

OCTOBER 2022



FROM THE WINGS

RBTL NOW OFFERING 6-SHOW BROADWAY TICKET PACKAGE

There is still another chance to purchase season tickets for the 2022-2023 M&T Bank Broadway Season. RBTL is now offering a 6-show season ticket package. It includes the following shows for one low price:

- COME FROM AWAY: December 6-11, 2022
- BEETLEJUICE: February 14-19, 2023
- HADESTOWN: March 14-19, 2023
- ALADDIN: April 11-16, 2023
- SIX: May 16-21, 2023
- TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD: June 13-18, 2023

Season ticket packages include one ticket to each show. Prices depend on the day and time of the performance, but range from \$258 to \$563 per season ticket. Patrons choose the performance they wish to attend. Season ticket subscribers also receive exclusive benefits, including the ability to renew the same seats year after year.

The 6-show season ticket package is available for a limited time only at rbtl.org and 585-222-5000.

RBTL'S PARTNERSHIP WITH M&T BANK

While RBTL has brought touring Broadway shows to Rochester for nearly four decades, the 2022-2023 Season marks more than 20 years since we first partnered with M&T Bank to bring these Broadway performances to local audiences. RBTL would like to thank M&T Bank for its long-standing and continued support of the arts.

M&T Bank Executive Vice President and Regional President, Daniel J. Burns said, "For more than two decades, the M&T Bank Broadway Season has provided local audiences with access to nationally and internationally renowned performances. We have laughed out loud and been moved to tears on adventures around the world and throughout time – through the tremendous power of the arts. This season, there's something for everyone – comedy, drama, music, heart-touching stories, several Tony Award® winners as well as family entertainment. And, most importantly, we'll enjoy them together. The togetherness provided by this shared experience is one of the reasons our local team is so proud to support the M&T Bank Broadway Season. From elaborate set designs to powerful songs and performances, these moments bring people together and create memories that will last a lifetime. Additionally, the M&T Bank Broadway Season strengthens the fabric of our community, delivering an economic and cultural impact while inviting more people to experience our city's beautiful and historic neighborhoods. It enriches lives and helps us thrive. We are excited to continue working alongside the Rochester Broadway Theatre League to keep the season vibrant and growing."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OPEN HOUSE

October 26

HAMILTON

November 1-13

WARREN MILLER'S DAYMAKER

November 17

NUTCRACKER!

November 18

HARRY CONNICK, JR.

November 26



RBTL'S AUDITORIUM THEATRE

885 EAST MAIN STREET

ROCHESTER, NY 14605

585.222.5000 - RBTL.ORG



@RBTLAUD

RBTL HELPS ENHANCE THEATRE EXPERIENCE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED WITH AUDIO DESCRIPTION SERVICE

The Theatre is a place where everyone can go to be immersed in a new story, transported to a new world and have an enjoyable, entertaining experience. For RBTL's diverse audiences, there are even services to help enhance that experience. This includes Audio Description for the blind or visually impaired.



Essentially, Audio Description is the narration of key visual elements happening on stage. It's done live by a trained Audio Describer during the Sunday matinee performance of a Broadway run at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre. The goal is to describe, through a personal headset, any visual elements taking place that are needed to understand and enjoy the show. This includes facial expressions, any physical actions taken by the characters, costumes and the set.

"She is describing what she is seeing, not subjective thought, not conclusions," said Audio Description Consultant Rene Latorre. "She doesn't explain the show, she describes what they see and it's done during the natural pauses of the dialogue."

Latorre has been partnering with RBTL since the Audio Description service first began, in 2007. She's the one who helps Audio Describer, Shye Louis, prepare to do the live Audio Description. That preparation starts with a first viewing of the show, usually opening night, with Louis having a close-up seat in the house. That's so she can get a good view of the actors, costumes, set and any other details she may not see while in the Audio Description booth, which is located in the back of the balcony level near the spotlight booth. After the viewing, Louis prepares her pre-show notes, which are lengthier descriptions of the set or characters, including looks, age, clothes, etc. that are read prior to curtain. She also writes her own script of the visual elements she will be describing in-between dialogue, elements that are important to the plot and story.

"There is detail that you might think you're seeing, maybe an expression on somebody's face or something they are holding in their hand. Or sometimes, there's a lot happening on the stage," said Latorre. "Maybe you're looking at the left side and something very significant is happening on the right side. Just a lot of detail that sometimes even fully-sighted individuals might miss, so it brings the detail to life for someone who has any type of vision challenges."

Next, both Louis and Latorre attend another performance, which acts as a 'rehearsal'. This time, Louis is in the Audio Description booth, while Latorre watches from a seat in the house with an audio receiver. Throughout the performance, Louis goes about the description as if she is doing it live. After, Latorre gives notes on if anything was confusing or if anything was missing. For example, the audience laughed, but nothing funny was being described at the time. Louis then incorporates these notes into the final script and is ready to do the Audio Description live. It's something Latorre calls "artful."

"Timing is everything and that is why you can't record it ahead of time," Latorre adds. "The play changes, the timing changes. The actors might ad-lib something or put something in there that you don't expect, so your timing has to be perfect and you can't, what we call 'step on the dialogue'. So as she is describing between natural pauses, she has to be careful not to talk over the dialogue, especially a part that might be very significant to the plot."

The Audio Description service at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre is free for anyone to use. Patrons may request an audio receiver at the Patron Services station in the main lobby prior to the performance. A photo ID is retained as a deposit for use of the device until returned following the performance. The receivers are small and as Latorre describes, don't really stand out. Patrons can choose to wear either a headset or an earbud, allowing them to listen to the description in one ear and the dialogue on stage in the other.

"The point of offering Audio Description is so that someone who is blind or has any type of vision challenges can really enjoy the play and have full accessibility and inclusion," said Latorre. "So that instead of when you come with your husband, your friend, sister, you're not saying 'what just happened?' You're just enjoying as an equal."

Latorre goes on to call the work that goes into Audio Description "amazing" and it's all to benefit someone else. She shared, "As I've heard someone say once, 'visual description is a right, not a privilege'."

However, Latorre believes it's a service that not many people are aware of or understand, making more opportunities to educate patrons about it, key. "I think a lot of times when people have heard about it, they are not sure what it is or they think that it's something that you have to be completely blind to use. And that's what I want to stress is not the case," said Latorre. "Sometimes, even if you think you don't need it, after you actually use it and experience it, I think you're going to love it."

RBTL ADDS TWO NEW ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO ITS REPERTOIRE

RBTL is expanding its arts education opportunities, by adding two new programs. These programs will give local middle and high school students a chance to further experience and appreciate the arts and theatre.

First is the Ensemble Project, which is a two-part workshop that can be adapted to a school's schedule, environment and needs. In the workshop, a team of teaching artists will work with classrooms on the art of the ensemble, while taking into account performer flexibility and mental health. This will include strategies for successful characterization, movement, engagement and energy when acting as a member of the ensemble in a show. Through interactions with the main characters and each other, the ensemble adds to and improves both the story and world that is being brought to life on the stage. Ensembles, along with swings, are considered the backbone of any production. This program will explore that.

ENSEMBLE Project

The Ensemble Project will consist of two sessions, each two and a half hours long. The team of artists can conduct the workshops at schools or the students can come to RBTL's Auditorium Theatre to learn and take a tour. Prior to the session dates, RBTL will work to identify the specific needs and interests of each group participating. Up to 40 students may take part in each workshop. The total cost to participate is \$1,350, which equates to about \$30 per student.

The second new arts education program aims to give Broadway a "boost." Broadway Boost is a four-day intensive for individual high school students, which will focus on a touring Broadway show playing at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre. The program is designed to provide hands-on work that will help students gain insight as both a performer and audience member. Sessions will focus on character work, storytelling through music and movement and will explore themes within the featured show. Students will also learn how to apply knowledge gained from the show into their own work as a performer. A masterclass or talkback with a cast member from the production will be included when available. The program culminates in attending the featured show.

BROADWAY BOOST:



The sessions will each last three to four hours and take place on consecutive afternoons during one of RBTL's Broadway show weeks. RBTL's first Broadway Boost program will be offered with "Come From Away." Sessions will take place December 5th-8th at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre and participants will attend the performance on Thursday, December 7th.

The cost for the four-day program is \$189 per person, if registered before November 11th. From then, the program cost will be \$219 until space is full. RBTL hopes to offer this intensive multiple times throughout the 2022-2023 M&T Bank Broadway Season.



RBTL's team of teaching artists for both the Ensemble Project and Broadway Boost include J. Simmons (actor, director, fight choreographer and private acting coach), Mandi Lynn Griffith (choreographer, performer and director) and Sean Michael Flowers (music director, conductor, composer and arts educator). Click [here](#) to learn more about these artists.

For more information about either of these new programs, including how to register, or about the other arts education programs RBTL has to offer, contact Director of Education, Holly Valentine at holly@rbtl.org or 585-277-3338.

SPOTLIGHT ON: HAMILTON

Beginning November 1st at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre, comes the story of America then, told by America now. "Hamilton" is making its highly-anticipated return to Rochester with a special two week engagement, November 1st-13th. "Hamilton" has taken the story of American founding father Alexander Hamilton and created a revolutionary moment in theatre. It's a musical that has had a profound impact on culture, politics and education around the world. The New York Times says this "theatrical landmark has transformed theater and the way we think about history."

With book, music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Hamilton" features a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway. It's directed by Thomas Kail, choreographed by Andy Blankenbuechler and has musical supervision and orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire. It's this creative team that helped "Hamilton" score a record 16 Tony® nominations, the most for any musical production. The show took home 11 of the awards it was up for at the 2016 Tony Awards. That includes Best Musical, Best Book for a Musical, Best Costume Design for a Musical (Paul Tazewell), Best Director of a Musical, Best Lighting Design for a Musical (Howell Binkley) and Best Original Musical Score. "Hamilton" has also won Grammy® and Olivier Awards, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a special citation from the Kennedy Center Honors.

"Hamilton" currently has three companies touring North America. In November, RBTL audiences will have the chance to see the Philip Tour perform. Tickets are on sale now at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or the Auditorium Box Office. Patrons also have the option to try and get tickets through the #Ham4Ham digital lottery. 40 tickets for every performance will be available for \$10 each. The lottery for tickets to the first week of performances (November 1st-6th) closes at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 27th. A digital lottery for tickets to the second week of performances (November 8th-13th) will begin on Friday, October 28th at 10:00 a.m. and end on Thursday, November 3rd at 12:00 p.m. Winners will be notified beginning one hour after the lottery closes. To enter, use the [official app](#) for "Hamilton", which is available for all iOS and Android devices in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.



THIS SEASON'S TONY® AWARDS

"Come From Away" (2017)

Nominations: 7

Wins: Best Direction of a Musical

"Aladdin" (2014)

Nominations: 5

Wins: Best Performance by an Actor

"Beetlejuice" (2019)

Nominations: 8, including Best Musical

"SIX" (2022)

Nominations: 8

Wins: Best Original Score & Best Costume Design

"Hadestown" (2019)

Nominations: 14

Wins: 8, including Best Musical

"To Kill A Mockingbird" (2019)

Nominations: 9

Wins: Best Performance by an Actress