

BACKSTAGE bulletin

Big things are happening because of donors like *you*

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear Friends,

The first quarter of the new year is almost over, and we are closing the third show of our 11th Broadway season. Wow! It is thrilling to see that we are officially well into our second decade of the Broadway Series and to know that so many of you have been with us every step of the way.

Our last show of the 2022-23 season, *School of Rock*, will open in a few weeks, but we're already looking ahead to the 2023-24

Broadway and BOLD seasons—ON SALE NOW! We are delighted to bring these exciting shows to life across our stages for you, our loyal patrons.

As I look ahead to all the wonderful programs that await us this year, I want to take a moment and reflect on a few highlights from the past few months. *The Sound of Music* was a big success with over 85,000 patrons joining us from all-across the country and Chicagoland to see the show.

Our fundraising team had another successful year—thanks to you—raising over \$8.1 million in 2022, including meeting and exceeding our \$100,000 GivingTuesday goal in support of Paramount School of the Arts—big thank you to all of you who helped us reach those goals.

I am grateful for your support and honored that you are a part of our journey as we continue to grow our mission and reach.

With gratitude,
Tim Rater

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 12 - JUNE 4
School of Rock

APRIL 21
School of Rock
Press Night

MAY 8
Paramount School
of the Arts
Spring Showcase

MAY 28
Last day to
secure best seats
for Broadway &
BOLD subscriptions



PARAMOUNT
THEATRE



FIELDTRIP TO PARAMOUNT

LOCAL STUDENTS ENJOY AN AFTERNOON AT THE THEATER

For young people, theater can offer a powerful perspective of the world during their formative years. With arts programs being curtailed at area schools, Paramount has stepped up so our community can be a place where dreams can become reality...where the dynamic energies of kids can find expression...where children can imagine the wonders that arise from human inspiration. Through the creation of our Broadway and Beyond Children’s Fund, Paramount acknowledges and understands that young people are the future of the arts.

On January 12th, we saw a glimpse of the Fund’s potential, as sixteen school buses—carrying over 1,000 students, teachers and chaperones—lined Galena Boulevard. For many of the students on-board the buses, this was their first time experiencing the magic of live theater.

Among this crowd was Arriyah, a 5th grader at Dieterich Elementary, who wants to grow up to be a singer. “I’ve never been to a fancy place like this before. Usually,



kids don’t have enough money to see [theater] and coming here lets us have this experience” she exclaimed. “It is fun for students, and it makes us happy. I can see myself singing on this stage in the future.”



“With the last few years of not being able to do fieldtrips, the students are just thrilled to have this kind of experience.” Carolyn Frer, a teacher at Krug Elementary, shared, “The idea of opening their eyes to types of careers they can have in music and acting and design is really important.”

As we set our sights on the future, donor support will continue to help schools offer these experiences to their students by providing limitless opportunities for children and adults alike, to experience the arts in-person.

Together, we can create a legacy where students can experience the awe and grandeur of Paramount Theatre for generations.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE TODAY PARAMOUNT PROGRAMMING HEADED TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Paramount Theatre is dedicated to introducing the magic of live theater across generations. With performances occurring on the Paramount stage, in the Copley Theatre and Paramount School of the Arts, a new program will now bring theater directly to our young audience members. Through an initial grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and additional support from the Aurora Women’s Empowerment Fund—as well as individual donors—Paramount’s new theater program, Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) creates original works which focus on real issues kids face, including themes of navigating family, coping with bullying, embracing diversity and coming of age.

The most recent project of the TYA initiative is *Brighter Futures*, an original play with music and lyrics by Satya Chávez & J and book by Gabriel Ruiz, exclusively for Paramount. The story follows a trio of middle school friends who discover a solution to their academic frustrations—an app named *Daskalos*—that utilizes artificial intelligence [AI] to write their papers. Soon the trio learns that it’s not just their peers who are using the AI, it’s revealed that their teachers are also using the very same application to grade their AI-written papers. When *Daskalos* begins spreading misinformation, which is blindly accepted by students and teachers alike, it is up to our three heroes to bravely expose the app and teach the truth.



Creative team (from left to right): J, Gabriel Ruiz and Satya Chávez

The *Brighter Futures* team plans to perform this play in area schools, followed by a talkback conversation with their audiences to reflect together on the relevance of the piece. The creative team is led by Director Amber Mak (credits include *Elf the Musical*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Sound of Music*). This project was presented to local educators and administrators earlier this month at Copley Theatre and will tour local K-12 schools this Fall 2023 semester.

New plays are vital to our communities because they reflect contemporary issues. As we set our sights on the future, Paramount acknowledges and understands that diverse stories, artists, audiences, institutions and leadership are essential to an equitable world. Furthermore, we are committed to creating a platform where they are embraced and nurtured.



Cast (from left to right): Carisa Gonzalez, Laura Quiñones, Tiffany Taylor, Bryce Ancil and Jake Dimaggio Lopez

“I like acting and this is the first time I’ll see people acting in person. Theater is important so you can see how much talent people have.” – Angelyn, 5th Grade

TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT PARAMOUNT, VISIT PARAMOUNTAURORA.COM/SUPPORT

DONOR DIGEST

THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE ENDOWMENT

Paramount is excited to announce that the Board of Directors of both the Paramount Arts Centre, Inc. and our long-time partners, the Paramount Arts Centre Endowment, approved a merger of the two non-profit entities at the end of 2022, and thus established The Paramount Theatre Endowment.

The original Paramount Arts Centre Endowment was founded by community leader and arts advocate Anne Goldsmith. She, along with a dedicated group of volunteers, formed the organization in 1983. In recent years the Endowment has been guided by Arlene and Dick Hawks, Bernie Weiler, Gina Santori and Joy Titiner.

For many years the two organizations operated side-by-side to support the ongoing educational, charitable and cultural activities produced by the Aurora Civic Center Authority, more commonly recognized as the Paramount Theatre, Copley Theatre, RiverEdge Park and Paramount School of the Arts.

What does this mean for the future of Paramount? Now, together as one, our goal is to significantly grow the unrestricted endowed funds to support and serve the programs and initiatives of the Paramount Theatre and Aurora Civic Center Authority, ensuring our longevity for generations to come. We are supported in this endeavor by our partner, the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley, who will continue to serve as the administrator of the fund.

SCAN HERE TO SUPPORT OUR
ENDOWMENT FUND



To learn more about supporting the endowment, contact Jonathan Jensen, Chief Development Officer via jonathanj@paramountarts.com or 630-723-2484.



2023/24 SEASON
**SUBSCRIPTIONS
ON SALE NOW!**

BROADWAY^{SERIES}

4-SHOW SUBSCRIPTIONS
START AT \$56!



8/30 - 10/15/23

11/8/23 - 1/14/24

2/7 - 3/24/24

4/24 - 6/16/24

BOLD^{SERIES}

3-SHOW SUBSCRIPTIONS
START AT \$75!



1/26 - 9/3/23

10/4 - 11/12/23

3/13 - 4/21/24

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