter commissioned five theater artists to write short plays inspired by the research and programming of the PIIRS research cohort “Migration: People and Cultures Across Borders.” The spring of 2018, these artists engaged with the Migrations cohort by attending seminars and symposia, meeting with scholars, and exploring the Princeton campus to create pieces that explore the nature of migration, how it is represented culturally, and the ways in which it shapes the world. The project culminated in April of 2019 with a public reading of the five plays at McCarter.

Commissioned Artists included: Adam Gwon, Martyna Majok, Heather Raffo, Mfoniso Udofia, Karen Zacarías.

The commissioning and public reading of The Migration Plays are part of the PIIRS Migration Research Lab. Support for The Migration Plays was provided by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

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2019 Post-Show Discussion

2019 McCarter Block Party
The 2018-2019 Season marks the seventh year that McCarter offered audiences the opportunity to attend Sensory-Friendly Performances, an inclusive “no expectations” theater outing for individuals on the autism spectrum, or with other sensory sensitivities, and their families.

This year, we held our first ever Sensory-Friendly Performance (SFP) of our annual holiday classic of *A Christmas Carol*. For this performance, McCarter consulted The Quaker School at Horsham to explore making this SFP as accessible as possible. After taking their expert recommendations into consideration, we welcomed over 800 audience members on December 28, 2019, including individuals on the autism spectrum and their families, to attend our annual holiday tradition. It was a joy to welcome so many people from our community and to introduce them to the magic of live theater.

Additionally, Laurie Berkner returned to McCarter with a special solo acoustic Sensory-Friendly Performance. Known as the “Pied Piper of Pre-Schoolers” Laurie Berkner is an industry unto herself. At this performance, we had over 600 audience members join us for our second largest Sensory-Friendly performance. Totaling over 1,500 audience members for the 2018-2019 season, (1,100 more patrons than the previous year) these were both by far the largest SFP audiences we have had to date.

McCarter’s Sensory-Friendly Performances are sponsored by

I couldn’t have asked for a better experience. Everything was so well planned to meet the needs of those with special needs and sensory differences.

– Patron

**Access to the Arts**

McCarter’s Access program is designed to break down any and all barriers to the work on our stages, and is motivated by our belief that the theater should be an inclusive, judgement-free environment. Patrons of all abilities will always be welcome and invited.

The Access to the Arts Program provides American Sign Language-interpreted performances, Braille and large-print programs, open captioning, audio described performances, hearing assistance devices, and sensory seminars.

The McCarter LAB

The McCarter LAB is a year-round creative incubator that provides key support to writers at all stages of their careers—cultivating meaningful artistic relationships and original works for McCarter’s main stages and future co-productions.

The play development process is polymorphous, and takes several different forms requiring several different steps to proceed. Commissioned playwrights work off-site and in solitude before a play is shared, revised, and re-shared in ever-widening circles. The McCarter LAB is present for playwrights at all stages of play development. Beyond funded commissions, McCarter offers at least three convening’s each year for playwrights to advance their work.

In the Writer’s Voice is an annual public event where artists read or perform from their works in progress. During the 2018-2019 Season, In the Writer’s Voice was held on April 4 and included readings by Emily Mann, Donja R. Love, Leah Nanako Winkler, Ross Baum, Jacqueline Goldfinger, and Siddarth Anand.

The annual LAB Spotlight Production is another opportunity for playwrights to advance their work before a live audience. This season we produced a LAB Spotlight Festival. The Spotlight Festival included three separate one or two day readings which were open to the public. This new format allowed us to engage with more artists. The readings included: Our Dear Dead Druglord by Alexis Scheer, Untitled Aging Play by Jiehae Park (McCarter Commission), and Potus by Selina Fillenger.

Lastly, McCarter welcomes 10 to 12 artists to Princeton each June to participate in the annual Sallie B. Goodman Artists’ Retreat. Artists have a few days together to convene, stage a reading, use University libraries, or just to think and to write. The 2019 retreat was held from June 12-19 and participants included Cesar Alvarez, John Augustine, Rachel Bonds, Donnetta Lavinia Grays, Denis O’Hare, Jiehae Park, Lisa Peterson, Max Posner, Sarah Ruhl, and Lucy Simon.

Special thanks to the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting new play development at McCarter Theatre Center.

We thank the following funders for their meaningful support of McCarter’s LAB programming: the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, the David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project, the Princeton University Humanities Council and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.

One thing I always find moving on these retreats is the intergenerational cross pollination. Now I am one of the elders! And I learn what’s going on from the young ones. I used to be a young one learning from one of the elders. This kind of thing NEVER happens in the American theater. It is SO RARE and beneficial.

– Sarah Ruhl, Sallie B Goodman Artist Retreat participant

For further information, please visit: mccarter.org
McCarter Theatre Center exists in the heart of the Princeton University Arts District, adjacent to the Lewis Center for the Arts and the Maya Lin public sculpture. We operate the 1,100 seat Matthews Theatre and the 360 seat Berlind Theatre leased from Princeton University with donated services, utilities and generous financial support from Princeton University. The University shares our spaces for student activities throughout the season.

The historic Princeton Triangle Club performs on the Matthews Theatre stage several times throughout the year. McCarter and Princeton have a long and rich history of partnership. McCarter staff often teach or guest lecture at the university’s Lewis Center for the Arts. Faculty members regularly participate as expert panelists, scholars, and strategic partners for activities related to our Theater Series and LAB events.

McCarter and Princeton University collaborate frequently on special initiatives in which students, scholars and professional artists intersect. Recent projects include: The Ground on Which We Stand symposium on August Wilson, The Every 28 Hours Project, The Princeton and Slavery Project, Memory and the Work of Art, the Maria Irene Fornes Institute Symposium, The Migration Plays and the atelier of The Connector.

(top left to right) Students perform in the Princeton Dance Festival, Questlove, cast of Princeton University Lewis Center for the Arts’ The Odyssey, students performing in the Princeton Dance Festival

The cast of The Connector
Professional Development at McCarter

McCarter has managed a season-long apprenticeship, or Emerging Leaders, program for post-collegiate theater arts professionals since Emily Mann became Artistic Director in 1990. Apprentices arrive at McCarter from throughout the country and live in shared housing while working alongside seasoned professionals. Many apprentices are ultimately hired by McCarter — or return in later years as contractors or as full-time employees. The apprentice program has provided real lifeblood for the theater. Apprentices also join an established McCarter apprentice alumni network which convenes in New York or in Princeton most seasons.

Volunteerism

Just as our Emerging Leaders program extends and supports the efforts of the theater’s professional staff, the well-established volunteer usher program brings added hands to McCarter when we need it most — on the afternoons and evenings when our seats are full of patrons! Volunteer ushers come to McCarter from every corner of the greater Princeton community and work in tandem with Front of House staff to welcome guests, distribute assisted listening devices, and assist in way-finding to seats and services within the theater.

Opportunities exist for corporate groups to serve as volunteer ushers for especially demanding performances, including performances of A Christmas Carol and our Sensory-Friendly performances.

McCarter extends a heartfelt thank you to the many community members who serve as volunteer ushers each season.
2019 Gala Angel Item Supporters

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2019 Gala Table Supporters

We would like to thank the following table hosts for their support of McCarter’s 2019 Gala featuring Leslie Odom Jr. We hope you’ll join us for our next Gala on April 25, 2020 featuring a performance by Michael Feinstein. For more information, please contact the Development Department at 609.258.6548.

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McCarter Theatre Center 2018–2019
Audited Statements of Financial Position
Approved by the Board of Trustees on November 14, 2019.

Earned Income
Subscription & Ticket Income $5,734,746
Other Earned Income
   Partnerships & Education 664,713
   Concessions (net of expenses) $155,370
   Building rental fees (net of expenses) $204,377
   Investment interest and distribution $1,260,013
   Miscellaneous $21,692
Total Earned Income $8,040,911

Contributed Income
Individual contributions $1,687,968
Corporate contributions $226,500
Foundation contributions $500,000
Government grants $672,760
Gala revenue (net of expenses) $370,048
Endowment contributions $130,986
Princeton University contributions $502,477
Princeton University In-Kind contributions $839,368
Total Contributed Income $4,930,107

Expenses
Administration $2,775,338
Production & Marketing $3,816,531
Theater & Presented Events $6,744,947
Total Expenses* $13,336,816

Operating Surplus/(Deficit)
Total Operating Surplus/(Deficit) ($365,798)

**Exclusive of depreciation and unrealized gains/losses
A complete audited financial statement with accompanying notes and report of
The Mercadien Group, Certified Public Accountants is available on Guidestar.
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**As of March 11, 2019**

#### Maestros
($75,000+)
- The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation
- New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State
- Princeton University
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*Leslie Odom Jr.*
Individual Giving
As of March 15, 2019

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111,000 Ticket Holders enjoyed

474 Artists & Performers throughout

168 Theater Series Performances of

6 plays including

2 World Premieres and

1 production of A Christmas Carol with a 30+ member community ensemble

56 Presented Events

14 LAB Readings & Workshops

197 Engagement Event Sessions

6,908 students attended 11 Student Matinees

2,120 students served by 21 In-School Residencies

$23,000 in scholarships to summer camps and after-school classes