

BACKSTAGE bulletin

Big things are happening because of donors like you

A NOTE FROM PARAMOUNT'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Hey everybody!

We're back! Fresh, energized and renewed!

We've stayed busy these past fifteen months waiting for your return. Just wait until you see the refurbished, modern design of the North Island Center's atrium with its inviting and stylish new bar.

Walking through the new space, on my way to my office, exhilarates as I imagine the guests it will host for the upcoming Bold Series in the smartly remodeled Copley Theatre. It's the perfect metaphor for the changed world into which we are all entering.

We have new colleagues joining us on the production and artistic team, as well as in the Paramount School of the Arts and in our Development Office; all of them working diligently with Paramount's returning teammates to ensure you — and our ever-expanding audience — can enjoy a safe return to our centers of arts and entertainment.

The Tenth Anniversary Season of Paramount's Broadway Series reopens soon with Cindy Lauper's Tony Award winning *Kinky Boots* while RiverEdge Park is already playing to capacity crowds! And, dear friends, there's the promising, new Stolp Island Theatre in our future!

New beginnings, new faces, new spaces — all because of you! Thank you for your investment in us, your unwavering support, and the ongoing trust you place in our work. Let's keep our eyes on the prize as we finally sit together, listening to stories and songs, laughing and crying at the same moment, our breaths and hearts suddenly synchronized and in harmony — welcome back!

Ever grateful – *Jim Corti*

Photo Credit: *Samantha Oulavong*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



JULY 1

RiverEdge Park performances resume

JULY 23

Subscriptions general public on-sale

AUGUST 9-12

Premium Guest Experience Donor presale

AUGUST 27

Opening Night of *Kinky Boots*

KEEP UP WITH JIM BY READING HIS WEEKLY BLOG "TUESDAYS WITH CORTI" ON PARAMOUNTAURORA.COM



PARAMOUNT
THEATRE

R.E.A.C.H. AURORA

Paramount is fiercely committed to making the performing arts accessible to the people of the greater Aurora community. To that end, we've created a new fundraising program at Paramount called **REACH** — aka **Resources Expanding the Arts and Connecting Humanity**.

Paramount's REACH initiative supports programs that create limitless opportunities for children, and adults alike, to experience the arts. In fact, to kick this season off, we plan to host new Pay-What-You-Can performances and other free or reduced-priced events at our venues throughout the season sponsored by REACH.

Additionally, the REACH fund will support our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in our community. We celebrated this commitment last month during the local Pride festivities where our staff hosted a special celebration, including a friendly competition against local drag performers, Ari Gato and Bella DeBalle. Participants competed in a lip sync battle against these professional performers for a chance to win tickets to an upcoming performance of *Kinky Boots*.



The highest purpose of any theater is to inspire its community toward a more perfect humanity. Such humanity can exist only when we reach every member of our community and ensure for them to be included, valued, empowered and heard.

Paramount proudly focuses on creating a welcoming, warm, and inclusive environment for our guests, patrons and community — a place where **everyone** can relate to the stories told on our stages.

RIVEREDGE PARK HAS REOPENED THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE!



Jim Corti with Bruce and Linda Grider on their farm in Oswego, IL.

DONOR DIGEST

Bruce and Linda Grider have been passionate supporters of Paramount since seeing their first Broadway Series show, *The Who's Tommy*, in 2014. They sat down with Jim Corti to discuss falling in love with Paramount, their favorite Paramount memories and where they see the organization going:

Jim: *What do you love about seeing a show at Paramount?*

Linda: It's such an immersive experience. I tell people it's the cheapest vacation on the planet because you get to go somewhere else for a few hours.

Bruce: It's nice not knowing what to expect. Sometimes you just get lost in it. And for that moment, you don't have any troubles or worries about what's happening in the world; it makes you feel good.

Jim: *What has been your favorite Paramount show?*

Linda: *Les Misérables* will always have my heart. Although, *Sweeney Todd* was off the charts! And I already can't wait for *Cinderella*.

Bruce: There hasn't been a show I haven't liked. Sometimes we'll even go back to see a show more than once.

Linda: Now I'm thinking back to *Once*, I loved that one too.

Jim: *Why do you give back to Paramount?*

Linda: It's for the kids. A commitment to the arts is the best gift you can give them.

Bruce: That's the main reason Linda and I are involved. I want it to be great for everyone that comes to Paramount.

Jim: *As you look to the future, where do you see Paramount?*

Linda: There's no end to what you all can do.

Bruce: We're going to come back strong, I have no doubt about it.



The Griders are known for their impeccable and thematic Opening Night fashions.



Bruce and Linda representing Paramount Nation at the Jeff Awards in 2018.

Bruce and Linda are ex-rockers, retired pharmacists, owners of a horse farm and very proud grandparents.



ANNOUNCING STOLP ISLAND THEATRE POWERED BY



Keeping in theme with new and exciting things at Paramount, in April of this year we announced an exciting new partnership with Zen Leaf who have made a generous multi-year commitment to Paramount in order to fund the construction of Stolp Island Theatre — Aurora's next live performance venue.



The Theatre will be a unique venue in Aurora, providing intimate and immersive performance experiences for guests as well as adding another live-performance amenity in downtown Aurora to help drive its economy. The venue is projected to produce 400 performances annually, helping add approximately \$3.3 million in local economic impact.

The venue will hold approximately 99 seats in a 6,000 square-foot theater where the audience will become a part of the experience through interactions with actors, musicians and other audience members around them. It will be a first-class performing arts venue providing an experience unlike any other in the area.

For years the Theatre existed only as an idea but through the generosity of Zen Leaf it is finally becoming a reality. This partnership will help further Paramount's mission to continue contributing to the future of stability and growth of Aurora's downtown, as well as make performing arts accessible across generations and socioeconomic backgrounds.

We can't wait to see you there!

AURORA CIVIC CENTER AUTHORITY
PARAMOUNTAURORA.com

MATCHING GIFTS

One of the many ways in which you can support Paramount Theatre is through Matching Gifts. Many employers sponsor matching gift programs which match the charitable contributions of their employees. Matching gifts will boost the impact of your gift by doubling — sometimes even tripling — the amount of your donation!

Before you make your annual commitment to Paramount, **we encourage you to visit paramountaurora.com/match to see if your company has a gift matching policy** — keep in mind that many companies will also match gifts by retirees and/or spouses.

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