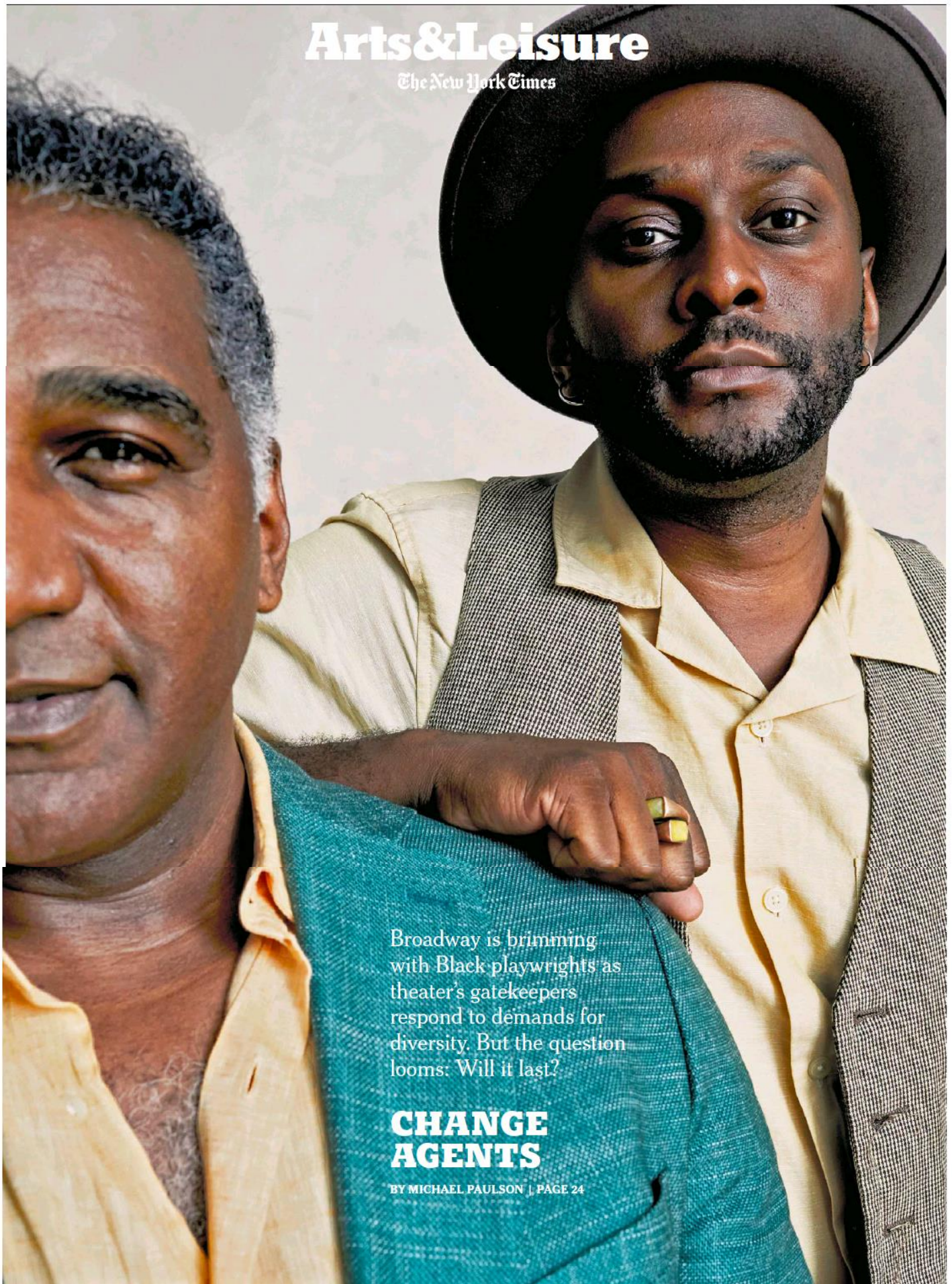


THE NEW SEASON



Above, the "Chicken & Biscuits" playwright Douglas Lyons, right, with the show's star, Norm Lewis. **PLUS** More than 110 pages of the best fall has to offer in culture.

LELANE FOSTER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE NEW SEASON

Theater Listings

In another season, the chance to see "Wicked" or "The Lion King" again after so long wouldn't be such thrilling news. But this isn't any other theater season. So while in these listings we detail plenty of world premieres ("Flying Over Sunset," "The Bedwetter"), inventive revivals (a gender-swapped "Company") and at least seven plays by Black writers on Broadway, we might also take a look at the old reliables. Welcome back. STEVEN McELROY

SEPTEMBER

SANCTUARY CITY Immigrant dreamers try to establish their place in America in this play by the Pulitzer Prize winner Martyna Majok ("Cost of Living"). The show, along with many others on and off Broadway, was in previews when the pandemic closed theaters in March 2020. The same cast members who prepared for that opening will return: Jasai Chase-Owens, Sharlene Cruz and Austin Smith. Rebecca Frecknall directs. *In previews; Sept. 21-Oct. 10; New York Theater Workshop*

THE GARDEN Charlayne Woodard digs into the complicated relationship between an older woman and her middle-aged daughter, who haven't spoken in years and attempt to reconcile, in this new play. The Baltimore Center Stage and La Jolla Playhouse coproduction is directed by Patricia McGregor and Delicia Turner Sonnenberg. *Sept. 21-Oct. 17; La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego*

PERSUASION The imaginative people at Bedlam return with an adaptation of Jane Austen's romantic novel about a woman who turns away the man who may be the love of her life, and tries to win him back eight years later. Sarah Rose Kearns wrote the play, and Eric Tucker directs. *In previews; Sept. 21-Oct. 31; the Connelly Theater*

LETTERS OF SURESH Friends, strangers and family seek connection through letters sent across the world in Rajiv Joseph's new play, directed by May Adrales, who is also the new artistic director of the play development lab The Lark. The cast includes Ali Ahn, Ramiz Monsef, Kellie Overbey and Thom Sessa. The play is a companion piece to Joseph's "Animals Out of Paper" (in which Overbey also appeared). *In previews; Oct. 4-24; Second Stage Theater*

LACKAWANNA BLUES Ruben Santiago-Hudson's autobiographical play about growing up in a boardinghouse in upstate New York and the generous woman who raised him, features more than 20 characters, all portrayed by Santiago-Hudson, who also directs this Manhattan Theater Club season opener. *In previews; Sept. 28-Oct. 31; Samuel J. Friedman Theater*

A COMMERCIAL JINGLE FOR REGINA COMET Two unknown commercial jingle writers have a shot at the big time when they get the chance to help a pop star sell her new perfume. Can they capitalize on the moment and write her a hit song, too? The book, music and lyrics are by Alex Wyse, a co-creator of the funny web series "Indoor Boys," and Ben Fankhauser ("Newsies"), who also stars as the jingle writers. Bryonna Marie Parham ("Prince of Broadway") is Regina, and Marshall Pallet ("Who's Your Baghdaddy, or How I Started the Iraq War") directs. *In previews; Sept. 27-Nov. 14; DR2 Theater*

SIX The extremely unfortunate wives of King Henry VIII tell their stories of marital misery in song, competing to be she who was dealt the worst hand. The show, which was hours from opening when Broadway shut down, was written by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, and Moss directs with Jamie Armitage. *In previews; opens Oct. 3; Brooks Atkinson Theater*

CHICKEN & BISCUITS After a brief run at Queens Theater, this new play by Douglas Lyons, about a family funeral at which a secret surfaces, moves to Broadway. Norm Lewis and Michael Urie

tion's unique approach to storytelling features a recording of Hnath's mother, Dana Higginbotham, telling her story, with Deirdre O'Connell onstage mouthing the words. Les Waters directs. *"Room": Previews begin Sept. 23; Oct. 11-Jan. 15. "Dana H": Previews begin Oct. 1; Oct. 17-Jan. 16. Lyceum Theater.*

WHAT TO SEND UP WHEN IT GOES DOWN Aleshea Harris's production, a sort of play cum ritual with a dash of dance party, looks at the many ways Black people have suffered racist violence, misrepresentation and stereotyping. The show had a well-



Simon Russell Beale, left, with Adam Godley in "The Lehman Trilogy."

CATLIN OCHS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



The musical "Six" was just hours from opening when Broadway shut down in 2020.

SARA KRULWICH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE MOTHER A poor, uneducated Russian mother becomes a revolutionary in this Bertolt Brecht play, which premiered in Berlin in 1932. Elizabeth LeCompte directs the Wooster Group's version, an adaptation that draws parallels to political unrest in America today. The cast includes Jim Fletcher, Ari Fliakos, Gareth Hobbs, Erin Mullin and Kate Valk as the mother. *Previews begin Oct. 12; Oct. 26-Nov. 6; the Performing Garage*

MORNING SUN Blair Brown, Edie Falco and Marin Ireland play three generations of women living together in Greenwich Village in this new play about mothers and daughters, by Simon Stephens ("Heisenberg"). Lila Neugebauer ("The Waverly Gallery") directs. *Previews begin Oct. 12; opens Nov. 3; New York City Center, Stage 1*

TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992 Anna Deavere Smith's landmark play is based on interviews she conducted after the uprisings that followed the acquittal of Los Angeles police officers in the brutal, caught-on-tape beating of a Black motorist, Rodney King. In Taibi Magar's production, what Smith originally performed as a multicharacter solo show will be an ensemble piece. *Oct. 12-Nov. 14; Signature Theater*

FAIRYCAKES Douglas Carter Beane took "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and a bunch of fairy tales as his inspiration for this new comedy about mismatched lovers and mischief on a starry night in the forest. Mo Rocca, Jackie Hoffman and Julie Halston are among the starry cast of a show that sounds as if it's going to be a zany good time. *Oct. 14-Jan. 2; Greenwich House Theater*

are among the cast of the comedy, directed by Zhailon Levingson (an associate director of "Tina: The Tina Turner Musical"). *Previews begin Sept. 23; Oct. 10-Jan. 2; Circle in the Square Theater*

IS THIS A ROOM AND DANA H In an unusual arrangement, two productions will play in rotation on the same Broadway stage this fall, both making the move up-town after acclaimed runs at the Vineyard Theater in 2019. Conceived and directed by Tina Satter, "Is This a Room" re-enacts the F.B.I. interrogation of Reality Winner, the former Air Force linguist and intelligence contractor who was arrested in 2017 and charged with leaking a top-secret government report about election interference to the media. Emily Davis will revisit her role as Winner, making her Broadway debut. Lucas Hnath's "Dana H" tells the story of his mother's experience being kidnapped and held captive for several months. The produc-

received run at the Brooklyn Academy of Music this summer, following its 2018 premiere at A.R.T./New York Theaters, and now is getting another run this fall in a BAM/Playwrights Horizons coproduction, in association with the Movement Project Company. Whitney White directs. *Sept. 24-Oct. 17; Playwrights Horizons*

THE LEHMAN TRILOGY The story of the rise and fall of the financial firm Lehman Brothers, written by Stefano Massini and adapted by Ben Power, was in previews pre-shutdown and will finally have a real Broadway opening, after acclaimed productions at the National Theater in London and the Park Avenue Armory. Simon Russell Beale and Adam Godley will return from the original cast, alongside Adrian Lester, making his Broadway debut. Sam Mendes ("The Ferryman") directs. *Previews resume Sept. 25; Oct. 14-Jan. 2; Nederlander Theater*

OCTOBER

THOUGHTS OF A COLORED MAN Following runs at Syracuse Stage and Baltimore Center Stage, Keenan Scott II's fusion of spoken word, rhythm and slam poetry — telling the stories of seven Black men over the course of one day in Brooklyn — makes it to Broadway. Steve H. Broadnax III ("The Hot Wing King") directs. *Previews begin Oct. 1; Oct. 31-March 20; John Golden Theater*

BY HEART This is a tough one to describe, but here goes: The Portuguese playwright and performer Tiago Rodrigues, who was recently appointed the next director of the prestigious Avignon Festival, enlists 10 people to memorize a Shakespearean sonnet onstage each night. He also name-checks Shakespeare, Ray Bradbury and Boris Pasternak, among others, but really he is sharing a personal story about his grandmother, who was going blind and wanted to memorize a tale to give it, and perhaps herself, something like immortality. *Oct. 5-17; BAM Fisher Theater*

THE VISITOR Walter Vale, a widower and college professor, discovers that the Manhattan apartment he rarely uses has been rented to a Syrian drummer and his Senegalese girlfriend in the world premiere of this musical based on the 2007 film starring Richard Jenkins. The compassionate professor tries to help the two, who are living in the United States illegally. The show is the first production in what looks to be an exciting season at the Public Theater. Tom Kitt (music) and Brian Yorkey (lyrics), who memorably teamed up on "Next to Normal," are together again, and Kwame Kwei-Armah, the British actor and playwright, wrote the book with Yorkey. David Hyde Pierce and Ari'el Stachel ("The Band's Visit") star, and Daniel Sullivan directs. *Previews begin Oct. 7; Nov. 4-21; Public Theater*

CAROLINE, OR CHANCE Tony Kushner and Jeanine Tesori's musical about the relationship between a Black maid and a young Jewish boy in 1960s Louisiana was slated to land on Broadway before the pandemic hit. Thankfully, the Roundabout Theater is forging ahead with this revival, and Sharon D. Clarke will reprise the role that won her an Olivier Award in 2019. Michael Longhurst directs. *Previews begin Oct. 8; Oct. 27-Jan. 9; Studio 54*



Sharon D. Clarke and ensemble in "Caroline, or Change."

HELEN MATYBANKS

THE CHINESE LADY Lloyd Suh's piercing, intimate and gently comical drama is based on the story of Afong Moy, who was a teenager when she arrived in this country in 1834 to be put on display, spending decades performing a distorted version of Chinese identity for white American audiences. Directed by Ralph B. Peña at Long Wharf Theater in New Haven, Conn. (Oct. 12-31), then in a different production at the Public Theater in New York (February).

URSULA EAGLY: THE NATURE OF PHYSICAL REALITY I'm both intrigued and intimidated by this solo show for an audience of one, in which the performer aims to create the experience of synesthesia in the viewer, bending our perception and using distance Reiki — a contact-free version of the alternative therapy technique sometimes called energy healing. Maybe we'll be able to see music? *Oct. 15-Dec. 18; Abrons Arts Center*



Keenan Scott II's "Thoughts of a Colored Man" begins previews Oct. 1.

BRENNA MERRITT

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