



Avant Bard Theatre - Office
5712 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22205

Avant Bard Theatre – Performances
Gunston Arts Center – Theatre 2
2700 S Lang St.
Arlington, VA 22206

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2025

Avant Bard Announces 36th Season: Celebrating Immigration, Resisting Authoritarianism.

Arlington, VA — Avant Bard Theatre is proud to announce its **36th Season**, which interrogates both the classics and our current days. We begin with our **10th Annual Scripts in Play Festival**, which features:

- A refreshing take on the Pygmalion myth that explores how AI is affecting our humanity – ***The Robotics of Love and Longing*** by Germaine Shames;
- A harrowing study of the role rehearsing the classics has in facing down dark forces – ***As We Like It*** by Oded Gross; and
- An envisioning of the mythic Orion as a trans man, whose loss leaves the goddess Artemis with a very human grief – ***Overcoming Orion*** by Abby Dunbar.

Then, starting in early 2026, Avant Bard delivers two dynamic spring productions: ***Two Gentlemen of Killarney***, a timely adaptation by Séamus Miller (*The Margriad*, *Coriolanus*) that delivers an immigrant love-comedy with live traditional Irish music; and ***Ghost Limb***—by Marisela Treviño Orta and directed by Elena Velasco—a haunting examination of authoritarianism set during Argentina’s Dirty War that draws poetic inspiration from the myth of Persephone and Demeter.

Season Schedule:

- **10th Annual Scripts in Play Festival** (Oct. 2025) A decade of championing bold new works, this milestone festival features staged readings, talkbacks, and a celebration of playwriting:
 - ***The Robotics of Love and Longing*** by Germaine Shames, directed by Kathleen Barth
Friday, Oct. 3, 7:30 pm, The Schnider Gallery
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2:00 pm, Mason Exhibitions – Arlington
 - ***As We Like It*** by Oded Gross, directed by Tracey Erbacher
Thursday, Oct. 9, 7:30 pm, The Filling Station (live music starts at 6:30)
Sunday, Oct. 12, 2:00 pm, MoCA Arlington
 - ***Overcoming Orion*** by Abby Dunbar, directed by Audra Jacobs
Friday, Oct. 17, 7:30 pm, The Schnider Gallery
Sunday, Oct. 19, 2:00 pm, Mason Exhibitions – Arlington
- ***Two Gentlemen of Killarney*** (Press: March 8) A timely immigrant love-comedy with music. Adapted from Shakespeare’s *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, the story follows friends-turned-rivals from Ireland to America during the Great Famine, blending Shakespeare’s wit with traditional Irish tunes and delivering a dynamic celebration of love, immigration, and humanity.
- ***Ghost Limb*** (Press: May 3) A haunting examination of authoritarianism set during Argentina’s Dirty War that draws poetic inspiration from the Persephone and Demeter myth. When Consuelo’s son is “disappeared” by the military, she discovers a psychic link between her injured arm and her tortured child—and races to find him before it’s too late.

Founding Artists
TJ Edwards
Brian Hemmingsen
Christopher Henley

Staff
Kathleen Akerley
Sara Barker
Josie Palmarini
Alyssa Sanders

Board of Directors
Edgar Ndjatou, President
Peter Threadgill, Secretary
Sean McCarthy, Treasurer



In recent years the company has been asking ourselves: “What part, if any, does theatre—in particular, Avant Bard’s brand of theatre—have to play in resisting the nihilism, intolerance, and authoritarianism plaguing the world?” This season is our answer. May it inspire the spirit of resistance.

Tickets are available at avantbard.org. Press tickets via:

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Avant Bard produces thought-provoking theatre. We are dedicated to interrogating the classics and classical themes via innovative, bold approaches in intimate settings. Gratefully in its 36th season, Avant Bard has delivered high-quality, diverse, and accessible arts to the Washington, D.C. region since 1990. Learn more here: www.avantbard.org.

Find us on social media:

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<https://instagram.com/avantbardtheatre>

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