



PARAMOUNT THEATRE

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For Immediate Release

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PARAMOUNT ADDS CRAIG FERGUSON, SECOND CITY, PURPLE REIGN, BARBRA & FRANK AND THE MIDTOWN MEN TO 2018-19 SEASON



Visit ParamountAurora.com/press_kits for photos of (top, from left) Craig Ferguson, The Second City, Purple Reign, (bottom) Barbra & Frank and The Midtown Men.

AURORA, IL, June 18, 2018 – Paramount Theatre announced today five nationally acclaimed comedy and music artists who will bring star power, big laughs and beautiful music to downtown Aurora in 2018-19.

Purple Reign

Prince may be gone, but his music endures with Purple Reign, the world's #1 Prince tribute band
Friday, October 26, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$37-\$57

Barbra & Frank: The Concert That Never Was...

Two of the biggest voices in history never performed together, but this is your chance to experience what it would have been like to see Barbra Streisand and Frank Sinatra live on stage
Sunday, October 28, 2 p.m. Tickets: \$35

Craig Ferguson

Comedian. Actor. Author. Director. Grammy nominee. Emmy winner. Former host of *The Late Late Show*. Craig Ferguson has done it all. Now Ferguson is bringing his hilarious stand-up to Aurora.
Friday, November 2, 2018, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$45-\$80

The Second City's Holiday Revue

Chicago's famed sketch and improv comedy theater comes back to Aurora with another hilarious take on the holidays.

Thursday, November 29-Sunday, December 23, 2018

In the Copley Theatre, in the North Island Center, 8 E. Galena Blvd., across from Paramount Theatre
Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$36

The Midtown Men

They took Broadway by storm in *Jersey Boys*. Now The Midtown Men are on their seventh national tour, singing their favorite "Sixties Hits" from The Beatles, The Rascals, The Turtles, Motown, The Four Seasons and more.

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$45-\$55

Paramount subscribers enjoy an exclusive pre-sale to all five newly added shows starting tomorrow, Tuesday, June 19 at 10 a.m. Tickets go on sale to the general public Friday, June 22 at 10 a.m.

For tickets and information, visit ParamountAurora.com, call the box office at **(630) 896-6666**, or stop by the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd in downtown Aurora, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

More about the shows

Purple Reign

Friday, October 26, 8 p.m.

Prince may be gone, but his legend and incredible music endures with Purple Reign, recognized as the world's #1 Prince tribute band.

From humble beginnings in small UNLV college clubs to late night TV, Purple Reign has toured the world and risen to international acclaim. On November 17, 2008, Purple Reign was the very first tribute act to appear as a musical guest on *Late Show with David Letterman*. It has since been crowned Best Tribute Act and Best Impersonator by the *Las Vegas Review Journal Poll*, and was chosen as the Season 3 opener for AXStv's *The World's Greatest Tribute Bands*.

Purple Reign captures the imagination and seamlessly re-creates the blistering performances and raw energy of Prince in his prime and returns you to the era that made "The Artist" an international superstar. Featuring a tribute to Morris Day and The Time, this show is a must see for *Purple Rain* movie fans and all live music fans alike.

Barbra & Frank: The Concert That Never Was...

Sunday, October 28, 2 p.m.

Two of the biggest voices in music history never had the opportunity to perform together, live in concert. Now, this is the chance to experience what it would have been like to see Ol' Blue Eyes and Babs share the stage, right here in Aurora. The two performers paying tribute to these legends – Sharon Owens and Sebastian Anzaldo – sound like Barbra and Frank, look like Barbra and Frank, and man, will blow your mind like Barbra and Frank. They'll cover everything from "Don't Rain on My Parade" to "The Way You Look Tonight" and so many more classic tunes everyone knows and loves. This is one glamorous, heart-warming and spectacular show – don't miss it.

Craig Ferguson

Friday, November 2, 2018, 8 p.m.

Comedian. Actor. Author. Director. Grammy nominee. Emmy winner. Former host of *The Late Late Show*. Craig Ferguson has done it all. Now this one-of-a-kind performer is bringing his hilarious stand-up to Aurora. Having performed to sold-out theaters all across the country, Ferguson is embarking on a brand new tour that's sure to have audiences begging for more. Experience Ferguson's unique brand of comedy as only a live show can do with this one-night-only event that's bound to be one of our most popular shows of the year. Don't miss it!

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Ferguson got his start in the entertainment industry as a drummer for some of the worst punk bands in the U.K. Following a diverse and eclectic career that encompassed film, television and the stage, Ferguson entered the world of late night comedy. He concluded his ten-year run in December 2014 as the host of CBS's *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, which set all-time viewer records, earned him a Primetime Emmy nomination and the 2009 Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcasting for his interview with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. As the host of *Celebrity Name Game*, Ferguson was awarded the Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Game Show Host two years in a row. This year he was nominated for a third Daytime Emmy Award. As of February 2017, Craig launched his new SiriusXM program *The Craig Ferguson Show* which is broadcast live on Comedy Greats every evening.

The Second City's Holiday Revue

Thursday, November 29-Sunday, December 23, 2018

In the intimate 173-seat Copley Theatre, in the North Island Center, 8 E. Galena Blvd., across from Paramount Theatre

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Chicago's famed sketch and improv comedy theater comes back to Aurora with another hilarious take on the holidays. Break out the eggnog, throw on your Santa hat and get ready to laugh all the way through the holidays. Second City has the perfect present for you, and it's actually something you'll love! These uproarious comedians have made it an annual end-of-year tradition to bring their festive hilarity to Paramount's 173-seat Copley Theatre, and in a theater that intimate, you're never more than 70 feet from all those Second City songs and skits. If you like the holidays, you'll love this show. If you hate them, you'll love it even more.

The Midtown Men

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

They took Broadway by storm in *Jersey Boys*, one of the biggest hits of all-time. Now The Midtown Men are on their seventh national tour bringing their magic to audiences everywhere, singing their favorite "Sixties Hits" from The Beatles, The Rascals, The Turtles, Motown, The Four Seasons and more. More than just a tribute to a bygone era, these four stars from the original cast of Broadway's *Jersey Boys*—Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and J. Robert Spencer – will show you – or remind you – of what it was like to see those groundbreaking artists live onstage, playing their greatest hits. Experience what sold out crowds around the country have been raving about.

Already on sale

Already announced to launch Paramount's 2018-19 general season is the *Happy Together Tour 2018*, returning for its ninth consecutive year, Friday, August 17, at 8 p.m. Six headline artists who delivered the biggest hits of the sixties and seventies - The Turtles, Chuck Negron, formerly of Three Dog Night, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, The Association, Mark Lindsay, former lead singer of Paul Revere & the Raiders and The Cowsills - promise to make audiences happy together at Paramount. Tickets are \$59.50.

Before *Happy Together*, join Paramount Theatre's 2018-19 Season Kick Off Party with food, drinks, auctions and fun, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Paramount's Meyer Ballroom, 8 E. Galena Blvd., directly across the street from the theater. Tickets are \$25. Proceeds benefit Paramount's *Dreams Do Come True* program.

In addition, Paramount will present a special evening with actress turned *American Psychic* author Marla Frees on Saturday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Copley Theatre, 8 E. Galena Blvd. in downtown Aurora. Jim Corti, Frees's longtime friend and Artistic Director of Paramount Theatre, will help lead an on-stage discussion about listening to your intuition. Frees will then work with the audience sharing her psychic and mediumship gifts. Tickets are \$20, or \$35 for the show plus a signed copy of Frees's new book.

Stay tuned for news of more nationally renowned artists coming to Paramount Theatre in 2018-19.

Subscribe now to Paramount's 2018-19 Broadway Series

See why everyone is buzzing about the amazing musicals now produced and presented at the Chicago-area's most decorated theater. Join the growing ranks of more than 36,000 Broadway Series subscribers at downtown Aurora's Paramount Theatre, now the most heavily subscribed theater in all of Chicago, and the second largest in the nation.

Paramount's 2018-19 Broadway Series includes four blockbuster musicals: *Legally Blonde* (September 5-October 21, 2018), *The Wizard of Oz* (November 14, 2018-January 6, 2019) and *The Producers* (February 6-March 17, 2019). For its season finale, and for the first time in its history, Paramount's fourth production will be a brand new musical, the world premiere of *August Rush*, based on the Oscar-nominated movie (April 24-June 2, 2019).

Four-show packages for Paramount's 2018-19 Broadway Series start at just \$72, and are on sale now. That's four Broadway-caliber productions in a historic Art Deco theatrical palace for less than the price and hassle of one show downtown. To subscribe or purchase single tickets, visit ParamountAurora.com, call (630) 896-6666, or stop by the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd. in Aurora.

Paramount Theatre's Broadway Series is sponsored by BMO Harris Bank, The Dunham Fund, ComEd and the City of Aurora.

About the Paramount Theatre

The Paramount Theatre (ParamountAurora.com), 23 E. Galena Blvd. in downtown Aurora, is the center for performing arts, entertainment and arts education in the second largest city in Illinois. The Paramount opened on September 3, 1931. It was designed by renowned theater architects C.W. and George L. Rapp, and is graced with a beautiful Venetian decor with a strong 1930s Art Deco influence. It also was the first air-conditioned building outside of Chicago. From silent films to the first "Talkies," from Vaudeville to Bobby Vinton, from Dionne to Donny and Marie, the Paramount Theatre has provided Aurora and the Fox Valley the best of entertainment for generations.

In 1976, the Aurora Civic Center Authority (ACCA) restored the Paramount to its original grandeur. The Paramount Arts Centre reopened in 1978, offering a variety of touring theatrical, musical, comedy, dance and family programming. In 2006, a 12,000-square-foot, two-story Grand Gallery lobby was added, including a Grand Staircase, new box office, café and art gallery.

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In 2010, ACCA hired Tim Rater as President and CEO of the Paramount Theatre. Rater's mission was to boost the theater's programming and audience base by transforming the Paramount into one of Chicago's top self-producing, professional Equity musical theaters. Rater hired award-winning Chicago director Jim Corti as the Paramount's first-ever artistic director. In 2011, the Paramount introduced its inaugural four-play Broadway Musical Series with Corti's critically acclaimed production of *My Fair Lady*. In just six blockbuster seasons since, Paramount has leapt to the top of Chicago's musical theater scene, winning unanimous audience and critical acclaim, and an unprecedented number of Joseph Jefferson nominations and awards, including Best Musical-Large for the past three consecutive seasons.

Today, the 1,888-seat Paramount Theatre remains nationally renowned for the quality and caliber of its presentations, historic beauty and superb acoustics. More than 36,000 subscribers from throughout the city and suburbs enjoy Paramount's Broadway-quality productions at highly affordable prices, making the Paramount the second largest subscription house in the nation. In addition to its Broadway series, Paramount continues to present an eclectic array of internationally known comedians, music stars, dance events and family shows, and on most Mondays, screens a classic movie for just \$1.

The Paramount 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 across the street from the Paramount at 8 E. Galena Blvd., as well as RiverEdge Park, downtown Aurora's summer outdoor concert venue at 360 N. Broadway.

Rater and his team also are preparing to open the new Paramount School of the Arts in the John C. Dunham Aurora Arts Center, currently under construction adjacent to the Paramount. Paramount's new school will encourage and train young actors, dancers and musicians for a culture-filled life, nurture the arts in Chicago's western suburbs and add to the excitement, cultural and economic activity in downtown Aurora. Courses for children as young as six months will be offered with opportunities for adults and seniors, as well. Registration opens in the fall for a full roster of classes, private lessons and camps in acting, music and dance to launch in early 2019.

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. For more, visit ParamountAurora.com or call **(630) 896-6666**.

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