

# Thrilling & Award-Winning *Season Opener!*

Set in the opulence of 18<sup>th</sup> century Vienna, *Amadeus* transports us to a world of two musicians. Antonio Salieri is the most famous composer around, until a young Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart arrives on the scene.

Salieri becomes jealous of Mozart's gifted musical talent and plots to destroy him. He then befriends Mozart, pretending to help him, but all the time working to keep Mozart only in his shadow.

Salieri cannot believe that 'God has given Mozart these skills,' and not him, so he plots against Mozart in order to reap his revenge. Salieri had made a contract with God to live a virtuous life if, in return, God would give him the musical talent to be a truly great and famous musician. After Salieri's efforts at righteousness, he wonders how God could have given Mozart - this young upstart with little respect for his elders or for accepted moral conventions of his time - a talent that far outshines his own?

**“A total iridescent triumph of thought, emotion and dramatic power.”** -New York Post

Since God had not kept his end of the bargain, Salieri decided to renounce virtue and instead employ more malevolent ways to ensure Mozart would not be recognized. What makes this task heartbreaking for Salieri is his love of music, and the realization that destroying Mozart means destroying a true musical genius.



Russell Treyz, at the directorial helm of the show, said, "The stage symbolically resembles a boxing ring on which the proper, star musician of the Imperial Austrian court duked it out with his unsuspecting enemy, Mozart, to gain supremacy. Reminiscent of classical music, the play blends dialogue into sounds - and the rumblings of the crowd become a sonic environment and palpable force in the forward movement of the play. We live with the hero/villain, Salieri, and feel his joys and jealousies of competing against an inspired master of our chosen worlds."

Treyz continued, saying, "The playwright, Peter Shaffer, challenges us to look at ourselves and the work of our lives and question our place in the world, our purpose, and our responses. Shaffer brings us scenes of great hilarity, high drama, and the fascinating emotional blend of music and dialogue."

*A thrilling journey of music, jealousy, and power! Tickets for preview performances, Oct 2-4, are \$40 for adults and \$27 for children ages 5-15. Regular performances, Oct 5-21, are \$50 for adults and \$37 for children. Purchase online at [artshhi.com](http://artshhi.com) or by calling the box office at 843.842.ARTS2787.*