



PARAMOUNT
THEATRE

2017 / 2018
SEASON

INNOVATE
INSPIRE
IMPACT

BROADWAY SERIES

2017 / 2018
SEASON

QUALITY ART

5 THINGS THAT SEPARATE YOUR THEATER FROM ALL OTHERS

1



Most
heralded
musical
productions
in the state

2



Most
Jeff-nominations
in recent
history

3



Most
celebrated
creative teams
in Chicago
musical theater

GENEROUSLY
SPONSORED BY:

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 DUNHAM
FUND

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GERALD
 KIA

ComEd

AURORA
ILLINOIS
CITY OF LIGHTS

ON THE COVER: Tony & Maria from the 2016 Jeff Award-winning *West Side Story*. In just two seasons of eligibility, the Paramount has been nominated for a record-breaking 30 Joseph Jefferson Awards and won Best Large Musical each time.

INDUSTRY VALUE

4



Most full orchestras in musical theater in Illinois

5



Best-valued subscriptions in Illinois:
BUY 2,
GET 2 FREE.

**PARAMOUNT
THEATRE TICKET**

\$32.00

**BROADWAY IN
CHICAGO TICKET**

\$105.80

One subscription seat, Saturday evening performance, Orchestra section. Data from February 2017 Broadway in Chicago website

**ELVIS
PRESLEY**

**JERRY LEE
LEWIS**

**CARL
PERKINS**

**JOHNNY
CASH**

MILLION

DOLLAR

QUARTET



Book by **COLIN ESCOTT** and **FLOYD MUTRUX** Original Concept and Direction by **FLOYD MUTRUX**
Inspired by **ELVIS PRESLEY, JOHNNY CASH, JERRY LEE LEWIS** and **CARL PERKINS**
Directed by **JIM CORTI**

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

SEPTEMBER 13–OCTOBER 29

THERE WAS NO PLAN for Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins to record together on December 4, 1956, but as fate would have it, they did and left behind a historic and mind-blowing album. *Million Dollar Quartet* tells that story, with all the raw energy and monumental talent you've come to expect from these music giants.

It all begins in the Sun Record recording studio in Memphis, Tennessee. Up and comer Jerry Lee Lewis is recording songs with rockabilly king Carl Perkins when already iconic Elvis Presley stops by the studio with his girlfriend. The not-quite-yet-a-guitar-god Johnny Cash is there to pay a visit to music manager Sam Phillips. Throw them all together and you have one of the most unexpected, unprecedented and unforgettable musical moments in history. It was the first and only time they played together and, through their musical genius, created an explosive album that has yet to be matched.

Nominated for three Tony Awards, including Best Musical and a win for Best Supporting Actor, *Million Dollar Quartet* features some of the biggest and best songs of all time, including "Peace in the Valley," "Blue Suede Shoes," "Folsom Prison Blues," "I Walk the Line," "Hound Dog" and "Great Balls of Fire." This is the show that ran in Chicago from 2008 to 2016 and spanned more than 2,500 performances. Critics called it "the most exuberant theatrical event," "dazzling from first beat to last" and "the best live rock 'n' roll show I have ever seen." It is the third longest-running show in Chicago theatre history and the Paramount is about to do its production of it. Be there. *Suggested Rating: PG.*



Elf

Book by **THOMAS MEEHAN** and **BOB MARTIN** Music by **MATTHEW SKLAR**
Lyrics by **CHAD BEGUELIN** Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by **DAVID BERENBAUM**
Originally produced by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures in association with Unique Features
Directed by **AMBER MAK**

ELF

THE MUSICAL

NOVEMBER 22–JANUARY 7

IF YOU’VE EVER FELT LIKE YOU DON’T BELONG, just be glad you’re not William “Buddy” Hobbes.

When he was only a baby, Buddy crawled into Santa’s sack of presents and was whisked away to the North Pole where he lived as an elf for years. Buddy grew up thinking he was just like all the others. He took joy in doing elf things, like making toys. But there was always something off about him. He towers over his fellow elves and just doesn’t get clobbered. Buddy soon realizes the truth about being ... *gulp* ... human and goes in search of his father, a workaholic publisher. Imagine Buddy’s horror when he finds out his dad does not share his love for Christmas. In fact, he couldn’t care less about it. But this is the infectiously-cheerful wannabe elf who grew up with jolly old St. Nick, and a little problem like that won’t deter Buddy from changing people’s hearts and minds.

Based on the hilarious and heartwarming 2003 Will Ferrell movie, *Elf* is one of those rare holiday shows that will have both kids and adults lighting up with laughter, humming tunes like “A Christmas Song” and “Sparklejollytwinklejingle” for days and rediscovering what it means to be a family. And Paramount has become the place that families head to for memorable holiday experiences. From the two-story Christmas tree in the lobby, to the thousands of sparking lights adorning the banisters, to the carolers filling the air with song, you can’t help but get into the spirit the minute you walk through the doors. So this holiday season, join the Paramount family for the perfect feel-good show that will turn even the grumpiest of grinchers into a happy-go-lucky bearer of Christmas cheer, singing loud for all to hear. *Suggested Rating: G*



C O S G R O U P

CABARET

Book by **JOE MASTEROFF** Based on the play by **JOHN VAN DRUTEN** and
Stories by **CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD** Music by **JOHN KANDER**
Lyrics by **FRED EBB** Directed by **KATIE SPELMAN**

CABARET

FEBRUARY 7–MARCH 18

THE SOUND OF THE ORCHESTRA tuning its instruments fills the air. The smell of liquor and perfume permeates your nostrils, causing a shiver of sinful delight. You catch a dancer's eye and wonder what she's doing after the show. After all, life is a cabaret, and anything goes.

It's the early 1930s in Berlin, and life is changing. On the horizon is an ugly and dangerous threat, but that's no concern for sensational cabaret singer Sally Bowles whose only goal in life is to have a good time. Sally soon finds herself living with a young writer visiting from America to work on a new novel. While their relationship moves beyond just being friends, around them the lives of citizens go from ordinary to a nightmare. Will Sally recognize her own selfishness, or will she look to the ground as the Nazis steamroll over everything she holds dear?

Cabaret is one of the most well-known Broadway musicals of all time, and it's because of the extraordinary songs, universal appeal and a spellbinding story that still holds true in today's world. Nominated for a total of 26 Tony Awards over three decades and winning a total of 12 including Best Musical and Best Revival of a Musical, *Cabaret* is exactly what musical theatre should be: entertaining, enlightening, provocative, edgy and a continuing reflection of our own lives. This groundbreaking musical was unlike anything audiences had seen back when it first premiered, and you'll feel the same way when it hits the Paramount stage.

Suggested Rating: PG-13

once



*his
music
needed
one
thing
-her.*

Music and lyrics by **GLEN HANSARD** and **MARKÉTA IRGLOVÁ** Book by **ENDA WALSH**

Based on the Motion Picture Written and Directed by **JOHN CARNEY**

Directed by **JIM CORTI**

ONCE

APRIL 25–JUNE 3, 2018

PEOPLE COME INTO OUR LIVES FOR A REASON. Sometimes it leaves us with joy, other times with sorrow. But it's what we do with those chance encounters that truly defines who we are.

He was a singer about to give up his dream. She was a patron entranced by his music. It was a fateful meeting spurred by their shared love for music. Guy and Girl, as they're known throughout the show, begin their relationship when he tells her of his day job as a vacuum cleaner repairman at his father's shop. Lucky for him, she's got a Hoover that "doesn't suck." When she asks him to fix it, she says she can only pay for the repair with a song. That song is all it takes for Guy and Girl to fall in love, but with that love also comes some baggage. Guy has an ex he can't get out of his head, and Girl has an estranged husband and a daughter. What's holding them back couldn't be heavier, but when it comes to love, the only thing that can stop them is life.

Hailed as "glorious and inspiring," "gorgeous" and "complete magic," *Once* is based on the Oscar-winning movie and is an eight-time Tony Award-winning musical, including Best Musical, Best Actor and Best Book. It is both big and grand in its themes of love and longing, yet simple and subtle in its execution. In today's world where we're all struggling to connect, despite a million ways to do so, sometimes the simplest way is through song. *Suggested Rating: PG*

**CRITICS
ARE RAVING**



**“AN EXPLOSION OF
COLOR AND
VISUAL MAGIC”**

– DEAN RICHARDS / WGN TV & RADIO (*The Little Mermaid*)

“BOLDLY REIMAGINED”

– BARBARA VITELLO / DAILY HERALD (*West Side Story*)

“As grand-scale as anything you will see on Broadway”

– HEDY WEISS / CHICAGO SUN-TIMES (*Cats*)

“DAZZLING”

– CHRIS JONES / CHICAGO TRIBUNE (*The Little Mermaid*)

“Paramount Theatre in Aurora is the closest thing to New York’s Broadway theatre scene we have and far less expensive.”

– MICHAEL J. ROBERTS / SHOWBIZ CHICAGO

**“A BANQUET FOR BOTH THE
EYES AND EARS”**

– COLIN DOUGLAS / CHICAGO THEATRE REVIEW (*Mamma Mia!*)

“AN AWE-INSPIRING EVENING OF THEATRE”

– COLIN DOUGLAS / CHICAGO THEATRE REVIEW (*West Side Story*)

“I have been to several plays and each time I think there is no way it’s going to be better than the last one, but then it happens. The production, stage, orchestra and brilliant performers are superb and blows my mind each and every time. – PHILIP / PATRON

“They find new ways to present these shows that are interesting, exciting and vital. That’s why the Paramount keeps chocking up all of these awards year after year.” – DEAN RICHARDS / WGN TV & RADIO

SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS YOU REQUESTED

NO OTHER CHICAGO THEATER OFFERS THESE BENEFITS:

FREE DAY-OF TICKET EXCHANGES If you can't make it the day of your performance, just call and let us know. We'll exchange your tickets to another day that is a part of your package...and we'll do it for FREE.

DEDICATED SUBSCRIBER STAFF Our well-trained Subscriber Services Concierge Staff is here specifically to make your experience as easy and enjoyable as possible.

MULTIPLE FREE EXCHANGES You can exchange your tickets as much as you'd like to the same price point with absolutely zero costs attached. Life happens, we know it and that's why we offer this benefit.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS

EXACT SAME SEATS Pick your subscriber seats and you're set for all 4 shows...unless you need to change them. But that's up to you.

DISCOUNTS Save 10% on tickets to additional Paramount shows, including Broadway.

FIRST SHOT AT TICKETS When we announce the 2017-18 General Season, you get to purchase tickets before anyone else. When we add a show, you're the first to get the best seats.

PREMIUM GUEST EXPERIENCE VIP private entrance into the VIP private room where delicious warm hors d'oeuvres, a private open bar and your private concierge awaits you. We'll take your drink order before the show and have it for you at intermission, along with desserts and coffee – all for only \$20 per subscriber.

VITALLY IMPORTANT: If you're planning on renewing your Subscription but want to make a change/upgrade, please make sure you renew your seats as soon as you can and submit your change/upgrade request with your renewal. All changes/upgrades will be taken in the order they are received – so it's important to send it in ASAP.

QUESTIONS: If you have a question about anything, please call the Box Office at **630-896-6666** and ask for Subscriber Services Concierge Staff. The Box is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. or later on show nights until curtain.