Yale Educational Travel

28th Anniversary!

Festival Theater, Stratford Festival

August 9 – 17, 2018

Best of Ontario Theater

Murray Biggs

Special YET Lecturer
English and Theater Studies
Dear Yale Traveler

For this 28th consecutive year (!) of our flagship theater experience, we’ve scheduled an unusual mix of classical, modern, and contemporary works at the two renowned theater festivals in southern Ontario, benefitting from the seven venues operated between them.

We begin, as always, in Stratford, combining two very different plays, *The Comedy of Errors* and *Julius Caesar* from Shakespeare’s first decade, with two modern works: Oscar Wilde’s lesser-known society melodrama, *An Ideal Husband*, and the Italian family comedy *Napoli Milionaria*.

On our journey to Niagara-on-the-Lake, we break at a country house hotel for a sumptuous lunch and a garden tour before arriving at the elegant Queen’s Landing Inn. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the charming former colonial capital, the Shaw Festival offers an unusual program of Shakespeare’s *Henry V* (is this an impertinent choice?) in harness with *O’Flaherty, VC*, the house playwright’s one-act reflection on World War I, and the quasi-musical *Oh What a Lovely War!* (the same war), alongside two other short plays by Shaw, and *Stage Kiss* by the contemporary American writer Sarah Ruhl.

The Niagara Peninsula, with its unique climate, offers the extra attraction of some of the world’s finest vineyards.

I look forward to seeing you north of the border in a few months from now.

Greetings,

Murray Biggs
Special YET Lecturer, English and Theater Studies

What to Expect

- **Stimulating** group discussions led by Professor Murray Biggs
- **Classic** and modern plays that will reward thorough consideration
- **Nine** plays from the Stratford and Shaw Festivals
- **Lively** commentary on the plays from members of your group
- **Post** performance chat over wine and cheese
- **Transportation** to and from theaters
- **Gracious** accommodations including breakfast at the Parlour Inn and Queen’s Landing hotels
- **Discussions** with an actor or director of two of the plays

www.yaleedtravel.org/ontario18
Yale Study Leader

Murray Biggs

Murray Biggs, semi-retired Adjunct Associate Professor of English and Theater Studies at Yale, is known throughout the campus and among alumni everywhere for his dynamic teaching style that inspires great enthusiasm and active participation. He has led week-long theater seminars in various locations: in London; at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario, and at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake; as well as in Ireland and at the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. He has also offered theater weekends in major cities in the U.S., most regularly in New York City. Although retired from regular teaching, Professor Murray Biggs is still widely active at and for Yale.

Professor Biggs was born in England, brought up in South Africa, and returned to England as a Rhodes Scholar to take his second degree (in English) at Oxford, where he afterwards taught for two years. He later studied acting and for a time performed professionally in Boston. He worked at MIT for ten years, mainly as founder and first Director of the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble. He also taught at Wellesley, Berkeley, and the University of Connecticut before joining the Yale faculty in 1986. He has published many articles and reviews, especially about Shakespeare and his contemporaries in performance. In 1991 he edited a collection of essays, The Arts of Performance in Elizabethan and Early Stuart Drama. He has directed over 40 plays, a third of them from the English Renaissance.

Upcoming Trips

Sellout
Theater programs with Murray Biggs usually sell out quickly. To ensure your participation, return the registration form with payment promptly. Online registration is the fastest way to secure your place: YaleEdTravel.org/ontario18.

Cancellation Policy
The deposit less a $300 per person administrative fee is refundable until May 3, 2018, upon receipt of a written cancellation at Yale Educational Travel. There are no refunds after May 3, 2018. We strongly urge participants to purchase travel insurance.
**ITINERARY**
**AUGUST 9-19, 2018**

**ARRIVE STRATFORD**  
*Thursday, August 9*
Independent arrival at the Parlour Inn hotel in Stratford. Welcome reception and dinner at the Parlour Inn.

**STRATFORD**  
*Friday, August 10*
Morning discussion. Backstage tour of a theater or tour of costume warehouse (schedule pending). Afternoon performance of *The Comedy of Errors*, one of William Shakespeare’s early plays. It is his shortest and one of his most farcical comedies. Evening performance of *Julius Caesar*, a tragedy by William Shakespeare believed to have been written in 1599. One of several plays written by Shakespeare based on true events from Roman history. Dinner on your own.

**STRATFORD**  
*Saturday, August 11*
Morning discussion. Afternoon performance of *An Ideal Husband*, an 1895 play by Oscar Wilde which revolves around blackmail and political corruption, and touches on the themes of public and private honour. Followed by an optional dinner at a local restaurant.

**STRATFORD**  
*Sunday, August 12*
Morning discussion. Afternoon performance of *Napoli Milionaria!*, Eduardo de Filippo’s sparkling and warm-hearted comedy about a Neapolitan family prospering in the black market during the Second World War. Post-performance discussion over wine and cheese. Dinner on your own.

**TRAVEL DAY**  
*Monday, August 13*
Morning discussion followed by departure for Niagara-on-the-Lake by bus (or in your own car). Visit to Langdon Hall for lunch and garden tour en route. Afternoon arrival at Queen’s Landing.

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**  
*Wednesday, August 15*
Morning discussion. Luncheon performance of Bernard Shaw’s *O’Flaherty V.C.*. Young Dennis O’Flaherty has been sent back from the front. The only problem? He neglected to tell his Irish Nationalist mother he’s fighting for the English. Afternoon performance of *Stage Kiss* by Pulitzer Prize finalist playwright Sarah Ruhl. In this modern romantic comedy, two bitter exes are cast in the same play as passionate lovers. Will they strangle each other? Dinner is on your own.

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**  
*Thursday, August 16*
Morning discussion. Afternoon performance of *Oh What a Lovely War!* by Joan Littlewood and her ensemble at the East London Theatre Workshop, as well as Charles Chilton. *This fiercely funny, piercing musical will make you see war in a new light.* Farewell dinner at the Queen’s Landing Hotel. Evening performance of *Of Marriage & Men*, a knee-slapping double bill of two short Bernard Shaw plays on marriage.

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**  
*Friday, August 17*
Independent departure following breakfast.  
*Note: Itinerary subject to change.*

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"I have traveled with Murray at least eleven times. Each trip has been well organized and I have enjoyed his leadership and the friendship of fellow Yale participants! The educational program invites you to study the plays and consider your own reactions to them in discussions with Murray Biggs and the other participants, some of whom are specialists in the theater genre."

- 2016 Best of Ontario Theater Participant
What is Included:

• Tickets to nine plays, selected by Professor Murray Biggs
• Series of lectures and discussions.
• Scripts of plays to read in advance of the productions.
• Four nights at the Parlour Inn in Stratford, including breakfast.
• Four nights at the Queen’s Landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake, including breakfast.
• Welcome and farewell reception and dinner.
• Lunch and garden tour at Langdon Hall.
• Tour one of the largest costume warehouses in North America -or- tour the Festival Theater backstage.
• All taxes.
• Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assistance

What is Not Included:

• Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax etc.
• Any Insurance.
• Any meals or beverages that are not specified in the above inclusions.
• International airfares.
• Expenses caused by factors beyond our control like rail and air plane delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, taxes, lost luggage, etc.

Why Theater with Yale Educational Travel?

"Murray was such an affirming discussion leader, making everyone feel as though their contributions were invaluable. The varieties of plays and venues were very enriching. The intellectual component - Murray’s script analysis and suggestions of what to look for in the directors’ interpretations - exceeded expectations. My husband graduated in 1965 and since then he has been a Harvard faculty member. This experience reminded me of the warm collegiality we used to feel back in the day."

- Ginny Fruhan
2016 London Spring Theater Participant

"With the strong encouragement of Professor Biggs to read all the play texts before beginning the tour and to participate actively in the morning discussion sessions, I related to the tour as similar to taking a theater course at Yale with Professor Biggs, but without the burden of tests or papers. This is an educational experience I very much enjoyed."

- Donna McCampbell
2013 London Theater Participant

"Murray was amazing and brilliant as an instructor and as a facilitator of a memorable, worthwhile educational experience. He has my highest possible regard. The hotels were extremely comfortable and conveniently located, and all of the tours and meals were delightful."

- Jenny Katz
2016 Best of Ontario Participant
Program Cost

The base cost this program is:
$4,045
(based on double occupancy)

Single Supplement:
$985 (limited availability)

A deposit of $1,000 per person
is due with the registration form. Final payment is due on

Group size limited to
35 participants

Note: Itinerary subject to change.
MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL
The right is retained to decline, to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”) is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION
YET must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; ship charters; communication expenses; development/promotional expenses; and loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to YET, and are subject to a $300 non-refundable administrative fee. At the time YET receives written notification of cancellation, the following charges will apply: cancellations received more than 91 days prior to departure, full refund less the non-refundable administrative fee; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 90 days of departure.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Yale Educational Travel, of which $300 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 120 days prior to departure. Mail to: The Association of Yale Alumni, Yale Educational Travel, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or call: 203-432-1952.

Terms and Conditions
Stage Kiss
To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to YET. Final payment is due May 3, 2018.

1) name as on passport
date of birth yale connection
passport origin relationship to other guest

2) name as on passport
date of birth yale connection
passport origin relationship to other guest

Contact Information
address
city/state/zip
primary phone
secondary phone
e-mail

To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to “Yale University” to Yale Educational Travel, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010.
Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.

Payment Options
- [ ] pay by check made out to “Yale University”
- [ ] pay by credit card to:
  - [ ] amex
  - [ ] visa
  - [ ] mastercard
  - [ ] discover card

Accommodations
- [ ] I wish to have a single (limited availability – please call)
- [ ] I will share accommodations with:

Travel Options
- [ ] I/We confirm that I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility section of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

Signature(s): ____________________________ Date: ________________

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www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs
Be part of a Yale tradition...

“Murray is a gift. We have been on other Yale Educational trips and he is by far the best. It is really an educational experience as well as a marvelously enjoyable one.”