

THEATERMANIA

THEATER NEWS

Brandon J. Dirden and Crystal A. Dickinson to Star in *A Raisin in the Sun*

The Broadway spouses will lead the cast of the Lorraine Hansberry classic, which opens Two River Theater's 2017-18 season.

Hayley Levitt • New Jersey



*Crystal A. Dickinson and Brandon J. Dirden will lead the cast of *A Raisin in the Sun* at Two River Theater. (© David Gordon)*

Two River Theater has announced its 2017-18 season lineup, opening with Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* (September 9-October 8). The cast will feature real-life spouses Brandon J. Dirden (*Jitney*) and Crystal A. Dickinson (*You Can't Take It With You*) as Walter Lee Younger and Ruth Younger with direction by Carl Cofield.

Next will be Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners *The Importance of Being Earnest* (November 11-December 3). Tony Award-nominated actor Michael Cumpsty (*The End of the Rainbow*) returns to Two River, following his production of *The Lion in Winter*, to direct.

The world premiere of *El Coquí Espectacular and the Bottle of Doom* (January 6-February 4, 2018) will follow, written by Matt Barbot and directed by José Zayas. The play was read as part of Two River's 2016 Crossing Borders festival of new Latino plays.

Five-time Obie Award winner David Greenspan (*Once Upon a Mattress*) will then present his stage adaptation of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (February 17-March 18, 2018). Greenspan will also star in the production.

Next up is Brian Friel's 1992 Tony-winning play *Dancing at Lughnasa* (April 14-May 13, 2018). Jessica Stone returns to Two River, where she previously helmed *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Absurd Person Singular*.

Closing out the season will be Golden Globe-winning actor Regina Taylor's *Oo-bla-dee* (June 9-July 1, 2018). The play won the 2000 American Theatre Critics/Steinberg New Play Award when it premiered at Chicago's Goodman Theatre, and will now be revived with new music by two-time Obie-winning jazz composer Diedre L. Murray and direction by Tony Award winner Ruben Santiago-Hudson (*Jitney*).

Two River's 2017-18 Theater for Young Audiences season will also include *Skeletons: A Day of the Dead Bedtime Story* (October 12-15), *The Rainbow Fish* (December 15-18), *A Little Shakespeare* (March 6-11, 2018), and *The Young King* (April 20-22, 2018).

For tickets, click on the title of a show above.

[For more information about Two River Theater's 2017-18 season, click here.](#)