

JANUARY 2024

FROM THE WINGS

RBTL WELCOMED NEARLY 89,000 PATRONS IN FINAL QUARTER OF 2023

RBTL closed out the year 2023 strong, after welcoming nearly 89,000 patrons to the West Herr Auditorium Theatre between September and December. This was over the course of 54 live entertainment performances and included two-week runs of Disney's "FROZEN" and "Moulin Rouge! The Musical," which were the first two shows in the 2023-2024 M&T Bank Broadway Season.

Thousands of local students, parents and teachers were a part of that number and attended performances through RBTL's A.R.T.S. Partners arts education program. The award-winning program allows teachers to integrate theatre arts into their classroom lessons using RBTL's original curriculum, which incorporates themes from the Broadway Season's productions.

As always, RBTL's events impact not only the audience members in attendance, but also the local economy via parking, hotels, restaurants, and retail. RBTL is proud to be a continual and positive catalyst for growth in our community.

RBTL is pleased to offer a variety of performances, from touring Broadway shows to comedy and concerts, and looks forward to welcoming even more patrons in the New Year. 2024 kicked off with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's presentation of "Star Wars: A New Hope" on January 3. It will continue with the next show in our Broadway Season, "Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations," running January 30 - February 4.



For a complete lineup of upcoming events, visit [RBTL.org](https://www.rbtl.org). And follow RBTL on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date on new show announcements, ticket information and more.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

AIN'T TOO PROUD

January 30-February 4

MRS. DOUBTFIRE

February 20-25

LORD OF THE DANCE

March 2

JOHN MELLENCAMP

March 8

ROCHESTER COMEDY FESTIVAL

March 9



WEST HERR
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
875 EAST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14605

[RBTL.ORG](https://www.rbtl.org)



@RBTLAUD

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GROUP BEHIND *AIN'T TOO PROUD*

"Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations" is the electrifying smash-hit Broadway musical that follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. With their signature dance moves and silky-smooth harmonies, they rose to the top of the charts creating an amazing 42 Top Ten Hits with 14 reaching number one on the Billboard charts. Audiences will hear some of those hits, including "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Get Ready" and "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone" in "Ain't Too Proud" when it plays the West Herr Auditorium Theatre January 30-February 4. But before the engagement, we're taking a look at some of the history surrounding the iconic group.

The group formed in 1961 and originally consisted of Otis Williams, Melvin Franklin, Elbridge "Al" Bryant, Eddie Kendricks and Paul Williams. They were first called The Elgins but changed their name to The Temptations after signing with Motown Records. Three years later, in 1964, Bryant left, and David Ruffin joined the group – creating what's known as the "Classic 5" lineup. It was also in 1964 when The Temptations released their first charting single. "The Way You Do the Thing You Do" peaked at number 11 on the Billboard Hot 100. It was the first of many chart-topping songs from the group and the start of a steady rise in recognition. Less than a year later, "My Girl" climbed the charts, giving them their first number one hit.

1969 saw a major milestone for The Temptations, when they won a Grammy Award for Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group for their song "Cloud Nine." Then in 1973, they won two Grammy Awards for Best R&B Vocal Performance by a Duo, Group or Chorus and Best R&B Instrumental Performance for "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone." In 2014, The Temptations were honored with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout the years, many members of The Temptations have come and gone, but there has been one constant and that's Otis Williams. The group, including Williams, is still performing today, more than six decades later.



Elijah Ahmad Lewis, Jalen Harris, Michael Andreous, Harrell Holmes Jr., E. Clayton Cornelious from the National Touring Company of Ain't Too Proud. Credit: ©2023 Emilio Madrid.



Photo Credit: ©2023 Emilio Madrid.



Photo Credit: ©2023 Emilio Madrid.

As trailblazers, The Temptations helped pave the way for themselves and other R&B artists. According to the group's official website, "they were among the first African American musical artists to crossover into mainstream America and appear on popular, national mainstream television programs, such as The Ed Sullivan...

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Show and The Hollywood Palace... At the time, this was an unparalleled accomplishment for African American entertainers." The Temptations also used their voices and songs to speak to the times they lived through, as 60s America saw great civil unrest. When asked if artists have a responsibility to speak out about issues through music, founding member Otis Williams said in an interview, "Absolutely. That's what we did with some of our music. Songs like 'Ball of Confusion,' 'Message from a Black Man,' and 'Papa Was a Rollin' Stone,' reflected the issues of the day. Sometimes people will listen to music more than they'll listen to a politician because music has a unique ability to soothe the soul and get people's attention. Music is definitely one of the best ways to express your ideas and get your message across. Music is very, very powerful."

It's that powerful music that helps "Ain't Too Proud" tell the story of both The Temptations and America. The production explores brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal, as the group's personal and political conflicts threatened to tear them apart. See The Temptations' incredible journey live on stage in "Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations" at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre January 30-February 4. Limited tickets are still available at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) and the Auditorium Box Office.

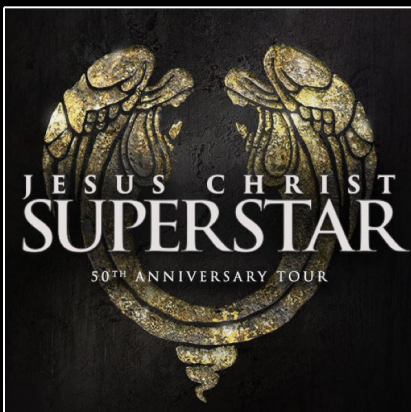


SATURDAY MATINEE TALKBACKS HAVE RETURNED!

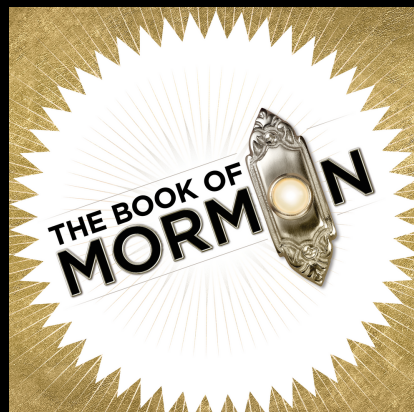
HEAR FROM SOME OF THE CAST OF
AIN'T TOO PROUD - THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE TEMPTATIONS.

TICKETHOLDERS FOR THE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 MATINEE ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION AT THE FRONT OF THE ORCHESTRA SECTION FOLLOWING THE PERFORMANCE.

DON'T MISS THIS SEASON'S SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS!



APRIL 8-10



MAY 3-5



MAY 11-12

FROM THE SCREEN TO THE STAGE: *MRS. DOUBTFIRE* ARRIVES IN ROCHESTER FEBRUARY 20

Following "Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations," next up in RBTL's M&T Bank Broadway Season is "[Mrs. Doubtfire](#)," based on the Robin Williams film of the same name. Everyone's favorite Scottish nanny will be at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre February 20-25. Rob McClure will reprise his Tony-nominated Broadway performance on tour alongside co-star (and real-life wife) Maggie Lakis, in this internationally acclaimed hit musical critics call "wonderful, heart-warming, and laugh-out-loud funny" (Manchester Evening News) and "a feel-good, family-friendly comedy that delivers" (The Hollywood Reporter).

The story follows out-of-work actor Daniel Hillard (McClure), who will do anything for his kids. After losing custody in a messy divorce, he creates the kindly alter ego of Scottish nanny Euphegenia Doubtfire in a desperate attempt to stay in their lives. As his new character takes on a life of its own, Mrs. Doubtfire teaches Daniel more than he bargained for about how to be a father. A hysterical and heartfelt story about holding onto your loved ones against all odds, "Mrs. Doubtfire" is the musical comedy we need right now – one that proves we're better together.

The story does have a happy ending; however, the focus is not on your typical romantic love, but instead, a familial one. "That's what's so special about this show," Lakis said in an interview with [Broadway.com](#). "I remember when this movie came out, friends who came from families that were divorced talked about how special a movie it was because the happy ending wasn't them getting back together. It's such a powerful message to know that... your family isn't broken. Your family is special, and there's love."

While Lakis joins "Mrs. Doubtfire" for the first time on tour, McClure has been with the production since the beginning. According to that same [Broadway.com](#) interview, the musical held its first Broadway preview on March 9, 2020. Three days later, Broadway shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Mrs. Doubtfire" came back to the stage in 2021, but COVID forced the show to go on hiatus again until April 2022. The production's final Broadway performance was on May 29 of that same year. In the interview, McClure said it was those unforeseen circumstances that led to his decision to continue with the show on the road.

"It's this weird dichotomy, because I've been doing this show for a long time, but actually not many performances because the universe kept on interfering," said McClure. "There was a part of me that felt unfinished business with that show. For as much time as I spent with it, I never really got a satisfying run where I could catch my stride and feel like it found the people who needed it when they needed it most."

Catch McClure and Lakis in "Mrs. Doubtfire" at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre February 20-25. Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](#) and the Auditorium Box Office.



Maggie Lakis (Miranda Hillard) and Rob McClure (Daniel Hillard)
Photo by Joan Marcus



Photo Credit: Joan Marcus



Photo Credit: Joan Marcus



Photo Credit: Joan Marcus

EXPLORING THE BUSINESSES LOCATED IN WEST HERR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Auditorium Complex, comprised of the West Herr Performing Arts Center and West Herr Auditorium Theatre, is home to more than just RBTL. It also plays hosts to various churches, other arts organizations, wellness businesses and features former ceremonial meeting rooms from when the Masons were headquartered here. Here is a list of all the businesses that visitors can find while at the West Herr Performing Arts Center:

Studio 50 Photography
No Dazs Off
Crossway Assembly
FLEXX Mobility & Performance
Lash Addict IOI
West Herr Auditorium Theatre & Box Office
The President's Club
RBTL Boardroom / Pike Construction Office
Floreano Center
Peter L. Morse & Associates
The Prophet House
Unique Ministries
New Jerusalem Church
Motivated 4 Change
Mitchell Lodge #046

God Healing Temple
A Magical Journey Thru Stages
The Global Media Network
Faith, Healing & Deliverance Clinic
IUIC Rochester NY
Dukes Medical Transportation
Velma's Cleaning Service / V & J Records
Rochester Musicians' Association
Relax & Ride Medical Transportation
Cathedral Hall
Reconciliation Ministries
Tea Room
Enterprise Security Consulting & Training
IndentoGo Fingerprinting
Glory Worship Center

RBTL & STAGES PARTNER FOR MASTERCLASS

RBTL and [A Magical Journey Thru Stages](#), which is located on the third level of the West Herr Performing Arts Center, recently teamed up to host a joint masterclass. This isn't the first time the two organizations have partnered, and it won't be the last, but it still provides participants with a unique and educational experience.

"Level Up Your Character" was held on Sunday, January 7 and was part of the Level Up Series, a Stages/RBTL collaborative project. The first masterclass of the series was held back in the fall and focused on auditioning. For "Level Up Your Character," local students learned techniques for understanding a character's motivations and personality and explored character dynamics by collaborating with other participants. The class also involved acting exercises to help them think on their feet and spontaneously create characters in various situations. It was led by teaching artists Erin McKenna Arvizzigno and Greg Maddock.

A Magical Journey Thru Stages is a long-time supporter of RBTL. It's a youth theatre company that produces full theatre productions, hosts summer camps, improv troupes, technical training, open mic nights and specialized workshops/classes. For more information about Stages and their programs, go to mjtstages.org. RBTL looks forward to the next Level Up masterclass!

BROADWAY LOVE SONGS TO LISTEN TO THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

"Elephant Love Medley"
Moulin Rouge! The Musical

"As Long As You're Mine"
Wicked

"A Heart Full of Love"
Les Misérables

"I'll Cover You"
RENT

"Can You Feel the Love Tonight?"
Disney's The Lion King

"Lay All Your Love On Me"
Mamma Mia!

"Without Love"
Hairspray

"All I Ask of You"
The Phantom of the Opera