



BACKSTAGE BULLETIN

A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

It has been over a year since the last time I wrote to you—every time I get a chance to do so I am honored to continue sharing all the new and exciting things that are happening here at Paramount! And trust me, there is always something new brewing.

To start things off, Stolp Island Theatre has officially opened, premiering *Million Dollar Quartet* on July 19! This has been a vision many years in the making. I had the pleasure of co-directing with Creg Sclavi who, along with his directing responsibilities, managed the Stolp Island Theatre project over the past 12 months. I am so elated for you to see all the hard work come to life!

With the BOLD Series heading into its third season and Broadway Series into its thirteenth, we continue to rehearse, build, and create other shows at Paramount and Copley theatres. You're going to love this season!

Paramount School of the Arts continues to grow and expand its programming by offering unique opportunities for the students to perform on the Paramount stage in front of audiences. The New Works team has been busy cultivating relationships and exploring original opportunities to help creatives bring new stories to life. We'll be thrilled to invite you to a sneak peek of the process very soon.

Lastly, I can't wait to see you at the fourth annual TOAST season kick-off party at the end of August, and at the second annual gala and fundraising concert, *An Evening with Matthew Morrison*, on October 12—more details inside.

On behalf of all of us at Paramount, thank you for your generosity and continued support!

With Gratitude, Jim Corti

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 24 – SEPT. 1

Peter and the Starcatcher
at Copley Theatre

AUG. 21 – OCT. 6

The Full Monty
at Paramount Theatre

AUG. 30

TOAST: Cheers to Paramount

AUGUST

Make-a-Will Month

OCT. 12

*An Evening with
Matthew Morrison*
at Paramount Theatre



PARAMOUNT
THEATRE

STOLP ISLAND THEATRE

IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



LESS THAN ONE YEAR AGO, the office space on the first level of the parking facility at 5 E Downer Place in downtown Aurora was ordinary. A quiet spot to sit and watch the world go by, enjoy the views of the Saturday morning farmer's market, or just listen to the acoustic sounds of the Fox River. You'd probably walk right past this spot and never know it was there.

It's a little harder to miss now – an extraordinary sight, in fact! A new marquee adorning the exterior of the building has illuminated a thriving theater scene in our community. Inside the new Stolp Island Theatre, there's a whole lotta shakin' going on with Paramount's production of *Million Dollar Quartet*.



The ribbon cutting ceremony and opening night festivities took place on Friday, July 19 with our friends from Verano and Zen Leaf, and the City of Aurora, following a week of preview performances.

We hope you have the opportunity to experience this amazing production soon. Your belief in our mission, trust in our team, and investment in our work makes theater come to life. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Paramount and the artistic economy in our community.



The immersive experience was fantastic, nothing I had ever experienced in a theater before.

I will be back to see it again!

– Robin Arsenault, Paramount Donor and Patron

PARAMOUNT SPOTLIGHT

NATE COHEN



WE'RE DELIGHTED for you to meet Nate Cohen, the director of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. This magical show will kick-off our third season of the BOLD Series at Copley Theatre and will mark Nate's directorial debut at Paramount!

Nate had an inclination for directing from an early age. He often created scenarios for himself and his brother to act out while playing together. His road towards a career in theatrical directing further solidified during his senior year of high school when, after not landing a role he auditioned for, he was invited to assist the theater teacher with the production. He has been directing ever since. He credits a lot of his success to his mentors at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, for encouraging him to pursue it seriously. His first professional directing credit after graduating was for a show at his alma mater called *Middle Names* by Corey O'Hara.

Nate received his directing MFA from Northwestern in 2020 where his story with *Peter and the Starcatcher* begins. This show was Nate's thesis production and was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic.

Directing the show now feels like a second opportunity for him to see his initial effort go all the way through.

He'll be accompanied in that effort by several individuals who were at his side the first time around—a full circle moment for all of them.

At Paramount, Nate is very happy with the support and care he has received from everyone at the Theatre, and is excited for our audiences to see this production come to life. To him, this show is special because it's a collective experience between the audience and the performers on the stage. It encourages all of us to give ourselves over to our imagination.

For Nate, the most rewarding part of working in theater is, "being able to see other people's reactions—it is soul enriching!"

You're all invited to come put your imagination to the test and set sail with our talented cast on a journey of despair, greed, friendship, love and duty. *Peter and the Starcatcher* is playing at Copley Theatre July 24 - Sept. 1.

AN EVENING WITH MATTHEW MORRISON

GET YOUR TICKETS to Paramount's Gala and Fundraising Concert, *An Evening with Matthew Morrison* on **Saturday, October 12**. Join us for a night of glamour featuring the thrill of a Broadway-worthy performance right here in Aurora. Your support celebrating this wonderful occasion will contribute to the artistic vitality of our community.

Secure your tickets by visiting ParamountAurora.com.





2025

PARAMOUNT ON TOUR

REGISTRATION FOR PARAMOUNT ON TOUR 2025 is OPEN for London and spring/summer NYC tours! Apart from experiencing world-class shows in the world's two most popular theater districts—New York and London—Paramount on Tour helps raise funds for the general operations of our theatre. A portion of the cost of the trip supports the general operations of Paramount and all we do to bring the arts to Aurora. We hope you can join us and other theater lovers and professionals in NYC or London next year!

NEW YORK

- May 2–5
- June 6–9 *New date added!*
- Fall and Winter dates *Coming Soon!*

LONDON

- May 11–18

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Madison Wakefield, Donor Relations & Stewardship Manager, at madisonw@paramountarts.com or 331.684.1457

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