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JAY LENO, PENN & TELLER, KRISTIN CHENOWETH, TERRY FATOR, FRANK CALIENDO, MORE ON TAP FOR PARAMOUNT'S 2017-18 GENERAL SEASON



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AURORA, IL, June 1, 2017 – The Paramount Theatre announced today an exciting schedule of major stars, live music acts, top comedians and family performances sure to attract capacity crowds to downtown Aurora's historic Art Deco theatrical palace in 2017-18.

National acts playing Paramount's beautiful, 1,888-seat stage next season include perennial 60s music favorite The Happy Together Tour (August 25), An Intimate Evening with Kristin Chenoweth (November 4), comedian and impersonator Frank Caliendo (November 10), *The Second City's Non-Denominational Christmas Show* (December 1-23 in the Copley Theatre), Las Vegas's #1 ventriloquist Terry Fator (January 20), the incredible magic of Penn & Teller (March 23), Chicago's own Jersey boys Under the Streetlamp (March 24), late night comedy legend Jay Leno (April 13) and the world's #1 Bee Gees tribute band Stayin' Alive (June 15).

These special nights with the nation's biggest stars are playing in addition to Paramount's already announced 2017-18 Broadway Series: *Million Dollar Quartet* (September 13-October 29), *Elf: The Musical* (November 22-January 7), *Cabaret* (February 7-March 18) and *Once* (April 25-June 3).

"Paramount presents the biggest stars, the best comedians, top music acts and fantastic family shows, all at an affordable price, without the inconveniences and high costs of going downtown," said Paramount Theatre President and CEO Tim Rater. "Add today's new slate of national acts with the more than 200 performances in our 2017-18 Broadway schedule, and Paramount is arguably the busiest theater, with the most loyal, growing audience, in the entire Midwest."

An estimated 32,000 subscribers will take advantage of Paramount's 2017-18 Broadway Musical series "Buy Two, Get Two" offer. Four-play packages start as low as \$72. Subscribers get first dibs on general season tickets and the best seats during the exclusive subscriber pre-sale starting today, Thursday, June 1 at 10 a.m., through Monday, June 5 at 9:59 a.m. Paramount's general season shows go on sale to the general public Monday, June 5 at 10 a.m. To subscribe or to purchase single tickets, visit ParamountAurora.com, call the box office at 630-896-6666 or stop by in person at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd. in downtown Aurora.

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Following are details about Paramount’s 2017–2018 season, in chronological order:

Happy Together Tour 2017

Friday, August 25, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$59.50

They performed some of the most incredible songs of the 60s and 70s and now they’re back to keep the good times rolling in Happy Together, a tour full of the best headline artists from yesteryear: The Turtles featuring Flo and Eddie, The Association, Chuck Negron (formerly of Three Dog Night), The Box Tops, The Cowsills and Ron Dante of The Archies. So there’s no need to keep shuffling through that playlist you’ve created of all these “oldies but goodies.” The bands you know and love will be right in front of you, live, performing such iconic rock hits as “Happy Together,” “Windy,” “Cherish,” “Joy to the World,” “Hair” and “Sugar, Sugar.”

Sponsors: Schmitt McDonald’s and Asbury Gardens

Million Dollar Quartet

September 13–October 29, 2017 Press opening: Saturday, September 16 at 8 p.m.

Directed by Jim Corti

With Music Director Kory Danielson

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

Suggested Rating: PG

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 everyone has come to expect from these music giants.

It begins in the Sun Records recording studio in Memphis, Tennessee. Up and comer Jerry Lee Lewis is recording songs with rockabilly king Carl Perkins when the iconic Elvis Presley stops by with his girlfriend. The not–quite–yet–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, *Million Dollar Quartet* features some of the biggest and best songs of all time like “Peace in the Valley,” “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Folsom Prison Blues,” “I Walk the Line,” “Hound Dog” and “Great Balls of Fire.”

Paramount’s is the first professional area production of the show that played more than 2,500 performances in Chicago from 2008 to 2016, becoming the third longest–running show in Chicago theater history. 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.”

Sponsors: BMO Harris Bank, Dunham Fund, Rush–Copley Medical Center, ComEd and Asbury Gardens

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An Intimate Evening with Kristin Chenoweth

Saturday, November 4, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$75, \$85, \$185 (VIP)

No matter if she's a good witch on Broadway, a sassy press secretary on TV or a show-stopping singer on stage, Tony and Emmy Award-winner Kristin Chenoweth is always absolutely mesmerizing. Most recently seen in NBC's *Hairspray Live!*, Chenoweth hits it out of the park with everything she does, and she's bringing that same level of charm, spunk, grace and all-around excellence, to the Paramount, one-night-only. Bask in the glow of incredible talent. See *An Intimate Evening with Kristin Chenoweth*.

Sponsor: Schmitt McDonald's

Frank Caliendo

Friday, November 10, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$50, \$60

Comedian, actor, and impressionist Frank Caliendo is a Paramount favorite for his impressions of famous personalities Donald Trump, Morgan Freeman, Al Pacino, Robin Williams, Robert DeNiro; politicians George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama; broadcasters John Madden, Charles Barkley and Jon Gruden; and talk show hosts Dr. Phil, Jay Leno, and David Letterman. On stage, his high energy act is a blend of observations, impressions, characters and anecdotal stories that start at a frenetic pace and never let up. Caliendo's shows are clean and family friendly too, so bring the kids!

An 11 year veteran of television sketch comedy as a cast member on *Madtv* and starring in his own series *Frank TV*, Caliendo has been a fixture on TV for the last decade. He has comedy specials that run regularly on TBS and Comedy Central and he is a regular on such talk shows as *The View*, *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, *The Tonight Show* and *Late Show with David Letterman*. After an impressive 10-year run on the *FOX NFL Sunday Pregame Show*, Frank recently found a new home over at ESPN, where he joined the cast of the *Sunday NFL Countdown*.

Elf: The Musical

November 22, 2017–January 7, 2018 Press opening: Sunday, November 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Directed by Amber Mak

With Music Director/Conductor Tom Vendrafreddo

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

Suggested Rating: G

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.

If you've ever felt like you don't belong, just be glad you're not William "Buddy" Hobbes. When he was 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 took joy in doing elf things, like making toys. But there was always something off. He towers over his fellow elves and just doesn't get cobbling. When Buddy learns he's human he goes in search of his father, a workaholic New York City publisher. Imagine Buddy's horror when he finds out his dad couldn't care less about Christmas. But that won't deter the infectiously-cheerful wannabe elf from changing people's hearts and minds.

Based on the hilarious 2003 Will Ferrell movie, *Elf* is one of those rare holiday shows that will have both kids and adults laughing, humming tunes like "A Christmas Song" and "Sparklejollytwinklejingle" for days and rediscovering what it means to be a family. And with a two-story Christmas tree in the lobby, thousands of sparkling lights adorning the banisters and carolers filling the air with song, Paramount has become the place where families head to for memorable holiday experiences.

Sponsors: BMO Harris Bank, Dunham Fund, Rush-Copley Medical Center, ComEd and Kevin Fitzpatrick

The Second City's Non-Denominational Christmas Show

December 1-23, Thur. at 7:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m.; Sun. at 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$36

Held in the Copley Theatre, located directly across the street from the Paramount Theatre in the North Island Center, 8 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora

Chicago's famed sketch and improv comedy theater returns to Aurora with *The Second City's Non-Denominational Christmas Show*, an irresistibly festive new show that will have audiences laughing all the way through the holidays. The Second City's naughtiest and nicest improv actors hit the road to win the war on comedy in the season's most festive funny-fest. Why settle for just one denomination when you can collect them all? Stuffed with brand new tidings of discomfort and "oy," classic sketches, plus plenty of holi-dazed improv, you'll ho three times in a row right along with the next big names in comedy!

Terry Fator

Saturday, January 20, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$79, \$89, \$99

Ever since Terry Fator won the second season of *America's Got Talent*, he and his hilarious puppets have taken America by storm. Simon Cowell even called him one of the best entertainers in the world. Celebrity impressions, singing, comedy and ventriloquism - Fator does it all with the help of his puppet pals and gives one of the most uproarious performances you've ever seen. Fator is so good he received a \$100 million dollar, multi-year contract to perform in Las Vegas, but he's coming to the Paramount for two shows! Don't miss it!

Cabaret

February 7–March 18, 2018 Press opening Saturday, February 10 at 8 p.m.

Directed by Katie Spelman

With Music Director/Conductor Tom Vindafreddo

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

Suggested Rating: PG–13

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

Sponsors: BMO Harris Bank, Dunham Fund, Rush–Copley Medical Center and ComEd

Penn & Teller

Friday, March 23, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$55, \$65, \$75

You can be a magician and you can be a comedian, but it's very hard to be both. Except, of course, for the incredible duo of Penn & Teller. This monumentally talented team has reinvented itself over and over again. The only thing that's stayed the same is their immense level of talent. These guys have been everywhere: Broadway, Vegas, *Showtime*, The *New York Times* Bestseller's List, *ABC*, the list goes on and on. And the next place you can see them is in downtown Aurora at the Paramount Theatre for an outstanding night of jaw-dropping magic and gut-busting comedy.

Sponsor: Bank of Montgomery

Under the Streetlamp

Saturday, March 24, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$49, \$59

Oh, what a night! Those boys who made up the leading cast of the Tony Award–winning Broadway hit *Jersey Boys* are back and better than ever. Flashier than a Ford Thunderbird, more rocking and rolling than a martini tumbler, *Under the Streetlamp* takes everything you know and love about the great American songbook from the 50s and 70s and delivers it in spectacular fashion! Doo–woop? Check! Motown? Double check! Good ol’ fashioned rock and roll? Triple check! Get a blast from the past only at the Paramount!

Jay Leno

Friday, April 13, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$89, \$99, \$109

America’s favorite late–night TV funny man is coming back to the Paramount for another evening of non–stop laughter! For more than two decades Jay Leno dominated the airwaves, winning an Emmy and a slew of other awards, including a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. His name is synonymous with quality entertainment that’s fun for the whole family. From late night TV, to writing, to his voiceover work in TV and movies, Leno has done it all. Don’t miss what he does next at the Paramount.

Sponsor: Old Second Bank

Once

April 25–June 3, 2018 Press opening Saturday, April 28 at 8 p.m.

Directed by Jim Corti

With Music Director Tom Vindafreddo

Book by Enda Walsh

Music and lyrics by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová

Based on the motion picture written and directed by John Carney

Suggested Rating: PG

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 define who we are.

Guy and Girl, as they’re known throughout the show, share a fateful meeting spurred by their mutual love for music. Guy is a singer about to give up his dream. Girl is a fan entranced by his music. Their story begins when he tells her of his day job as a vacuum cleaner repairman. 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 with a song. That song is all it takes for Guy and Girl to fall in love, but with that love also comes 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*, based on the Oscar-winning movie, won eight Tony Awards in 2012, including Best Musical, Best Actor and Best Book. It is both 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, *Once* reminds us that often the simplest way is through song.

Sponsors: BMO Harris Bank, Dunham Fund, Rush–Copley Medical Center and ComEd

Stayin’ Alive

Friday, June 15, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$30, \$35, \$40

Billed as the world’s No. 1 Bee Gees tribute band, Stayin’ Alive dazzles its audience with the largest production of its kind. The *New York Times* said Stayin’ Alive is “amazing” and when you see them live in concert, you’ll know why. With hits like “Night Fever” and “Jive Talkin’” as well as “I Started a Joke” and “To Love Somebody,” this is going to be one night of classic 70s rock that will capture all the excitement, power and disco fever of the Bee Gees.

Classic Movie Mondays

Most Mondays, year-round

Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Show starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$1

Paramount has the perfect cure for a “case of the Mondays” – your favorite classic films in a venue originally built to showcase those silver screen gems. Don’t miss out on the classics projected on a two-story screen, popcorn freshly popped in the Grand Gallery, a full bar with something for everyone, convenient nearby parking and an atmosphere that can’t be beat. The best part? Tickets are just \$1. Go to ParamountAurora.com for a full schedule.

Paramount also serves the community with low-cost children’s shows designed to entertain while they educate:

Skippyjon Jones Snow What

Friday, Jan. 19, 9:30 a.m. and Noon

Choosy Suzy’s Bully Prevention Show

Thursday, March 22, 9:30 a.m. and Noon

About The Paramount Theatre

The Paramount Theatre (ParamountAurora.com) 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 1,888-seat Paramount, located in 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 opened on September 3, 1931. Designed by renowned theater architects C.W. and George L. Rapp, the theater captures a unique Venetian setting with a 1930s art deco influence. The first air-conditioned building outside of Chicago, the Paramount offered a variety of entertainment, including "talking pictures," vaudeville, concerts and circus performances for over 40 years. In 1976, the Aurora Civic Center Authority (ACCA) purchased the Paramount, closed the theater for restoration and restored the Paramount to its original grandeur. The Paramount Arts Centre reopened in 1978, 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 self-produces its own Broadway Series, presents an eclectic array of comedy, music, dance and family shows, and on most Mondays, screens a classic movie.

The Paramount Theatre is one of three live performance venues programmed and managed by the ACCA, which also oversees the Paramount's "sister" stage, the intimate, 173-seat Copley Theatre located directly across the street from the Paramount at 8 E. Galena Blvd., as well as RiverEdge Park, downtown Aurora's 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 theatre and music professionals. For tickets and information, go to ParamountAurora.com or call (630) 896-6666.

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