



# PARAMOUNT THEATRE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AURORA'S PARAMOUNT THEATRE REOPENS STUNNING MEYER BALLROOM



AURORA, IL, February 6, 2015 – The **Paramount Theatre** is thrilled to announce the reopening of the stunning, newly-renovated **Meyer Ballroom**, located at the North Island Center in the heart of Downtown Aurora.

After years of renting the ballroom to Aurora's Hollywood Casino, the Paramount Theatre reclaimed the Meyer Ballroom in October 2014 and immediately began renovating the space. Just four months after renovations began, the ballroom has been redone from floor to ceiling, and it's never looked better. "We are growing tremendously every year," says Paramount President & CEO Tim Rater, "and we are thrilled with the transformation of the ballroom."

The jaw-dropping space features floor-to-ceiling windows with a gorgeous panoramic view of the beautiful Fox River and the historic Paramount Theatre, creating an incredible backdrop for any event. Boasting 4,600 square feet, the Meyer Ballroom is composed of three individual ballrooms that join to create one spectacular space. When fully expanded, the Meyer Ballroom holds a plated dining capacity of up to 330 people (280 with a dance area), a 280-person buffet dining capacity (250 with a dance area) and accommodates up to a 350-person flow party. But this space isn't just for large get-togethers. With various possible room configurations and a host of amenities, including a modern food prep area located on-site, the Meyer Ballroom is designed to meet the needs of any kind of special event: weddings, meetings, family reunions, bridal and baby showers, dinner parties... whatever the event, the ballroom can, and will, accommodate it.

As if all that wasn't enough, guests can keep the fun going even after their event. Set in the heart of Downtown Aurora, the Meyer Ballroom's location can't be beat. With the Hollywood Casino accessible just across the hall, hotel accommodations down the street and numerous restaurants within walking distance, guests can enjoy all that Downtown Aurora has to offer.

The size, features and location of the ballroom mean big possibilities for the Paramount. The organization recently enjoyed massive successes with their pre-show brunch event "Pancakes with Poppins," held in the Paramount's Grand Gallery before Sunday matinee performances of their record-breaking production of *Mary Poppins*. Rater says the organization hopes to continue expanding its pre-show brunch offerings in the ballroom for the 2015-2016 season.

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The reopening of the Meyer Ballroom is just a piece of the Paramount's launch of their event management division, **Paramount Events**. In addition to overhauling the ballroom, the organization also revamped and reorganized its staff, dedicating a select group of talented event managers to take care of the ballroom and all other Paramount Events spaces, including the **Paramount Theatre** (1,851 seats), **Copley Theatre** (216 seats), **Grand Gallery** (550 persons), **Marquee Room** (100 persons) and **The Atrium** (200 persons).

From Broadway-caliber musicals in the theater to live outdoor concerts at Aurora's RiverEdge Park, the Paramount staff specializes in producing events and can apply that expertise to serve any client, big or small. For inquiries and details about any Paramount Events spaces, please contact Bill Pope, Rentals Manager, at [BillP@paramountarts.com](mailto:BillP@paramountarts.com). Information on all Paramount Events spaces can also be found at [ParamountAurora.com/Rentals](http://ParamountAurora.com/Rentals).

One of the first events to be held in the Meyer Ballroom will be the **Paramount Theatre's 2015 Gala** on Friday, April 10, 2015. To celebrate the Paramount's reacquisition of the ballroom, the Gala's theme is a vow renewal. Dress code is cocktail wear, and attendees are encouraged to wear retro wedding attire - that means digging up those floral bridesmaid dresses, buttoning up those ruffled tuxedos and getting ready to party, wedding-style. Attendees will enjoy dinner, open bar, silent auction, live music by "Wedding Banned" and dancing. Say "I do" and celebrate the Meyer Ballroom reopening at the Paramount's 2015 Gala. For tickets, please call the Paramount Box Office at 630-896-6666 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday thru Saturday, or visit [ParamountAurora.com/Gala-2015](http://ParamountAurora.com/Gala-2015).

### **About The Paramount Theatre**

The Paramount Theatre is the center for performing arts, entertainment and arts education in Aurora, the second largest city in Illinois. Named "One of Chicago's Top 10 Attended Theatres" by the League of Chicago Theatres, the 1,851-seat Paramount Theatre, located in the heart of downtown Aurora at 23 E. Galena Blvd., is nationally renowned for the quality and caliber of its presentations, superb acoustics and historic beauty.

The Paramount Theatre opened on September 3, 1931. Designed by nationally renowned theater architects C.W. and George L. Rapp, the theater captures a unique Venetian setting portrayed in the art deco influence of the 1930s. The first air-conditioned building outside of Chicago, the Paramount offered the public a variety of entertainment, including "talking pictures," vaudeville, concerts and circus performances for more than 40 years. In 1976, Aurora Civic Center Authority purchased the Paramount and closed the theater for Restoration. The \$1.5 million project restored the Paramount to its original grandeur. On April 29, 1978, the Paramount Arts Center opened, offering a variety of theatrical, musical, comedy, dance and family programming. In 2006, a 12,000-square-foot, two-story Grand Gallery lobby was added, with a new, state-of-the-art box office, café and art gallery.

Today, the Paramount produces its own Broadway Musical series, presents an eclectic array of comedy, music, dance and family shows, and on most Mondays, screens a classic movie. For tickets and information, go to [ParamountAurora.com](http://ParamountAurora.com) or call **(630) 896-6666**.

The Paramount Theatre is one of three live performance venues programmed and managed by the Aurora Civic Center Authority (ACCA). ACCA also oversees the Paramount's "sister" stage, the intimate, 216-seat Copley Theatre located directly across the street from the Paramount at 8 E. Galena Blvd., as well as RiverEdge Park, downtown Aurora's new summer outdoor concert venue.

The Paramount Theatre continues to expand its artistic and institutional boundaries under the guidance of **Tim Rater**, President and CEO, Aurora Civic Center Authority; **Jim Corti**, Artistic Director, Paramount Theatre; a dedicated Board of Trustees and a devoted staff of live theater and music professionals.

Paramount's 2014-15 Broadway Series is sponsored by the **Dunham Fund**, **BMO Harris Bank** and **PACE (Paramount Arts Centre Endowment)**. Broadway Series Lighting Sponsor is **ComEd**. Broadway Series Costume Sponsor is **Gerald Auto Group**. For more information, visit [ParamountAurora.com](http://ParamountAurora.com).