



BACKSTAGE BULLETIN

A NOTE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on this year and look to the remainder of the season here at Paramount, we're filled with gratitude for the creativity and community you've helped us build.

The last Spark Lab of the season, *The Block*, (more inside) was an incredible success, showcasing the bold, new voices in our New Works program. We are so proud of the artists who brought fresh perspectives to our community, and we look forward to what's next as we continue to support this important program in the years to come.

At Paramount School of the Arts (PSA), we're excited to announce that enrollment continues to grow, reflecting the demand for arts education and our commitment to providing opportunities for students of all ages. Upcoming shows like *Winterwoven* (back cover), a collaboration between PSA and our New Works department, are a true testament to the talent we are nurturing in our community.

We are thrilled to celebrate this holiday season with Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* on the Paramount stage. This beloved holiday classic promises to be a magical experience for everyone. Also, don't miss *The Second City* returning to the Copley Theatre—a welcome return of laughter and improv brilliance to the space. And if you haven't yet, catch *Million Dollar Quartet* at Stolp Island Theatre, running through January.

As we look to the future, we hope you'll join us for our Gala in January, a celebration of our mission to make the arts accessible to all. Your support ensures we can continue to bring the best performances to our stage and provide transformative arts education and programming in our community.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment. We look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

Jim Corti

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**NOW THROUGH
JANUARY 4, 2026**
Million Dollar Quartet
at Stolp Island Theatre

**NOVEMBER 12, 2025 –
JANUARY 11, 2026**
White Christmas
at Paramount Theatre

**NOVEMBER 20 –
DECEMBER 23, 2025**
The Second City:
*Jack Frost Roasting on an
Open Fire*

DECEMBER 2, 2025
Giving Tuesday + Winterwoven

JANUARY 18, 2026
Fundraising Gala



PARAMOUNT
THEATRE

DONOR DIGEST

Beyond the Gift: Making change with both time and philanthropy.



For Lorraine Dirks, supporting our mission isn't just about giving—it's about getting involved. In addition to her and her husband Peter's generous financial contributions, Lorraine plays a key role on our Gala Planning Committee, helping shape one of our most important events of the year.

Lorraine and Peter have been Paramount donors since 2015 and when Lorraine was approached to join our Gala Planning Committee, she jumped at the opportunity to help us plan the event, sell tickets and secure sponsorships.

We sat down with Lorraine to chat about her philanthropy and connection to our theatre as well as what inspired her to go beyond and invest her time and talent for our mission.

What is your first memory of Paramount?

Peter and I went to see *Miss Saigon* as part of the 2013 Broadway Series. I was so struck by how beautiful the theatre is. I loved the Art Deco ceiling and thought we were so lucky to have such a magnificent theatre in our town. *Miss Saigon* has always been a favorite of mine as well. We have been subscribers to the Broadway Series ever since.

What do you think is Paramount's role in Aurora and the surrounding community?

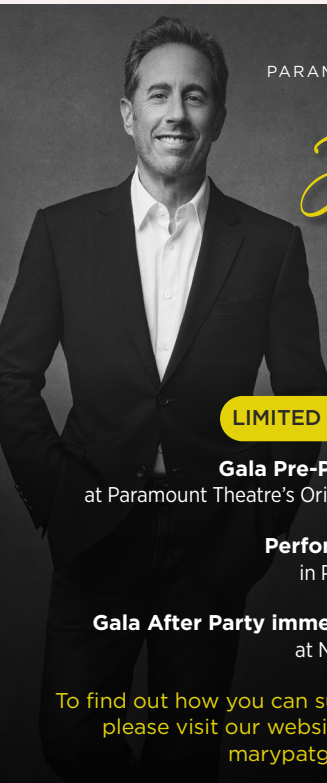
The impact is huge. I have lived in Aurora for 20 years and have seen the significant changes in downtown and fully believe that the Paramount community is the driving factor. The addition of four new entertainment and educational venues has driven other new ventures, particularly dining, in the downtown area.

What inspired you to give to Paramount?

My husband Pete and I feel so fortunate to have such wonderful creative productions right in our own backyard. In the time we have been subscribers, RiverEdge Park, Paramount School of the Arts, and Stolp Island have all come into being - what a great opportunity to assist, in any way that we could, in the continuation of such inspiring creative arts in Aurora.

I am honored to assist with the very special Gala this year! It is great to work with the friends we've made at the Paramount. It feels especially important this year to help in funding the Paramount, now and going forward.

Many thanks to Lorraine and Peter for their ongoing generosity!



PARAMOUNT'S FUNDRAISING GALA FEATURING A
BENEFIT PERFORMANCE WITH

Jerry Seinfeld

LIVE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Gala Pre-Performance Reception
at Paramount Theatre's Original Lobby and Grand Gallery at 5:00 PM

Performance at 7:00 PM
in Paramount Theatre

Gala After Party immediately following the performance
at North Island Center

To find out how you can support our gala and fundraising efforts
please visit our website or contact Mary Pat Griswold at
marypatg@paramountarts.com.

At Spark Lab, *The Block* brings us together

Paramount's Spark Lab wrapped up its final New Works presentation of 2025 with *The Block*, an audience-immersive piece by the New York-based performance company Wolf 359. The developmental week for this unique work-in-progress culminated in two intimate public showings that took place in the North Island Center's Marquee Room, designed to resemble a neighborhood block association meeting.

Audience members joined in as members of the fictional association came together and participated in the discussion of how to spend newly discovered community funds. With multiple possible different endings based on audience decisions, *The Block* inspired participants to consider the question, "What makes a community... and what breaks it?"

Here is what our audiences had to say about the experience:

"For me, the biggest success of the production was that we truly did build a community. I said sincere goodbyes to the people at my table and others in attendance. And I also had conversations with other patrons as we walked to our cars."

"Thank you for inviting us to share in this experience. I will be contemplating it for months... thrilled to see it in its infancy."



Generously Supported by:



AWE
AURORA WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT
FOUNDATION



R.E.A.C.H.
Aurora Fund



2026 Fall and Winter Dates Added!

October 23 - 26 • December 4 - 7 • December 11 - 14

Registration for our Paramount On Tour fall and winter 2026 NYC dates is now open. If you've been dreaming of a theatre-filled autumn adventure or a holiday Broadway blitz, Paramount's got you covered! With all new fall and winter dates announced — including **TWO December tours** — now is the perfect time to sign up for an unforgettable get-away.

For more information, contact Paula Rae Brown at paularaeb@paramountarts.com.

Weaving Winter Magic: A Paramount School Original



The Paramount School of the Arts and the New Works department are teaming up to create a Paramount original holiday show that will be premiering on Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025. This performance will be the culmination of a script devising workshop held this summer, and a production class for all ages being offered this fall at the school.

Winterwoven is a story that unfolds around Patch Winter, a student at Terrafroste Academy, whose family's world has recently been turned upside down after the death of their grandmother, Nan. This year, all the Winter family members are scattering for the holidays instead of meeting at Nan's cozy homestead like usual. Can some magical assistance from Nan herself bring the whole family back together? *Winterwoven* is a story about finding joy through pain, connection through solitude, and the invisible threads binding us to loved ones through it all.

This event is free and open to the public while tickets last. Reserve your seats by visiting ParamountAurora.com/school

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

GIVING TUESDAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2



This Giving Tuesday, make an impact by supporting Paramount School of the Arts and projects like *Winterwoven*!

A generous \$15,000 matching gift opportunity is available, courtesy of our donors Sarah and Dale Richardson. All gifts designated for Giving Tuesday will be matched 1-to-1! Help us make an impact and make an early gift by visiting ParamountAurora.com/give-today-for-psa/