

JANUARY 2023



# FROM THE WINGS

## VENUE IMPROVEMENTS TO ENHANCE YOUR THEATRE EXPERIENCE

While there weren't any shows at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre during the month of January, we were still busy! We took this time to make some improvements around the venue. That includes cosmetic updates, such as new carpet on the second and third floor lobbies and retouching the paint. We also undertook a big and exciting project: replacing the sound system.

Since the fall, we have been preparing the Auditorium Theatre for the implementation of a new, state-of-the-art sound system. Just after the New Year, we began the installation. Crews have been hard at work drilling through walls, laying cables and making the necessary adjustments in order to accommodate the new system.

Sound engineers from all Broadway and other touring shows that pass through the Auditorium Theatre will be able to use it. Not only will this sound system improve the work behind the scenes, it will also significantly enhance the audience's experience.



While some of these projects may seem minor, it's still all in an effort to make your time at the Theatre more enjoyable. And starting with the next show of our Broadway Season, "Beetlejuice," be sure to keep an eye – or ear – out for these improvements.



Above: Part of the new sound system being installed at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre.



Right: Local 25 Stagehands members working to install new sound system.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### VALENTINE'S SOUL JAM

February 10

### BEETLEJUICE

February 14-19

### BLUEY'S BIG PLAY

March 10-11

### HADESTOWN

March 14-19

### BLUES IS ALRIGHT TOUR

March 25



RBTL'S AUDITORIUM THEATRE

885 EAST MAIN STREET

ROCHESTER, NY 14605

585.222.5000 - [RBTL.ORG](http://RBTL.ORG)



@RBTLAUD



# TAKING A SNEAK PEEK OF “BEETLEJUICE” WITH NEW PRODUCTION PHOTOS

On February 14, the ghost with the most makes his way to RBTL’s Auditorium Theatre. The “Beetlejuice” North American Tour launched in December and Rochester is only its fifth stop. Ahead of the performances, we’re learning about the cast and getting a sneak peek of the show with new production photos.



Danielle Marie Gonzalez (Miss Argentina) and Tour Company of Beetlejuice  
Photo by Matthew Murphy, 2022



Justin Collette (Beetlejuice) and Tour Company of Beetlejuice  
Photo by Matthew Murphy, 2022

## “Beetlejuice” Tour Cast:

- Beetlejuice - Justin Collette
- Lydia Deetz - Isabella Esler
- Barbara Maitland - Britney Coleman
- Adam Maitland - Will Burton
- Charles - Jesse Sharp
- Delia - Kate Marilley
- Miss Argentina - Danielle Marie Gonzalez
- Otho - Abe Goldfarb
- Maxine Dean/Juno - Karmine Alers
- Maxie Dean - Brian Vaughn
- The Girl Scout - Jackera Davis

## Ensemble and Swings:

- Michael Biren
- Ryan Breslin
- Juliane Godfrey
- Morgan Harrison
- Matthew Michael Janisse
- Kenway Ho Wai K. Kua
- Sean McManus
- Lee N Price
- Nevada Riley
- Trevor Michael Schmidt
- Lexie Dorsett Sharp
- Graham Stevens
- CorBen Williams



Pictured (L-R): Isabella Esler (Lydia), Will Burton (Adam) and Britney Coleman (Barbara)  
Photo by Matthew Murphy, 2022

“Beetlejuice” is based on Tim Burton’s 1988 film of the same name. It tells the story of Lydia Deetz, a strange and unusual teenager whose whole life changes when she meets a recently deceased couple and a demon with a thing for stripes.



Pictured (L-R): Kate Marilley (Delia) and Jesse Sharp (Charles)  
Photo by Matthew Murphy, 2022

Actor Jesse Sharp says “Beetlejuice” on stage isn’t just the movie performed live. “It’s slightly askew. And the music and the younger characters really appeal to that TikTok generation. So if you loved Beetlejuice in the ‘80s, or rented it at Blockbuster over and over and over again in the ‘90s, you will love our musical.”

Actress Kate Marilley adds, “Once the train starts with this show, which is a down beat, literally the down beat of the show, you are on a wild, wacky train that does not stop for about two and a half hours. And you don’t really feel the time pass because it’s so quick, for us in the cast and for the audience. We are never not moving, we’re always going 100% and the audience is with us the whole time. It literally is a jolt of energy.”

Hear more from Sharp and Marilley on WHAM1180’s The Broadway Report with Joe Lomonaco. A new segment is posted every Wednesday. Listen on WHAM1180 during the 5 o’clock hour or visit RBTL’s Soundcloud to listen again and again.

“Beetlejuice” runs February 14-19 and tickets are going fast! Reserve your seats now at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or the Auditorium Box Office.



# BROADWAY BOOST:

DATES ANNOUNCED FOR UPCOMING SESSIONS!



FEBRUARY 13-17



MARCH 13-17



APRIL 10-14



MAY 15-19

TO LEARN MORE OR REGISTER, VISIT [RBTL.ORG](http://RBTL.ORG).

## DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A HISTORIC ORGAN HOUSED AT THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE?

Some patrons may not know that the Auditorium Theatre is the home to a magnificent Wurlitzer Opus 1951 theatre organ and that the intricate proscenium arch surrounding the stage is more than just decorative. The organ console rises from beneath the orchestra pit and from behind the arch, the sound of trumpets, saxophones, clarinets, drums, strings or marimbas emanates from the more than 1,600 pipes.

The Wurlitzer organ was originally housed at the RKO Palace Theater, which once stood on Clinton Avenue North and Mortimer Street. It stayed at the 2,916-seat luxurious movie house from 1928 until 1965 when the Palace was demolished as part of urban renewal. Thanks to the Rochester Theater Organ Society (RTOS), the organ was rescued from the wrecking ball and safely stored in a warehouse, until a new home could be found. That new home turned out to be the Auditorium Theatre.



Although the Wurlitzer was not originally housed at the East Main Street Masonic Temple building, at one time there were as many as seven pipe organs in various locations within it. According to RTOS, in 1965 the Wurlitzer replaced a seldom-used 1929 E.M. Skinner concert organ, which was then sold to a local church, where it remains today.



By 1967, the Wurlitzer Opus 1951 was fully installed at the Auditorium Theatre and RTOS performed its first concert at the new location. Now, more than 50 years later, RTOS is still putting on organ concerts with it, bringing many of the world's great organists to the Auditorium Theatre.



Below is the remaining '22-'23 Concert Season presented by the Rochester Theater Organ Society:

- February 5 – David Marsh: From Coast to Coast
- March 5 – Ron Rhode: Everything New Is Old Again
- April 2 – Eastman Bunch
- April 23 – Simon Gledhill: Movie Musical Magic
- May 21 – Tedde Gibson: Ice Cream Social

Learn more about the Wurlitzer Opus 1951 theatre organ at [rtosonline.org](http://rtosonline.org).

## STAFF FEATURE: HOUSE MANAGERS

During your visit to RBTL's Auditorium Theatre, you may have seen several people walking around with the title "House Manager" on their name badge. There are seven House Managers employed at RBTL and it's their job to ensure everyone has an enjoyable theatre-going experience. The House Managers are responsible for Front of House operations, customer experience and training, scheduling and assigning placements to the Ushers.

RBTL's House Managers collectively have decades worth of experience in a theatre. We'll introduce you to four of the team members here.

### DICK GALVIN - 18 years with RBTL

**Q: What's your favorite spot in the Theatre to work and why?**

**A:** I enjoy all positions as a House Manager, but I think the [Patron Services] podium is my favorite. I find that people often get to the podium with needs or problems, and as a school counselor I was a good listener and problem solver and those skills are the same ones I need at the podium.

**Q: Do you have a favorite show or several?**

**A:** My favorite show is a difficult question to answer. I find good things in almost every show. I guess my favorites are "Les Misérables," "Hamilton," "Beauty and the Beast," "The Lion King," "Wicked" and "Jersey Boys." However, smaller shows like "Spring Awakening," "Come From Away" and "Million Dollar Quartet" were also wonderful. If I were to name all the shows that I loved it would be too long a list.

**Q: What other interests do you have? Is there a special talent we should know about?**

**A:** Outside of the theater I have a number of interests, the main two are playing golf and playing guitar and singing. I was in a quartet back in the late '70s to the early '90s where we played and sang a variety of songs. My specialty was Irish Folk. I became a member of Ontario Country Club in 1983 and still play golf there. I am also a rules official with the New York State Golf Association and have been since 2005.



*Dick Galvin assisting patrons.*



*Mary Anna Russo and Wayne Olshark*

### MARY ANNA RUSSO - 30+ years with RBTL

**Q: What do you like about your House Manager position?**

**A:** The best part of being a House Manager is the interaction with so many people – from staff, colleagues and Ushers, to the patrons. I like the opportunity to help provide a great experience for theater-goers when I can resolve any issues. I totally love working with the other House Managers. The collegiality is so valuable.

**Q: Do you have a memorable story you'd like to share?**

**A:** Watching the "Lion King" cast in the lobby was such fun. And the "Jersey Boys" cast spending time in the lobby with patrons after the show.

**Q: Do you have a favorite show or several?**

**A:** I loved "Wicked" and "Jersey Boys" (maybe because I saw them so many times).

**Q: What other interests do you have? Do you have pets? Is there a special talent we should know about?**

**A:** I like hiking, kayaking, fiber arts, mah-jongg, and visiting my kids and grandkids. I have no pets, and boy, do I have absolutely no special talent.

### GARY STIRK - 10 years with RBTL

**Q: What do you like about your House Manager position?**

**A:** I enjoy working with the Ushers and talking with all the different people that come to see the shows. It is always fun to catch up with season ticket holders... I always like to tell people that because I do not dance, act or sing, that being an Usher/House Manager allows me to contribute to the Arts.

(continued on page 5)



(continued from page 4)

**Q: What's your favorite spot in the theatre to work, and why?**

**A:** I like to work on the first floor greeting patrons and helping with any of their needs.

**Q: What other interests do you have? Do you have pets? Is there a special talent we should know about?**

**A:** I am now down to one dog. I have always adopted rescued dogs. I am a bowler and enjoy golf.

**Q: Do you have a favorite show or several?**

**A:** There are many, but my number one is "Les Misérables," followed by "Wicked." My old time favorites would be "Sweeney Todd," "Oliver" and "The King and I."

**KAREN DWYER - 32 years with RBTL**



*Karen Dwyer and Gary Stirk*

**Q: What other interests do you have? Do you have pets? Is there a special talent we should know about?**

**A:** I have two dogs and two cats. My hobbies are diamond painting, counted cross stitching and making crafts. I also like to bake cakes.

**Q: What do you like about your House Manager position?**

**A:** I enjoy meeting the patrons and making sure they have an enjoyable experience at RBTL. I also enjoy working with the RBTL staff.

**Q: Do you have a favorite show or several?**

**A:** My favorite shows are "Wicked," "The Phantom of the Opera," "The Lion King" and "Jersey Boys."

Check back to get to know more about the RBTL staff in future issues of From the Wings.



*Dick Galvin and Brian Bell*



*Darren Walton*

**RBTL'S PROMOTERS & PRESENTERS**  
**BRINGING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT TO THE ROCHESTER COMMUNITY**

Albert Nocciolino

Classical Arts Entertainment

Metro Hybrid

AEG

JR Affiliates

National Artists Corporation

Brierpatch Productions

Live Nation

North American Entertainment

BPO Nation

Talmi Entertainment