

JANUARY 2022



FROM THE WINGS



WELCOME TO OUR FIRST EDITION

Hello from RBTL's Auditorium Theatre!

We're excited to be connecting with you in this new way, with what we hope you will find to be interesting, informative, and entertaining reading, in the form of our brand new monthly chronicle - FROM THE WINGS!

So much happens behind the scenes in any theatre, and we think it might be fun to bring some of what happens here at the Auditorium to light for our patrons.

From ducks in the showers (more to come on that) to interesting show content, patron experiences and education program highlights, our goal is for readers to look forward to new editions each month.

Have a suggestion for a story? A burning question you'd love answered? A special theatre memory to share? Feel free to reach out to us at mail@rbtl.org (subject: FTW Content) and let us know! We'd love to feature reader submissions in upcoming issues!

As we move forward this new year, we welcome and invite you to explore the aspects of our business that are a little less commonly known.

Thank you for joining us! Now about those ducks...



UPCOMING EVENTS:

CHAMPIONS OF MAGIC
FEBRUARY 9

MY FAIR LADY
FEBRUARY 22-27

RENT
MARCH 7-8

DIANA KRALL
MARCH 30

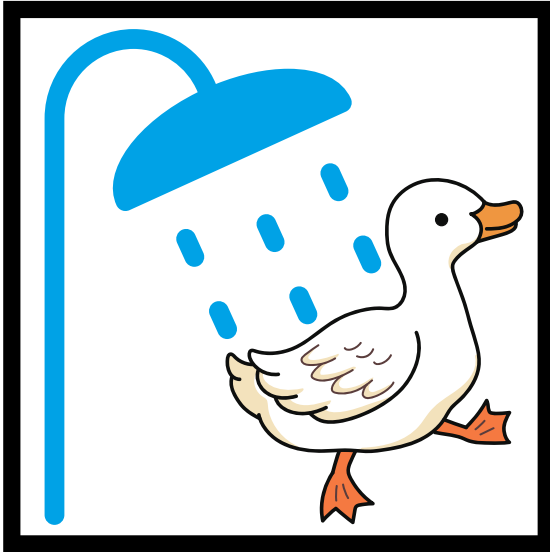
RIVERDANCE
MARCH 31 - APRIL 2



RBTL'S AUDITORIUM THEATRE
885 EAST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14605
585.222.5000 - RBTL.ORG



@RBTLAUD



DUCKS IN THE SHOWER

It was a few years back, prior to patrons arriving for an evening Auditorium Theatre performance when an RBTL staff member went to use a backstage restroom. These facilities were not planned to be in use by the touring production, so it caught the staff member off-guard when she opened the door and saw the shower running, and shadows moving on the floor behind the frosted glass. Both a bit alarmed and curious, she called out to the shadows but got no reply. Thinking of a multitude of scenarios, she decided (after calling out once more) to knock and then pull open the door. Much to her surprise, a trio of ducks was found inside, splashing in the pooling water! Turns out, the ducks were part of an act in the evening's magic show and needed a place to clean up before showtime. The staff member greeted the ducks, then slowly backed away with a chuckle. Since then, the shower glass has been replaced with a curtain that can be left open, and no other fowl have been found bathing pre-show. Now if we could only say the same about the bats! - Just kidding.

4 GREAT SHOWS, 1 LOW PRICE - AS LOW AS \$181!

RBTL's Auditorium Theatre is pleased to offer a New Package for the New Year. Those interested in Season Tickets, who weren't quite ready to commit in the fall, now have the opportunity to subscribe to a 4-show package which includes:

- **MY FAIR LADY - FEBRUARY 22-27:** Boasting the classic songs, it's "a sumptuous new production of the most perfect musical of all time" (Entertainment Weekly).
- **THE BAND'S VISIT - JUNE 7-12:** Winner of 10 Tony® Awards and the Grammy® Award for Best Musical Theater Album, with a score that seduces your soul and sweeps you off your feet.
- **MEAN GIRLS - JULY 5-10:** Described as "by far the funniest musical of the year!" (Chicago Tribune), it's the hilarious hit musical, based on the film, from book writer Tina Fey.
- **HAMILTON - NOVEMBER 1-13:** This "theatrical landmark has transformed theater and the way we think about history" (The New York Times).

Packages are available now, ranging from \$181-\$442. (Price includes a ticket for all 4 shows.) Enjoy yourself or split the package for gift-giving. Purchase online at RBTL.org, by phone at 585.222.5000, and in-person at the Auditorium Box Office.

THE M&T BANK BROADWAY SEASON AT RBTL'S AUDITORIUM THEATRE

PRESENTED BY RBTL & ALBERT NOCCIOLINO

NEW YEAR, NEW PACKAGE



FEB. 22-27, 2022



JUNE 7-12, 2022



JULY 5-10, 2022



NOV. 1-13, 2022

SAFETY PROTOCOLS



VACCINE POLICY

The Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL) has re-assessed current recommendations and will be adjusting its COVID-19 safety guidelines. Beginning February 14, 2022, everyone ages five and older must show proof of being fully vaccinated in order to attend performances at the Auditorium Theatre. Patrons are considered fully vaccinated at least 14 days after their second dose of a Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or their single dose of a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. (A COVID booster shot is not required at this time.) Children ages two through four are allowed entry if they are accompanied by an adult who meets the vaccine requirements.

Children under the age of two are not permitted in the Theatre at this time. Upon entry to the Theatre, patrons will be asked to show their COVID Vaccination Card or Excelsior Pass, along with photo ID and ticket. (A photocopy of a Vaccine Card will not be accepted.)

This policy amendment builds on the previously announced requirements for ages 12+ that went into effect this past fall.

MASK POLICY

When attending an Auditorium Theatre performance, face masks continue to be required for all patrons, regardless of vaccination status, upon arrival and departure in lobby areas, and within the theatre for the entirety of the performance. "Our stance has been on the more cautious side from the start," says RBTL Executive Vice President Linda Glosser. "Our goal is to try to minimize potential exposure, in the most effective ways, for as many people as possible." The precautions of both vaccinations and masks are critical to RBTL's ability to continue to present shows and the cooperation and understanding of patrons is appreciated. The safety of our patrons, staff, volunteers, casts and crews is RBTL's top priority. These implementations and protocols are made based on New York State and CDC guidelines. It is our hope that it also enhances the theatre-going experience.

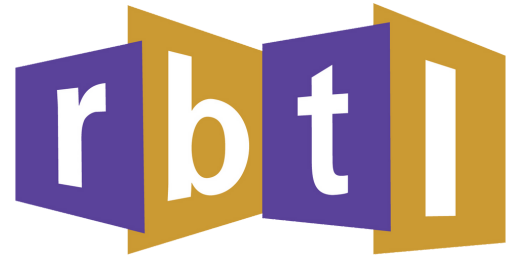
Full venue safety policy available at rbtl.org/safety.



VENUE SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

In addition to updating COVID safety guidelines, RBTL has also made several safety improvements to the Auditorium Theatre itself. Right from the start of the entry process, patrons will notice touchless ticket scanners and security screenings, limiting person-to-person contact. Next, air purifiers have been added to the lobby and concession areas. The Theatre's HVAC system has also been upgraded to MERV 13 filters designed to mitigate airborne pathogens. In the restrooms, enhancements include touchless faucets, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, and automatic flush on the toilets. "Our audiences have been tremendously supportive and receptive to the protocols we have implemented, understanding that all of this is a departure from anything we've ever done before," adds Glosser. "The overwhelming response from people is that they can't believe how easy it is to physically come into the building, and even with vaccination checks and masking, they feel secure in the process. It's been flowing smoothly so far."





Entertaining today's audiences.
Inspiring tomorrow's entertainers.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS RETURN TO RBTL

The Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL) not only provides opportunities for people to experience and enjoy theatre through performances and events but also aims to educate future audiences. Throughout the pandemic, we have been limited on how we fulfill that mission. But now that live performances are back, our educational programming is also making a return!

After two years without it, our summer camp, Summer Stars, is welcoming back students to the stage. From July 18-30, 2022, kids in grades 4-12 will take part in an intensive day camp, led by Artistic Director Nikki Snelson (original Brooke Wyndham on Broadway in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*) and her team of Broadway professionals from New York City.

For two weeks, students will focus on singing, acting, and dancing. They will conclude with a Gala Showcase performance on July 30, giving them the chance to highlight their newly honed skills. The overall goal of the camp is to allow the students to develop their individual talents and have the opportunity to learn and grow. "We have quite a few students who started with us in the summer going into third grade and they are now entering college for their last year and they've been with us every summer since," said RBTL Director of Education, Holly Valentine. "So it's definitely a family atmosphere."

Also making a return this year is [Stars of Tomorrow](#). Currently, 25 schools in Monroe and surrounding counties are participating in this Tony® Award-style program. Schools with a fall or spring production are divided into four divisions based on population and geographic area. Judges are then assigned to specific divisions to score each school on a number of criteria. That includes dance, acting, and singing ensemble, supporting actor and actress, leading actor and actress, production crew, student orchestra, and overall musical production.

Then, at the Stars of Tomorrow Recognition Ceremony, awards are given to schools with the highest scores in each category. Participating schools also have the opportunity to perform a selection from their musical on stage at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre. This will take place on May 5, 2022.

Stars of Tomorrow leading actors and actresses are eligible to participate in [Stars of Tomorrow NYC Bound](#). The judges will select one male and one female to represent Rochester, N.Y. in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, also known as the Jimmy Awards®, in New York City. Since 2009, RBTL has sent 21 local students, some receiving the honor more than once, to this national competition. Shauni Ruetz (Wayne Central School District), who competed in 2011, went on to win the Jimmy Award®. In 2019, both students representing Rochester, Mia Hall (Eastridge High School) and Jack D'Angelo (Warsaw Central School District), were recognized and won scholarships. This was also the last time the Awards were held in-person.

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"The return of the programs is definitely allowing us to celebrate all the dedication and teamwork that goes into putting on a high school musical," said Valentine. She adds, "these programs are integral in students' lives as they offer more than just a stepping-stone to the theatre industry. Even if students don't continue on in theatre, it provides them opportunities for confidence-building and working with others and independence and responsibility that they just don't get in any other area in school. It's a really unique family environment and teamwork and there's little to no judgment of the kids that are participating, which in today's society is a pretty awesome thing."

With the return of Broadway shows, RBTL resumed its partnerships with area schools this past fall as part of the [A.R.T.S. \(Arts Reaching and Teaching in Schools\) Partners](#) Program. It allows teachers to integrate the arts into their curriculums year-round. RBTL chooses age-appropriate productions that are part of the current M&T Bank Broadway Season and identifies themes that resonate closely with today's youth. Valentine then aligns these topics to the Common Core Standards, writes curriculum, and works with teachers to adapt these units into classroom lessons. Students who learn the curriculum are given the opportunity to experience live theatre by attending the correlating touring Broadway production at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre.

"The brain can't develop in isolation. It requires constant dialogue and an environment filled with textures, sounds, and colors," says Valentine. "The arts can bring all those things at once, as well as allowing important social-emotional connections."

This year's A.R.T.S. Partners theme is 'imagining possibilities, accepting differences'. It focuses on the important lessons that come from four Broadway musicals: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, My Fair Lady, Dear Evan Hansen, and The Band's Visit. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory curriculum began in September, teaching hundreds of local students about imagination, appearance, family, poverty and wealth, kindness and humility, greed and punishment and the notion that nothing is impossible. Then in November, they had the chance to see those lessons carried out on stage.

The Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts was among the schools that took on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory curriculum. Director of Arts and Technology Rhiannon Tobeck said, "It is thanks to you [A.R.T.S. Partners] and Rochester Broadway Theatre League that our students had the opportunity to participate in an experience which would usually be cost-prohibitive for their families. Theatre is most amazing when able to be enjoyed by all, and your generosity promotes equity in the arts in a way that not all arts organizations do."

Students at Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School No. 19 also worked on a curriculum that focused on themes from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Principal Moniek Silas-Lee said, "Integrating the arts into education and providing these experiences are critical to the success of our students both academically and personally."

Currently, students in grades 4 and up are learning about social mobility, gender roles and expectations, language (articulation and code-switching), and transformation – all themes from the classic My Fair Lady. Participating schools will then see the production when it comes to RBTL's Auditorium Theatre in February. The remainder of the school year includes lessons from Dear Evan Hansen and The Band's Visit. Among the themes from Dear Evan Hansen: bullying, suicide, loneliness, social media, connecting with others, and self-image. The Band's Visit focuses on cultural differences and finding common ground, waiting for life to begin, human connection, coming together to find hope and healing, and the power of music.

"By connecting to the themes and characters found in the theatre, students can then turn those themes and topics back to their own lives, and reflect on the messages the shows embody," said Valentine. "Students and classrooms participating in A.R.T.S. Partners gain so much more than just 'seeing the show.' We have heard time and again from participating educators that their students connect to the show long after the performance and administrators have often remarked on the positive impact the experience provides in their schools."

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that owns and operates the Auditorium Theatre. In addition to presenting touring Broadway shows and other live events, RBTL also provides touring production services and educational opportunities for area youth.
- RBTL has a full-time staff of 18. That includes management, box office/ticketing, production, marketing, education, development, and finance departments. In addition, front-of-house staff, local union laborers, and volunteer ushers help to provide an enjoyable theatre experience for all.
- The Auditorium Center was originally built as a Masonic Temple. Its cornerstone was laid in 1928, before being dedicated in May of 1930. RBTL purchased and renovated the Theatre portion in 2003. Other areas of the building currently include offices, meeting rooms, churches, a gym, RBTL's Ethan Allen Rothschild Lounge and the Joseph A. Floreano Entertainment and Education Center.