

# Must-See Winter Theater

BY AMY GORDON

## JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Andy Blankenbuehler directs the touring production of the classic biblical story of a persecuted man who rises to greatness in ancient Egypt. The unforgettable musical features toe-tapping tunes from Broadway's dream team, composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyricist Tim Rice. *Dec. 29-Jan. 3 at Merriam Theater, 250 S. Broad Street, 215.893.1999, kimmelcenter.org*

## OSCAR WILDE: FROM THE DEPTHS

This world premiere delves into the distinctive mind of this visionary author. Based on a letter written by Wilde in 1897, the production follows the protagonist as he reaches the height of his literary success and celebrity, only to plunge into ruin and face incarceration. As he spends day after day alone in his jail cell, his imagination runs free as he recounts stories from his professional and personal life in search of salvation. *Jan. 14-Feb. 14 at St. Stephen's Theater, 10th and Ludlow streets, 215.829.0395, lanterntheater.org*

## ONCE

This heartfelt tale centers on an Irish musician and a Czech immigrant, who are drawn together by their shared love of music. Together, the duo creates songs and develops a friendship that evolves into a powerful and complicated romance. "Once" won eight Tony Awards including Best Musical, and ran for more than 1,100 performances on Broadway. *Jan. 15-17 at Academy of Music, 240 S. Broad Street, 215.893.1999, academyofmusic.org*

## HARVEY

"Harvey" focuses on the lovable hero Elwood P. Dowd, who forms an unwavering friendship with a six-foot-tall, invisible white rabbit named Harvey. When Elwood's sister brings him to the local sanatorium to cure him of his delusion, the doctors mistakenly commit her to the hospital instead and hilarity and confusion ensue. *Jan. 19-Mar. 6 at Walnut Street Theatre, 825 Walnut St., 215.547.3550, walnutstreettheatre.org*