



Geva
Theatre

25th Anniversary

proudly presents

Picasso
at the
Lapin Agile

by Steve Martin

September 2 to October 5, 1997

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Geva
Theatre
25th Anniversary

Mark Cuddy
Artistic Director

Timothy J. Shields
Managing Director

presents

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

by
Steve Martin

Directed by
Mark Cuddy

Scenic Design
Rosario Provenza

Costume Design
Maria Marrero

Lighting Design
F. Mitchell Dana

Sound Design
Gregg Coffin

Stage Manager
Charles H. Varin

Asst. Stage Manager
Frank Cavallo

Stage Management
Apprentice
Kim Pohlig

Casting
Elissa Myers, CSA
Paul Fouquet, CSA

Co-produced by
The Chase Manhattan Bank
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THE CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Freddy	DAVID SILBERMAN
Gaston.....	ANDREW J. TRAISTER
Germaine	PEGGY COSGRAVE
Albert Einstein	GREGG COFFIN
Suzanne/The Countess/A Female Admirer	BRIGITT MARKUSFELD
Sagot	SKIP GREER
Pablo Picasso	MARK ZEISLER
Charles Dabernow Schmendiman	BILL KOCIS
A Singer	JEB BROWN

The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

THE SETTING

A bar, the Lapin Agile, in Paris, 1904.

One year later, Albert Einstein published the "Special Theory of Relativity." Three years later, Pablo Picasso painted "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon."

There will be one twenty-minute intermission.

Special Thanks to **US Airways.**



This performance is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, with additional private support from NYNEX. Geva is supported by public funds from Monroe County and the City of Rochester.

Geva Theatre and this event are also made possible with private funds from The Shubert Foundation, Inc.

This theatre operates under an agreement between the League Of Resident Theatres (LORT), a consortium of regional theatres throughout the nation, and Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States, United Scenic Artists and the Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers.

Geva Theatre is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for non-profit, professional theatres.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Absinthe: Among history's most notorious liquors — crystal clear in the bottle, potent emerald green in the glass and 144 proof. First used in ancient Greece for its healing powers, absinthe became a symbol of decadence in 19th century France. It also was a scapegoat for the social and political ills of the period, leading to its ultimate prohibition. Sipped by many artists, absinthe-related scenes appear in many classic paintings.

Appollinaire (1880-1918): French poet and leading figure in avante-garde literary and artistic circles.

Blue Period (1902-1904): The time when Picasso first evolved a manner of his own, painting with cobalt blue mixed with indigo to render the feeling of despair and loneliness. Picasso at this time was a poor, struggling artist, who had just endured the suicide of a friend. The subjects of the Blue Period are often the life of the artist as a Bohemian and an outcast.



Gustav Courbet (1819-1877): French painter known for his realistic depiction of everyday scenes.

Cubism: The style of painting begun in 1907 by Picasso, characterized by the reduction and fragmentation of natural forms into abstract, often geometric structures usually rendered as a set of discrete planes.

"Les Femmes d'Alger (O. K. G.):" Painted by Picasso in 1907, featuring five nude women. The title was given to the painting by Picasso's friends, after a notorious place of prostitution. It was the first of the Cubist works. One of the demoiselles was perceived to be "the first of all figures in Western art to have been painted from all sides at once."

Henri Matisse (1869-1954): French artist who employed pure color, simple shapes and an exquisite sense of design to produce paintings and collages.

Max Planck: Began work at the University of Munich in 1880, at age 22. Planck and Einstein had been in correspondence since 1900, and Planck was increasingly impressed with the man who had boldly taken Planck's quantum theory into fresh fields. They met for the first time in 1909, at a conference in Salzberg, where Einstein gave his first major "invited paper."

Raphael (1483-1520): Italian painter whose works, including religious subjects, portraits and frescoes, exemplify the ideals of the High Renaissance.

"Special Theory of Relativity": Published by Einstein in 1905. This book discussed his new theory on a reinterpretation of the classical principle of relativity, namely that the laws of physics had to have the same form in any frame of reference. The theory invoked that $E=mc^2$, showing that the emission of energy in the form of light causes a change of mass.

Titian (1488-1576): Italian painter who introduced vigorous colors and the compositional use of backgrounds to the Venetian schools.

The Real Lapin Agile in Paris, France

Although Steve Martin's play is fictitious, it is true that Picasso did hang out in a Paris bistro called the Lapin Agile ("Nimble Rabbit") — his painting of it, "Au Lapin Agile," sold for \$40 million in 1990.

Martin has described the play as an hour-and-a-half of his personal musings about the question: "What if Picasso and Einstein met in a bar when they were twenty-something, right before they made their breakthrough achievements?"

However, amidst the fiction, Martin, an art collector and painter himself, cleverly has woven actual people into the storyline:

- **Frédé:** He was the owner of the Lapin Agile in the early 1900s. Frédéric's daughter Margot and her tame crow are the subjects of a drawing and a pastel, "Woman with a Crow," done in 1904. Picasso also gave Frédéric a painting, "At the Lapin Agile," to hang in the cafe in 1905. In it he casts himself, at this time age 24, as a Harlequin and Ramon Pichot's wife, Germaine, as his companion. Frédéric is in the background playing the guitar.

- **Germaine:** Germaine Gargallo was a Spanish model, who lived with Ramon Pichot in the same building as Picasso. A former studio mate of Picasso's in Barcelona, Casagemas, had committed suicide over Germaine.

- **Sagot:** Clovis Sagot was a former circus clown who had become an art dealer. He displayed art at the pharmacy he owned, which became a hang out for artists.



The Lapin Agile as it appears today



"Au Lapin Agile," Paris, 1904-1905



Interior of the Lapin Agile, c.1905

"One must not forget that the reality of the 20th century is not the reality of the 19th century, not at all and Picasso was the only one in painting who felt it, the only one . . . and consequently his struggle was terrifying, terrifying for himself and for the others, because he had nothing to help him, the past did not help him, nor the present, he had to do it all alone, and as in spite of much strength he is often very weak, he consoled himself and allowed himself to be almost seduced by other things which led him more or less astray."

– Gertrude Stein (1959)
"Picasso"

The Artistic Company

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JEB BROWN (*A Singer*) This is his Geva Theatre debut. Broadway: Debut at age 10, as a no-neck monster in Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and later appeared in the colossal flop *Bring Back Birdie*; Regional: Steppenwolf, Old Globe, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Kennedy Center, Dallas Theatre Center,

founding member of The Evidence Room in Los Angeles; Television: "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," "Dave's World," "Phenom," "Hunter," "Jack's Place," "Gabriel's Fire," "All My Children" and "One Life to Live"; Film: "I'll Do Anything," "Renaissance Man" and "Working Girl." A Yale graduate and a fast-food enthusiast, he currently resides in New York City.

GREGG COFFIN (*Albert Einstein*) Geva Theatre: *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Syracuse and Dromio of Ephesus); Regional: Oregon Shakespeare Festival (*The House of Blue Leaves*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Henry V*), Shakespeare Santa Cruz (*Twelfth Night*, *Pericles*), Shakespeare in Santa Fe (*The Comedy of Errors*) and Sacramento Theatre Company (*The Mousetrap*, *Lonely Planet*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Mandrake*, *Life's a Dream*, *TBone N Weasel*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Tavern*). Mr. Coffin holds a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College and an M.F.A. from the Professional Actor Training Program at Southern Methodist University.



PEGGY COSGRAVE (*Germaine*) Geva Theatre: *State of the Union* (Norah / Lulubelle Alexander) and *Later Life* (Sally, Marion, Nancy, Ester and Judith); Broadway: *The Nerd*, *Born Yesterday*, *The Shadowbox*, *Suddenly Last Summer*; Off-Broadway: *Sandbox*, directed by the author, Edward Albee; Off-Off-Broadway:

the original production of *Take Me Back to the Five and Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean*; National tours: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Tribute*, *A Couple of White Chicks*; Regional: *Picnic* at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, directed by Ann Bogart, *Crimes of the Heart* at the Onley Theatre, for which she earned a Helen Hayes Award nomination, *Angel Street* with David McCallum, and *Season's Greetings* and *3 Viewings* at Buffalo's Studio Arena Theatre last season. Ms. Cosgrave recently performed a play reading of *Homeward Angel* with Noah Wyle of TV's "ER." Her next stop after Geva will be Studio Arena Theatre, where she will portray Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

SKIP GREER (*Sagot*) Geva Theatre: *State of the Union* (Spike McManus); Regional: Seven seasons as a member of the resident acting company with Sacramento Theatre Company (Chris in *All My Sons*, Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, title role in *Richard III*), eight seasons with the San Jose Repertory Company (three productions as Lou Cohn in 1940s *Radio Hour*, Gunnar in *Vikings*, Binion in *Room Service*), four seasons with Oregon Shakespeare Festival (gentleman caller in *The Glass Menagerie*), American Conservatory Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts; Television: "L.A. Law," "VR5," "The Young and the Restless" and five seasons as Randy Walker on "The Bold and the Beautiful." Film: Arthur Pulier in "Bloodhounds." He has toured Europe, Africa, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia and the Cook Islands, both teaching and performing. Mr. Greer is Geva's Director of Education. Last season he directed Geva's production of *Beast on the Moon*. He wishes to thank his wife for her continued help on this big adventure.



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