

# Rousuck's Review: Contemporary American Theater Festival

By [Tom Hall](#), [J. Wynn Rousuck](#) & [Rob Sivak](#) & Margot Kohler • Jul 18, 2019



It's Thursday, and theater critic [J. Wynn Rousuck](#) joins us for another of her weekly reviews of the regional stage. Today, she spotlights the six plays being presented in rotating repertory at this year's [Contemporary American Theater Festival](#), a showcase for important new work held annually since 1991 on the campus of Shepherd University in historic Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

The six plays at this year's Festival are:

[My Lord What a Night](#) by Deborah Brevoort, an account of the real-life friendship struck up on a fateful evening in 1937 between two legendary icons: singer Marian Anderson and Princeton astrophysicist Albert Einstein; [Support Group for Men](#), a play by Ellen Fairey about the changing definitions of male identity; [A Welcome Guest](#) by Michael Weller, another world premiere commissioned for this year's Contemporary American Theater Festival -- and directed by Festival founder Ed Herendeen -- that explores intolerance, insanity and how much we have in common with our enemies; [Wrecked](#), playwright Greg Kalleres's tale of the isolating power of guilt; [Chester Bailey](#), a play by Joseph Dougherty about

the resilience of the human mind; and [Antonio's Song/I Was Dreaming of a Son](#), a semi-autobiographical narrative that challenges stereotypes of manhood, race and fatherhood, written by Dael Orlandersmith and Antonio Edwards Suarez. Mr. Suarez also performs solo in the play's title role.

**The 29th annual Contemporary American Theater Festival** continues at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, **through Sunday, July 28th**. For information about the Festival schedule and tickets, click [here](#).