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CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS
AT VIRGINIA TECH

AN EVENING WITH
ROZ CHAST

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 7:30 PM

*Street and Davis Performance Hall
Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre*



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AN EVENING WITH ROZ CHAST

This performance will last approximately
90 minutes with no intermission, including an audience Q&A.

Co-sponsored by the Department of English Visiting Writers Series

This performance is supported in part by gifts from
Ellen and Leo Piilonen and the Easels.
Additional funding is provided by the
James M. and Margaret F. Shuler Fund for Excellence.

Cover photo by Bill Hayes

BIOGRAPHY

Roz Chast

Since joining *The New Yorker* in 1978, Roz Chast has established herself as one of our greatest artistic chroniclers of the anxieties, superstitions, furies, insecurities, and surreal imaginings of modern life. Her works are typically populated by hapless but relatively cheerful “everyfolk,” and she addresses the universal topics of guilt, aging, families, money, real estate, and, as she would say, “much, much more!” David Remnick, the editor of *The New Yorker*, has called her “the magazine’s only certifiable genius.”

Chast is the author of *Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?*, a work that chronicles her relationship with her aging parents as they shift from independence to dependence. Using handwritten text, drawings, photographs, and her keen eye for the foibles that make us human, Chast addresses the realities of what it is to get old in America today — and what it is to have aging parents today — with tenderness and candor, and a good dose of her characteristic wit. *Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?* is a *New York Times* 2014 Best Book of the Year, 2014 National Book Award Finalist, winner of the 2014 Kirkus Prize, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for the best books of 2014, and on the Kirkus list for the Best Books of the 21st Century (So Far). The National Endowment for the Arts chose *Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?* for the 2018, 2022, 2023, and 2024 Big Read programs.

Her other books for adults include *What I Hate: From A to Z*, *The Party After You Left*, and *Going Into Town: A Love Letter to New York*, winner of the New York City Book Award and a *Washington Post* 10 Best Graphic Novels of the Year. Her newest book, *I Must Be Dreaming*, is a *New York Times* bestseller, a *USA Today* bestseller, a *New Yorker* Best Book of the Year, a *New York Times* Book Review Editors’ Choice, a *Washington Post* Best Graphic Book of the Year, and received a “star” review from *Publishers Weekly*.

Chast is also the author of books for children, including *Around the Clock*, *Too Busy Marco*, and *Marco Goes to School*. She has collaborated with Calvin Trillin on *No Fair! No Fair! And Other Jolly Poems of Childhood*, Erin McKean and Danny Shanahan on *Totally Weird and Wonderful Words*, Daniel Menaker on *The African Svelte: Ingenious Misspellings that Make Surprising Sense*, Steve Martin on *The Alphabet from A to Y with Bonus Letter Z!*, Carl Hiaasen on *Assume the Worst*, and Patty Marx on *You Can Only Yell at Me for One Thing at a Time*, *Why Don't You Write My Eulogy Now So I Can Correct It?*, and *Tired Town*, which received a 'star' review from Kirkus. In addition, Chast was guest editor for *The Best American Comics 2016*.

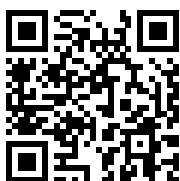
Chast grew up in Brooklyn and received a bachelor of fine arts from the Rhode Island School of Design with studies in graphic design and painting, though she soon after returned to her love of cartooning. Fewer than two years out of college, at age 24, *The New Yorker* magazine added her to their roster of approximately 40 artists under contract, and the publication has published her work continuously ever since. Chast has also provided cartoons and editorial illustrations for nearly 50 magazines and journals from *Mother Jones* to *Town & Country*. She lectures widely and has received numerous prestigious awards, including honorary degrees from Pratt Institute and the Art Institute of Boston. Chast has received the Reuben, Heinz, Visionary Woman, and Best of Brooklyn Literary awards, as well as the first Thurber Prize in Cartoon Art. In addition, she has been inducted into the Society of Illustrators' Hall of Fame and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is also the recipient of a 2023 National Humanities Medal.

Chast lives in Connecticut with her family and several parrots.

This is Chast's first appearance at the Center for the Arts.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!



We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to Blacksburg Master Chorale, Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, December 14, 2025.

bit.ly/roz-chast-feedback

Please note, survey responses are anonymous. If you would like a response to your feedback, please email artscenter@vt.edu.

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

The Center for the Arts seeks to build diverse perspectives, foster creativity, and promote collaboration. We're dedicated to giving people of all ages access to creative experiences that can transform the way they see the world and the people in it.

Before tonight's presentation, Department of English and School of Visual Arts students at Virginia Tech joined cartoonist Roz Chast for a discussion about her unique approach to storytelling.

Special thanks to Janine Joseph and Matthew Vollmer, Department of English; and Travis Head, School of Visual Arts

GO DEEPER

Anxiety and neurosis are often central to Roz Chast's cartoons. How might her work, with its distinctive visual style and brand of humor, help to normalize and find common ground in these deeply personal feelings, transforming them from a source of private distress into a universally relatable subject for art and laughter?



PK-12 PROGRAMS

Each year, wildly enthusiastic students — from PK through 12th grade — fill our theatre for free matinee performances by artists from all over the world. They explore our visual arts galleries during school tours and create and learn during hands-on workshops with artists. For many students, visiting the Center for the Arts is the first time they've ever been to a performing arts facility or gallery. Why do young people need access to the arts? Engaging in artistic activities offers a wide range of skills that they will use throughout their lives.

Learn more at bit.ly/artscenteratvt-pk12.



Shaping Stories. Sparking Imagination.

Thanks to donor support, young people experience the transformative power of the arts through free programs like hands-on workshops, gallery tours, and special school-day matinee performances by professional touring artists. Open to public, private, and homeschool students, these opportunities spark creativity and connection.

One highlight was *Mapping My Story*, a collaborative art project for PK-5 students from across the region. Inspired by exhibiting artist Shaunté Gates, young artists used collage and drawing to explore how places — homes, parks, schools, and more — shape their feelings and memories. Their colorful, textured creations were displayed in the Center for the Arts Grand Lobby this spring for all to enjoy.

Your gift makes these moments possible. Whether through an endowed fund or a contribution of any size, your support leaves a lasting impact.

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CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS
AT VIRGINIA TECH

FALL 2025
EXHIBITIONS



Through Sat., Nov. 22, 2025

Clare Grill and Margaux Ogden

Things I Had No Words For

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

Dana Frankfort and Josephine Halvorson

Seeing and Reading

Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and

Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery

Through July 2026

Mural: Clare Grill and Margaux Ogden

Turner Street exterior wall

Through July 2028

Mural: Brian Dettmer

Memories of the Mountains

Grand Lobby

Free Related Event

Beyond the Frame Gallery Tour

Thurs., Nov. 13, 12 PM

Grand Lobby

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1988-2024

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Nov 12, 2025 | 8:00PM
Tickets available at
[TheLyric.com/live](https://www.thelyric.com/live)
(540) 951-4771
135 College Ave, Blacksburg

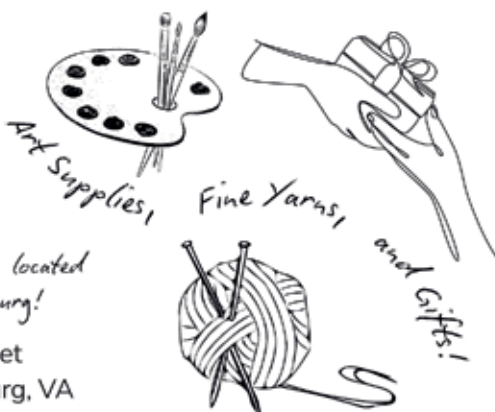
AJ Lee & Blue Summit
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December 11-12, 2025
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ALTERNATIVES, INC.
DESIGN BUILD TEAM



HANDEL'S MESSIAH

DECEMBER 14, 2025
4-5:30PM

CENTER FOR THE ARTS
AT VIRGINIA TECH



BLACKSBURG
MASTER
CHORALE

25 26

PERFORMANCES

Thurs., Oct. 30, 7:30 PM

La Santa Cecilia

Thurs., Nov. 6, and

Fri., Nov. 7, 7:30 PM

Hotel Modern and Arthur Sauer
The Great War

Sun., Nov. 9, 4 PM

360 ALLSTARS

Mon., Nov. 17, 7:30 PM

Broadway in Blacksburg
TINA – The Tina Turner Musical

Sat., Dec. 6, 4 PM

Roanoke Symphony Orchestra
Holiday Pops Spectacular

Sun., Dec. 14, 4 PM

Blacksburg Master Chorale
Handel's Messiah

Thurs., Jan. 22, 7:30 PM

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Benjamin Grosvenor, piano
Vasily Petrenko, music director

Wed., Jan. 28, 7:30 PM

Julia Bullock, soprano
Seth Parker Woods, cello
Conor Hanick, piano
From Ordinary Things

Fri., Jan. 30, and

Sat., Jan. 31, 7:30 PM

Tim Etchells
with Bert and Nasi
L'Addition

Tues., Feb. 10, and

Wed., Feb. 11, 7:30 PM

Cirque Mechanics
Tilt! A Circus Thrill Ride

Fri., Feb. 20, 7:30 PM

Danish Radio Big Band
with Cécile McLorin Salvant

Mon., Feb. 23, 7:30 PM

Broadway in Blacksburg
Chicago

Tues., March 17, 7:30 PM

Irish Baroque Orchestra
The Trials of Tenucci

Sat., March 28, 7:30 PM

Stephanie Lake Company
Manifesto

Fri., April 3, 7:30 PM

Bill Frisell
In My Dreams
Featuring Jenny Scheinman,
Eyvind Kang, Hank Roberts,
Thomas Morgan, and
Rudy Royston

Tues., April 7, 7:30 PM

National Geographic Live
Beauty Beyond the Frontlines
Muhammed Muheisen,
photojournalist

Wed., April 15, 7:30 PM

The Takács Quartet
with Jordan Bak, viola

Thurs., April 23, 7:30 PM

Algeria Moves!
Music, Dance,
and Women's Resilience

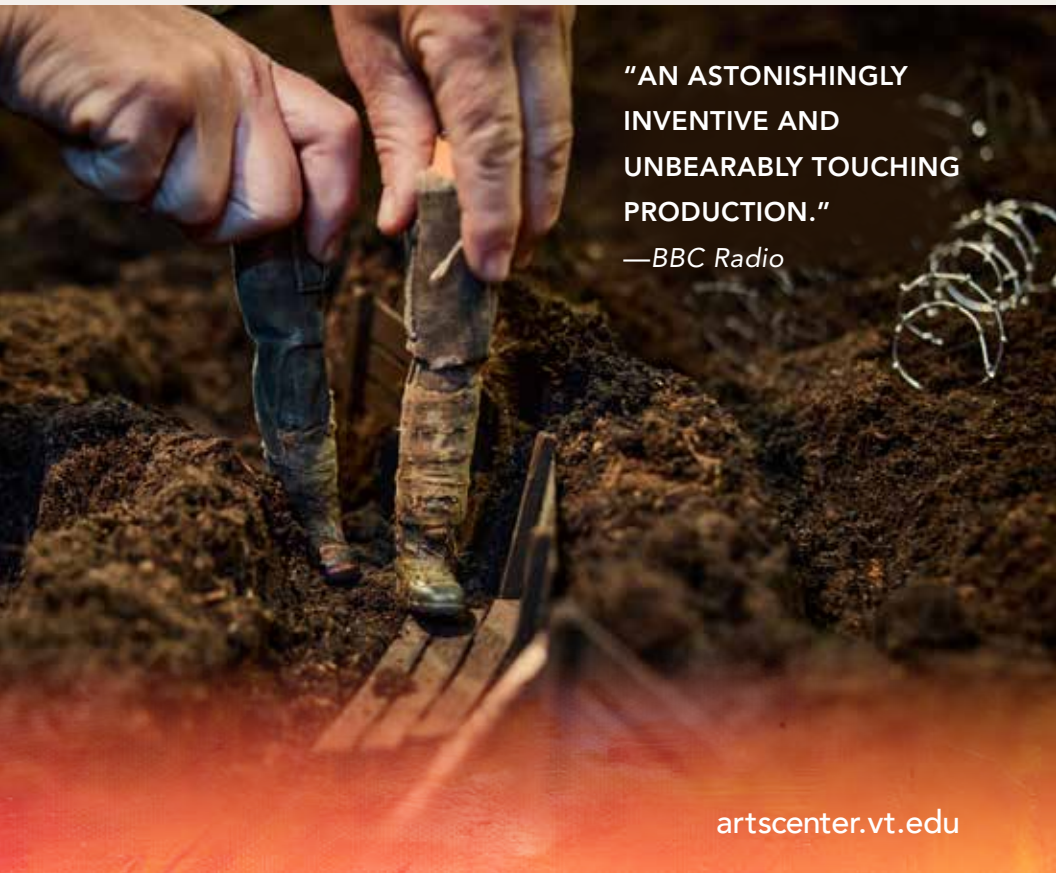
Sat., May 9, 7:30 PM

An Evening with Kelli O'Hara
Season Closer

HOTEL MODERN AND ARTHUR SAUER *The Great War*

Thurs., Nov. 6, and Fri., Nov. 7, 7:30 PM

Experience a poetic and deeply moving fusion of puppetry, projection, and storytelling as a miniature battlefield bursts into life with live sound effects and authentic soldier letters that revive the voices of World War I's trench warfare.



**"AN ASTONISHINGLY
INVENTIVE AND
UNBEARABLY TOUCHING
PRODUCTION."**

—*BBC Radio*

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The YMCA at Virginia Tech

Check out the arts programs at the YMCA at Virginia Tech! From the Community Art Gallery to Contra Dancing to Pottery Classes - let the Y be your creative outlet.



INVEST IN THE NEXT 150 YEARS!

The YMCA at Virginia Tech is changing lives in every corner of the New River Valley—whether you've lived here your whole life, came here to study, or moved around the globe to find your new home. Your support of our 150th Anniversary Campaign is vital to the future of our community.



Emily Stuart & the Craft Fair

In 1970 Emily Stuart became the Director of YMCA at VT and began the International Programs and the annual Crafts Fair.

- Stuart brought the 1st craft fair to Blacksburg in 1969 to raise funds for the YMCA at Virginia Tech.
- In 1994 Stuart commented "It's like a community party, and when everyone helps to put it on it becomes a big occasion."
- The Y Craft Fair has traveled to various venues round Blacksburg & Christiansburg and now calls the Y Center home!
- 2025 marks our 56th annual Artisan Fair- SAVE THE DATE!



50/50 Raffle

YMCA at VT 50/50 Raffle!
Tickets available Sept 1 - Dec 1, 2025



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