

## Gammage 2009-2010 - A Great Act to Follow

Written by Written by David M. Brown / Photographed by Dino Tonn

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**ASU Gammage this year is once again the ticket for great Valley theater.**



The 2009–2010 Broadway Across America – Arizona season includes seven shows and three special engagements, including “Mary Poppins” and the first “Phantom of the Opera” at Gammage in five years. The Frank Lloyd Wright-designed ASU Gammage is at Mill Avenue and Apache Boulevard in Tempe on the campus of Arizona State University.

“Every season at Gammage is special, but this, our 20th season for Broadway Across America provides a particularly engaging selection of shows and special engagements,” says Colleen Jennings-Roggensack, executive director of Arizona State University Gammage and assistant vice president for Cultural Affairs.

The state’s largest theatrical subscription series begins Sept. 22–27 with “Legally Blonde — The Musical,” starring Becky Gulsvig, the hot-pink blonde who brings new tones, and tunes, to the crimson halls of Harvard Law.



Seduction, despair and superlative music return to Gammage Oct. 28–Nov. 22, with Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Masterpiece, “Phantom of the Opera.” Directed by Harold Prince, it features Tim Martin Gleason in the title role, Trista Moldovan as Christine and Sean MacLaughlin as Raoul, Vicomte de Chagny.

“Little House on the Prairie,” Dec. 8–13, stars Melissa Gilbert — Laura for 10 years in the television series — as Ma, who guides the family through pioneer struggles and triumphs. Directed by Francesca Zambello, the show features music by Academy Award® winner Rachel Portman.

“Annie” is “Leapin’ Lizards!” to arrive at Gammage, Dec. 29–Jan. 3, 2010. Madison Kerth sparkles in the title role, and David Barton is Oliver Warbucks. Songs include “Easy Street,” “N.Y.C.” and the ebulliently optimistic “Tomorrow.”

Pulitzer Prize and Tony® Award winner, “August: Osage County,” plays Gammage, Jan. 5–10, 2010. Directed by Anna D. Shapiro, the drama stars Academy Award-winner Estelle Parsons as the volatile matriarch of the Weston family.

Even if you can’t spell “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious,” you’ll want to see Scarlett Strallen in the lead role of the Tony® Award-winning “Mary Poppins,” Feb. 11–28. The family favorite is produced by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh and includes the equally delightful, and spellable songs, “A Spoonful of Sugar” and “Let’s Go Fly a Kite.”



Magical umbrellas give way to hilarious people and puppets in “Avenue Q,” March 9-14, 2010 — the Tony® Award-winner for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book. It’s about trying to make it in NYC with big dreams and a tiny bank account. ASU Gammage advises discretion for adult content.

The season’s final special engagement, “Jesus Christ Superstar,” returns to Gammage, April 6–11, 2010, with Tim Neeley in the title role. The masterwork from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber includes lyrics such as “I Don’t Know How to Love Him,” “Hosanna,” “Everything’s Alright” and “Superstar.”

Next, hitch your penchant for suspense and a little craziness to ASU Gammage, April 20–25, for twice Tony® Award-winning “The 39 Steps,” which mixes the Alfred Hitchcock classic with a pinch of Monty Python. Watch your step: An extraordinarily talented cast of four plays more than

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150 characters.

The season ends, June 15–20, just where it should, with four-time Tony® Award-winning “In the Heights.” It’s set in Manhattan, in a magical place resonant with three generations of music.

To subscribe or for more information on ASU Gammage, including this season’s “Gammage Beyond” productions as well as the new mini-subscription program, (you pick four or more productions at a reduced package rate), call 480.965.3434 or 1.800.982.ARTS(2787) or visit [asugammage.com](http://asugammage.com).