

# SPOLETO — FESTIVAL USA

## **Spoletto Festival USA Announces Free Simulcasts of Two Sold-Out Programs**

**CHARLESTON, SC — May 6, 2026** — In response to overwhelming demand, [Spoletto Festival USA](#), in partnership with SC250, will present free simulcasts of two sold-out Festival programs: *An Evening with Ken Burns Presented by Bank of America* and *George + George*. These special presentations create new opportunities for audiences to experience two of the Festival’s most anticipated events as part of the nationwide America 250 commemoration.

Presented at the Charleston Visitor Center, the simulcasts extend access beyond the theater, inviting the public to gather in a shared civic setting for live screenings of programs that explore history, democracy, identity, and national reflection. Both events are part of Spoletto Festival USA’s America 250 programming and reflect a shared commitment to making meaningful artistic experiences available to broader audiences.

*An Evening with Ken Burns, Presented by Bank of America* is a luminous celebration of America’s 250th year featuring the acclaimed filmmaker in a live program reflecting on the struggles and ideals that shaped a nation and transformed the world. Through sweeping music, vivid imagery, and Burns’s signature storytelling, the program draws from *The American Revolution* to illuminate both a war for independence and a revolution of ideas—an upheaval whose promises and contradictions still echo today. Part conversation, part concert, this narrative and musical meditation honors the spirit of independence and the enduring pursuit of the principles on which America was founded.

*George + George*, a world premiere by Festival favorites Denis O’Hare and Lisa Peterson, is a comedic romp through the American Revolution that reimagines the founding era with sharp humor and theatrical flair. Set at Valley Forge in 1778, the inventive new work imagines George Washington rallying his troops by staging Joseph Addison’s *Cato*—despite a colonial ban on theater—only to face an unexpected twist when King George III learns of the production and decides to attend incognito. Blending satire, history, and questions of democracy and leadership, the work offers a timely and entertaining reflection on the ideals at the heart of the America 250 commemoration.

“These simulcasts are a direct response to extraordinary public interest in these programs,” said Spoletto General Director and CEO Mena Mark Hanna. “We’re pleased to work with SC250 to create new ways for audiences to participate in these important conversations and to ensure these experiences can reach beyond the walls of the performance venue.”

As South Carolina’s official commission assigned to encourage and promote the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, SC250 is partnering with organizations across the state to support programs that engage communities in reflection on the nation’s history, ideals, and evolving story. The Spoleto Festival’s simulcasts are funded in large part through a grant from SC250.

“Charleston is a place where history is not only remembered but actively experienced, and these simulcasts carry that legacy forward,” said Marissa Sams, Executive Director of SC250 Charleston. “Together with Spoleto Festival USA, we are proud to commemorate America’s 250th anniversary through cultural programming that will now be available to the wider public.”

By pairing artistic excellence with accessibility, the simulcasts underscore a shared commitment to civic dialogue, cultural reflection, and public engagement at a pivotal national moment.

<u>Simulcast</u>	<u>Details</u>
Simulcast of <i>An Evening with Ken Burns</i> Wednesday, May 27 Charleston Visitor Free	Presented by <i>Bank of America</i> at 8:00 p.m. Center
Simulcast of <i>George</i> Saturday, May 30 Charleston Visitor Free	+ <i>George</i> at 5:00 p.m. Center

Additional ticketing details and attendance information will be available at [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org).

**SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA**

Spoleto Festival USA was founded in 1977 by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Gian Carlo Menotti, who sought to create an American counterpart to the annual Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, which he had founded in 1958. Spoleto Festival USA is internationally recognized as America’s premier performing arts festival. For 17 days and nights each spring, Spoleto Festival USA fills Charleston’s historic theaters, churches, and outdoor spaces with performances in opera; theater; dance; and chamber, symphonic, choral, and jazz music. With General Director & CEO Mena Mark Hanna at its helm, the 2026 season takes place from May 22 to June 7 in various locations throughout Charleston. Spoleto Festival USA is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

## **SC250 CHARLESTON**

SC250 Charleston is the Charleston-area's official commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, honoring its rich history while inspiring future generations. The people of Charleston played a crucial role in the American Revolution and in the advancement of our nation's ideals. SC250 Charleston's mission is to explore their myriad stories, and to educate and inspire the public through commemorative events and educational programs so that everyone may rightly see themselves as a part of America's story. Through a series of events, programs, and community initiatives, SC250 Charleston brings together residents, visitors, historians, artists, and cultural leaders to reflect on Charleston's past, celebrate its present, and shape its future. For more information about SC250 Charleston, visit [sc250charleston.org](http://sc250charleston.org)

## **SC AMERICAN REVOLUTION SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMISSION (SC250)**

Within the last few years, the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250) has awarded more than \$11 million in grants across the state with upward of \$4 million distributed to Charleston-area organizations. Since the Commission's inception, a significant portion of its grant funds have focused on historic Revolutionary era site preservation and interpretation, including, for example, the locations of the Battle of Parker's Ferry in Colleton County, Eutaw Springs in Orangeburg County, and Fort Fair Lawn in Berkeley County. For more information on the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250), visit [southcarolina250.com](http://southcarolina250.com).