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## A Transformed Baltimore Center Stage Reopens After Its Historic \$28 Million Renovation

### *Fact Sheet*

After a year-long, \$28 million building renovation, Baltimore Center Stage will reopen to the public on March 3, which is also opening night of the theater's production of *The White Snake*.

"We've created more opportunities for art making and community building, with new public spaces to gather before and after shows and state-of-the-art performance spaces with the best in theater design and technology," said Baltimore Center Stage Managing Director Michael Ross. "We're thrilled to reopen our doors and welcome the community to experience our remarkable transformation."

#### **Project partners**

- Architect: Cho Benn Holback Associates ([www.cbhassociates.com](http://www.cbhassociates.com))
- Theater design (Head Theater): Charcoalblue ([www.charcoalblue.com](http://www.charcoalblue.com))
- Contractor: Whiting-Turner ([www.whiting-turner.com](http://www.whiting-turner.com))
- Branding and signage: Abbott Miller of Pentagram ([www.pentagram.com](http://www.pentagram.com))

#### **Project highlights**

- **Peter Culman Plaza**, with a complete refurbishment of original iron doors and entry arch dedicated to long-time Baltimore Center Stage Managing Director Peter Culman, recently deceased.
- First-floor **Deering Lobby** featuring the **Marilyn Meyerhoff Box Office and the Sherman Café & Bar**. The dramatically reimagined first floor lobby will hold a concierge box office and redesigned bars and cafes. The central two-story atrium leads to a second-floor dining area, new and remodeled restrooms, flexible lounge spaces, and areas outfitted with the latest technology for projections, community talk-backs, forums, and live-streaming events.
- **The Pearlstone Theater** on the first floor has been updated with new lighting and sound capabilities and improved HVAC systems.
- Baltimore Center Stage's new pre-show restaurant vendor is Flavor, a Mount Vernon restaurant owned by Julia and Vanna Belton. **Flavor at Baltimore Center Stage** will serve lunch or dinner beginning two hours prior to each performance. Entrees, small plates, beer, wine and coffee will be served on the

theater's second floor Marilyn Meyerhoff Mezzanine dining space. Small plates will be served at the first floor Sherman Café & Bar, along with a full bar.

- **Completely Redesigned Head Theater.** The Head Theater has been completely redesigned and features a seating plan with multiple configurations—including four variations of thrust, two variations of end stage/proscenium, in the round, film/lecture style, and promenade—so theater seating can potentially be different for every show based on the demands of the productions. The capacity of the Head Theater ranges from 215 to 412 depending on the configuration.
- **Deering Lounge.** This new lounge on the fourth floor outside the Head Theater features restored windows, a full bar, seating, and projection technology. The brand new **Nancy K. Roche Bar** in the Deering Lounge will provide full bar service and light snacks.
- **The Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown Education Center.** For the first time, the Education Department will have its own dedicated space with a large studio for classes and workshops, allowing Baltimore Center Stage to triple the number of students the theater serves.
- **The Third Space**—a new 99-seat theater. This space will allow Baltimore Center Stage to produce and perform new work and attract top-tier playwrights and young voices who are looking for appropriate spaces to workshop their new pieces. The theater will also serve as a venue for Community Programs & Education workshops, family productions, and presentations.
- **Terry H. Morgenthaler Costume Shop.** Now all the costume work can be done in one brand new space. The Costume Shop also includes a new dye room and fitting room.
- The historic painted windows in the **Nancy K. Roche Chapel** were fully restored, and the room includes a new projection screen and updated lighting.
- The theater now has two world-class rehearsal spaces. The **Jay Andrus Rehearsal Hall** has been updated and features soaring ceilings and abundant natural light. **The Jay and Sharon Smith Rehearsal Studio** is a brand new rehearsal space that is perfect for smaller groups of actors and/or musicians.
- Replacement of the building's core systems, such as HVAC, electrical and plumbing, which were near the end of expected life span.

### **About Baltimore Center Stage**

Baltimore Center Stage is a professional, nonprofit institution committed to entertaining, engaging and enriching audiences through bold, innovative and thought-provoking classical and contemporary theater.

Named the State Theater of Maryland in 1978, Baltimore Center Stage has steadily grown as a leader in the national regional theater scene. Under the leadership of Artistic

Director Kwame Kwei-Armah OBE and Managing Director Michael Ross, Baltimore Center Stage is committed to creating and presenting a diverse array of world premieres and exhilarating interpretations of established works.

Baltimore Center Stage believes in access for all—creating a welcoming environment for everyone who enters its theater doors and, at the same time, striving to meet audiences where they are. In addition to its Mainstage, Off Center and Family Series productions in the historic Mount Vernon neighborhood, Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations among a global audience through digital initiatives, which explore how technology and the arts intersect. The theater also nurtures the next generation of artists and theatergoers through the Young Playwrights Festival, Student Matinee Series and many other educational programs for students, families and professionals.

#### **Baltimore Center Stage by the Numbers**

- **100,000:** annual audience attendance
- **760+** volunteers
- **600+** annual submissions from across the state to the Young Playwrights Festival
- **3,300** free and subsidized tickets provided each season for student matinees
- **100** hours each season for high school-aged artists in our Encounter After School Program

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