

# LONDON'S CALLING

PARAMOUNT ON TOUR IS TRAVELING ACROSS THE POND IN JUNE!



Since 2015 Paramount has hosted a unique fundraiser for our theatre by taking groups of donors to New York City for an exclusive Broadway getaway. On the heels of another successful year, we've decided to take Paramount On Tour international in 2023! In addition to three trips to New York City, we'll provide a more intimate, exclusive experience for twenty-five attendees in London's renowned theatre-district, the West End.

We'll take on all the overwhelming logistics of planning international travel—we arrange flights, hotel accommodations, meals, sightseeing tours, artist meet & greets and of course, the hottest West End theatre tickets. Our trips are theatre-focused—curated to enhance attendees love for live performance and all the elements that make it happen.

## Trip Dates

LONDON	NEW YORK CITY
June 7 - 12	May 19 - 22 September 29 - October 2 December 1 - 4

### For more information or to register

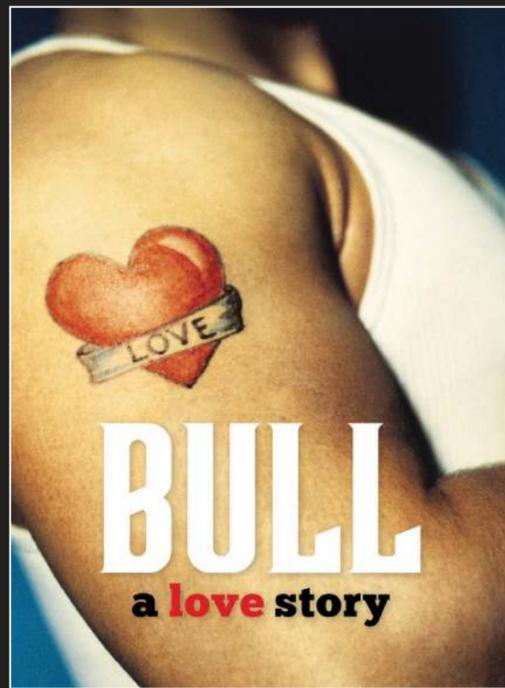
Contact Will Skrip, Donor Affinity & Engagement Manager, at [wills@paramountarts.com](mailto:wills@paramountarts.com) or 630-896-1788, or visit [paramountaurora.com/paramount-on-tour](http://paramountaurora.com/paramount-on-tour)

## PARAMOUNT EXCLUSIVE

### WORLD PREMIERE OF **BULL: A LOVE STORY**

*BULL: a love story* made its world debut on the Copley Theatre stage on October 5. Written by Nancy García Loza, a Mexican American, Chicago playwright—exclusively for Paramount's BOLD Series as a part of our Inception Project—this play tells a story of coming home to a place that has moved on without you. It is brought to life by an all Latino cast with direction from Laura Alcalá Baker, a member of Alliance of Latinx Theater Artists.

This play was made possible through the generous grants from Illinois Department of Human Services, Chicago Community Trust, and Aurora Women's Empowerment Foundation—as well as your generous support of the BOLD Series! You have until Sunday, **November 20** to get your ticket to see this Paramount exclusive and support our efforts to tell bold stories which bring diverse voices to our stage.



Fall 2022



# BACKSTAGE bulletin

Big things are happening because of donors like *you*

## A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



Dear Friends,

You inspire me. As we head into the remaining months of this year, I want to celebrate you and all you allow us to accomplish together. Your support has given us the fuel we've needed to thrive and, quite literally, survive the past few years.

Inside this issue of the *Backstage Bulletin* are a few stories I hope inspire you and affirm your enthusiasm for our work. You have so much to be proud of this year. Your philanthropy catapulted

*Kinky Boots* back on stage where the production recently won six Jeff Awards including Best Musical, the most of any Chicago area production last season.

The Copley Theatre reopened with the groundbreaking BOLD series across the street. I hope you'll check out the world-premiere of *BULL: a love story* now playing through November 20.

Your support of the new REACH Aurora Initiative (aka Resources Expanding the Arts and Connecting Humanity) has opened our doors wider to the community. We've welcomed thousands of new friends, families and children to Paramount at our Pay-What-You-Can performances and other free, or reduced price, programs.

The Paramount School of the Arts continues to host hundreds of students each semester. Last year we awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to students in need and those seeking opportunities to learn, grow and perform. And with Giving Tuesday around the corner, we hope you'll join us on November 29 as we attempt to raise \$100,000 in support of those educational initiatives.

It is my absolute honor and privilege to serve you, and this organization we love, as we strive to make the arts more accessible and our community stronger.

This is your legacy. You make this possible. Thank you!

Warmly, Jonathan

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**OCTOBER 17-21**  
National Estate Planning Awareness Week

**NOVEMBER 10 & 12**  
Pay What You Can Performances for *The Sound of Music*

**NOVEMBER 18**  
Opening Night of *The Sound of Music*

**NOV. 18 - DEC. 24**  
Christkindlmarket at RiverEdgePark

**NOV. 25 - DEC. 23**  
*The Second City's Holiday Revue*

**NOVEMBER 29**  
Giving Tuesday



PARAMOUNT  
THEATRE

# TOAST

CHEERS TO  
PARAMOUNT!

On Friday, September 9 we celebrated the opening of *Dreamgirls* and hosted our second annual *TOAST: Cheers to Paramount*. We were joined by 200 of our donors and friends from the community at Paramount School of the Arts where we enjoyed drinks and food, as well as revealed a few upcoming Paramount secrets—before heading out to take in the opening night performance of *Dreamgirls*.

*Dreamgirls* marks the opening of our exciting 11th Broadway Season lineup which also includes *The Sound of Music*, *Into the Woods* and *School of Rock*.

**Top photo:** Guests at TOAST

**Middle left photo:** Joel Friend with Chris and Kina Williams from Hollywood Casino, our *Dreamgirls* Marquee sponsor

**Bottom left photo:** Guests at TOAST

**Right photo:** Will Skrip and Jim Corti



## PHILANTHROPY EXTENDING OUR REACH

In partnership with:



To further increase the impact of our REACH programming, Paramount partnered with the Quad County Urban League to develop a program geared to welcome younger members of our community into the Paramount Theatre, School of the Arts, and other areas where they see themselves represented on-stage and off.

During this inaugural program in the fall of 2022, dozens of students participated in a half day of activities including workshops with theatre artists in the acting, production and education departments; including a panel discussion with members of the staff and creatives within the organization; and culminated with attendance of a performance of the 2022-23 season opener, *Dreamgirls*.

We all want our community to be a place where dreams become reality, where dynamic energies of kids and adults can find expression, and where human creativity can explore its limits. Your gifts to the REACH funds affirm our commitment to provide meaningful engagement with a new audience by leveraging Paramount's artistic and social mission in a time where our community is reaching out for connection.

This new program was supported in part by the Dunham Foundation.

# DONOR DIGEST

PASSION FOR PARAMOUNT TODAY – AND BEYOND



Larry Larson has been a loyal subscriber and an annual donor for nearly a decade. Recently, Larry joined the *Encore Society* when he shared his plans to designate Paramount as a beneficiary within one of his investment accounts. He spoke with our Chief Development Officer, Jonathan Jensen to discuss his passion for Paramount and the legacy he is hoping to create through philanthropy.

**Jonathan:** How did you see your gift as a way to plan for your retirement first, then care for Paramount in the present and future?

**Larry:** I'm fortunate to have investments which have appreciated beyond my expectations. They've taken care of me and I'm excited they can now take care of others. Two years ago, I decided to share these assets as legacy donations with multiple non-profit institutions in addition to my annual gifts to these vital arts, environmental and humanitarian organizations.

**Jonathan:** How do you feel your gift allows you to stay connected to the Paramount now, beyond attending performances?

**Larry:** One of my first selections was Paramount Theatre. This is my tenth season as a Broadway Series subscriber and witnessing the growth over the years has been amazing. The numerous outstanding musicals in those years are favorite memories. I have seen first-hand how Paramount has led the revitalization of downtown Aurora.

I want to assure Paramount can continue to expand their performing arts and education offerings for years to come.

And, since I made this gift, it's only made my Paramount experience better. I've gotten to know other donors like me, I've attended fun events, and become close with the delightful and dedicated staff, such as yourself and Marie Watson – the donor concierge.

**Jonathan:** For folks who might want to make a similar gift, what was the experience like of setting up your gift? Can you describe the process?

**Larry:** It was so easy to setup my legacy gifts and designate Paramount, as well as other chosen non-profit organizations. By assigning these organizations as beneficiaries in my investment account, rather than as bequests in my will, it simplified my estate plans and there's also a reduced tax burden on other beneficiaries. Also, if circumstances change, I do not have to amend my entire estate plan. I can go online and instantly make adjustments.

**BUILD YOUR LEGACY AT PARAMOUNT...**



To get a jumpstart on your planned giving scan here.



I want to assure Paramount can continue to expand their performing arts and education offerings for years to come." – Larry Larson, *Encore Society Member*

TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT PARAMOUNT, VISIT [PARAMOUNTAURORA.COM/SUPPORT](https://PARAMOUNTAURORA.COM/SUPPORT)