

Summer 2023



BACKSTAGE bulletin

Big things are happening because of donors like *you*

A NOTE FROM PARAMOUNT'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Summer is here! Earlier this June we officially closed our 11th Broadway Season. I remember like it was yesterday, when we inaugurated the Broadway Series in Fall of 2011. It was hard to imagine how far we would come, but I always knew we could succeed because of the spirit of our patrons and staff. So many of you have stuck by us and embraced our evolving programming. It keeps me inspired!

Currently, I am busy directing the first show of our second BOLD season, *Next to Normal*, and am excited to bring it to life on the Copley stage for all of you. First previews begin on July 26, so make sure you get your tickets. While our shows are on a brief intermission, you can still count on us for your summer entertainment. Check out our outdoor concert series season at RiveredgeAurora.com to see the lineup and purchase your tickets.

Across Paramount, our staff is keeping busy. Paramount School of the Arts hosted a three-week performance camp, which culminated in two nights of performances of *Matilda, Jr.* on the Paramount stage, showcasing the talents of our PSA students. Our Box Office and Front of House teams continue to ensure you have stellar customer service as you plan to attend upcoming performances this season.

Meanwhile, the Development team is planning some exciting events for all of you, such as our third annual TOAST in September and our re-imagined Gala which will take place this October—more details to come soon.

Overall, we are rehearsing, building, sewing, fundraising, making calls, and more to make sure you have the best possible experience during our 2023-2024 Broadway and BOLD seasons. Thank you for your continued enthusiastic support of our theater. I hope to see you there soon!

With Gratitude, *Jim Corti*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



JUL. 26 – SEP. 3
Next to Normal

JUL. 31
Premium Guest Experience Donor Pre-Sale*

AUGUST
Make-a-Will Month

AUG. 2
Next to Normal Opening Night Reception

AUG. 30 – OCT. 15
Little Shop of Horrors

*Available to donors at Friend Level and above.



PARAMOUNT
THEATRE



YOUTH ON THE PARAMOUNT STAGE

One of the most frequently asked questions at Paramount School of the Arts (PSA) is “how can students perform on THE Paramount Theatre stage?” Performing is often the most sought-after goal in arts education — and as PSA pursues its mission to become a home to an inclusive and accessible performing arts education, we also strive to bring new and exciting opportunities for our students to showcase their passion and talent.

This year PSA expanded the Paramount Performance Camp to include both a performance and an educational opportunity for our students, right here in Downtown Aurora. PPC is a 3-week camp intensive that—for the first time—culminated in a fully-staged musical performance directed, choreographed, designed, and built by our incredible Paramount team.

Our inaugural show for Paramount Performance Camp was *Matilda Jr.* —the unique musical based on the children's book by Roald Dahl which celebrates the wonderment of childhood. A company of 50 performers, from grades 5-12, brought this imaginative story to life for our audience during two performances.

“Seeing storytelling, and our beautiful theater through the eyes of these students amplifies just how important the arts, and arts education truly is.”

Jessica Duplessis, Director of Education & Community Engagement, Paramount School of the Arts



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE LONDON PARAMOUNT ON TOUR GOES ABROAD

Friends of the Paramount went on tour in London this past month for a week filled with theater and exploration of the West End. We shared six days, five nights, four shows and countless memories together.

Our trip kicked off with a visit to see the world's longest running play—*The Mousetrap* at the St. Martin's Theatre. We attended show number 29,163 of this famous 'whodunnit' performance. We also saw *Les Misérables* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. We capped off our theatrical experiences with West End star Sifiso Mazibuko, who joined us for dinner prior to seeing him take the stage as Otis Williams in *Ain't Too Proud*.

Other highlights included afternoon tea in Borough Market, a walk through Westminster, and a sighting of King Charles himself as he was leaving his residence for Buckingham Palace!

Just like our other Paramount on Tour trips, a portion of the cost of the trip supports the general operations of the Paramount and all we do to bring the arts to Aurora. We'll be headed back to London and New York next year and hope you can join us!

Paramount On Tour 2024 Dates

NEW YORK CITY
May 17-20
October 4-7
December 6-9

LONDON
June 23-29



For more information or to join the POT waitlist
Contact Madison Wakefield, Donor Relations & Stewardship Coordinator
madisonw@paramountarts.com or 331-684-1457

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



DONOR DIGEST

THE PARAMOUNT EXPERIENCE WITH KATHY BALEK

Met Kathy Balek, a loyal patron and donor of Paramount Theatre for over a decade — since the beginning

of our Broadway Series. Kathy has enjoyed many shows at Paramount over the years with *Oklahoma* and *A Christmas Story* being a couple of her favorites. She returns to Paramount season after season because of the Broadway-level quality of the productions and ticket affordability.

In addition to attending shows and events, Kathy has also supported the theater by coming on multiple Paramount on Tour trips to New York City. According to Kathy, “[POT] is a great experience for theater-lovers.

The trips are always fun and well-planned.” She encourages anyone who is on-the-fence about attending a trip to take the plunge and ensures it is a “great bang for your buck.” Plus, it helps support the theater’s mission and programs.

Kathy is motivated to support Paramount Theatre— through her patronage, donations, and POT attendance. “I feel good about supporting Paramount,” Kathy says, “it helps all ages—from children and students to the elderly— experience the arts when they may otherwise not have an opportunity. Paramount makes it accessible for everyone.”

Thank you, Kathy, for inspiring the next generation of theater-goers and for supporting Paramount.



INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Paramount Business Partner program has taken the stage! This program gives you access to business development opportunities, community recognition, and hospitality benefits at Paramount Theatre, Copley Theatre and RiverEdge Park.

Interested in becoming a partner?

Contact Joel Friend, Director of Corporate Sponsorship & Giving

joelf@paramountarts.com or 630-723-2470

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR NEW BUSINESS PARTNERS & SPONSORS



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