

MARCH 2024

# rbtl FROM THE WINGS

## RBTL ANNOUNCES 2024-2025 M&T BANK BROADWAY SEASON AT WEST HERR AUDITORIUM THEATRE

RBTL and longtime Presenter and Partner, Albert Nocciolino, are proud to announce the 2024-2025 M&T Bank Broadway Season at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre! We're bringing back a 7-show Season Ticket Package, which offers something for everyone. That includes two returning Broadway favorites, five shows making their Rochester debuts (one of which is launching their national tour in Rochester), several Tony Award® winners, shows that will make you laugh and shows that will make you cry.

The shows included in the 2024-2025 Broadway Season are:

LES MISÉRABLES - October 15-20, 2024

MAMMA MIA! - November 19-24, 2024

MJ - December 17-22, 2024

THE WIZ - February 25-March 2, 2025

FUNNY GIRL - April 8-13, 2025

SOME LIKE IT HOT - May 13-18, 2025

BACK TO THE FUTURE: THE MUSICAL - June 17-22, 2025

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

THE PRICE IS RIGHT LIVE

April 3

CELTIC WOMAN

April 4

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

April 8-10

CLASSIC ROCK SHOW

April 15

THE BOOK OF MORMON

May 3-5

### THE 2024-2025 M&T BANK BROADWAY SEASON AT WEST HERR AUDITORIUM THEATRE



PRESENTED BY THE ROCHESTER BROADWAY THEATRE LEAGUE & ALBERT NOCCIOLINO

With this upcoming Season, RBTL also brought back an in-person announcement event, something that hasn't been done since before the pandemic. On March 27, current Season Subscribers were able to join us at the Theatre to hear about all the shows coming next Season. Additionally, a Special Engagement of DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! THE MUSICAL, December 3-8, 2024, was announced.

We are thrilled to be bringing another incredible Season of touring Broadway to Rochester! 7-Show Season Ticket Packages are available now for both renewing and new Subscribers at [RBTL.org](http://RBTL.org) and the Auditorium Box Office. Individual show tickets will go on sale at a later date.

Scroll to the next page to find out more about the shows in the 2024-2025 M&T Bank Broadway Season!



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

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



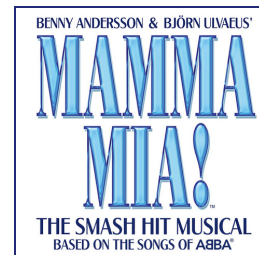
@RBTLAUD

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2024-2025 M&T BANK BROADWAY SEASON



Cameron Mackintosh presents the acclaimed production of Boublil and Schönberg's Tony Award-winning musical phenomenon, **LES MISÉRABLES**, October 15-20. Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, **LES MISÉRABLES** tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. The magnificent score of **LES MISÉRABLES** includes the songs "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," "Bring Him Home," "One Day More" and many more. (Recommended for ages 10+.)

A mother. A daughter. 3 possible dads. And a trip down the aisle November 19-24 you'll never forget! Set on a Greek island paradise, a tale of love, friendship, and identity is beautifully told through the timeless hits of ABBA. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the father she's never known brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited decades ago. For nearly 25 years, people all around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story, and the music that make **MAMMA MIA!** the ultimate feel-good show. (Recommended for ages 8+.)



He is one of the greatest entertainers of all time. Now, Michael Jackson's unique and unparalleled artistry comes to Rochester as **MJ**, the multi Tony Award®-winning new musical centered around the making of the 1992 Dangerous World Tour, begins a tour of its own. **MJ** goes beyond the singular moves and signature sound of the star, offering a rare look at the creative mind and collaborative spirit that catapulted Michael Jackson into legendary status. **MJ** is startin' somethin' December 17-22. (Recommended for ages 8+.)

The Tony® Award-winning Best Musical that took the world by storm is back, launching in Rochester February 25-March 2. **THE WIZ** returns "home" to stages across America in an all-new Broadway tour, the first one in 40 years. This groundbreaking twist on The Wizard of Oz changed the face of Broadway – from its iconic score packed with soul, gospel, rock, and 70s funk to its stirring tale of Dorothy's journey to find her place in a contemporary world. Everybody rejoice – this dynamite infusion of ballet, jazz, and modern pop brings a whole new groove to easing on down the road! (**THE WIZ** is perfect for all ages!)



**WELCOME TO MUSICAL COMEDY HEAVEN!** Featuring one of the greatest musical scores of all time, including classic songs "Don't Rain On My Parade," "I'm the Greatest Star," and "People," this love letter to the theatre is the story of the indomitable Fanny Brice, a girl from the Lower East Side who dreamed of a life on the stage. Everyone told her she'd never be a star, but then something funny happened – she became one of the most beloved performers in history, shining brighter than the brightest lights of Broadway. **FUNNY GIRL** playing April 8-13. (Recommended for ages 10+.)

Winner of 4 Tony Awards®, including Best Choreography and Best Costumes, **SOME LIKE IT HOT** is "A Super-Sized, All-Out Song-And-Dance Spectacular!" – The New York Times. Set in Chicago when Prohibition has everyone thirsty for a little excitement, **SOME LIKE IT HOT** is the "glorious, big, high-kicking" (Associated Press) story of two musicians forced to flee the Windy City after witnessing a mob hit. With gangsters hot on their heels, they catch a cross-country train for the life-chasing, life-changing trip of a lifetime, May 13-18. (Recommended for ages 12+.)



Great Scott! **BACK TO THE FUTURE**, the beloved, cinematic classic is now a Broadway musical with its destination set for Rochester June 17-22. When Marty McFly finds himself transported back to 1955 in a time machine built by the eccentric scientist Doc Brown, he accidentally changes the course of history. Now he's in a race against time to fix the present, escape the past, and send himself... back to the future. Winner of the 2022 Olivier Award for Best New Musical, when **BACK TO THE FUTURE** hits 88mph, it'll change musical theater history forever. (Recommended for ages 6+.)

# RBTL ANNOUNCES FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE FOR ONGOING PERFORMING ARTS CENTER RENOVATIONS AND RESTORATIONS

RBTL has formed a Fundraising Committee, amid ongoing West Herr Performing Arts Center renovations and restorations. The group consists of well-known and influential individuals within the Rochester community. All of those involved understand and appreciate the importance of the arts and live entertainment as an enhancement to quality of life. Each are committed to helping RBTL insure a vibrant and viable future for the arts in Greater Rochester. RBTL is proud to introduce the fundraising team Co-Chairs and Ambassadors:

## Co-Chairs:

- Daniel Burns – Executive Vice President & Regional President, M&T Bank
- Trish Nilsen – President & CEO, RG&E and NYSEG

## Ambassadors:

- Anthony Daniele – President, Daniele Family Companies
- Asher Flaum – Associate Real Estate Broker, Flaum Management Company
- Herb Escher – CEO, Dale Carnegie Northeast
- Andre Langston – President & CEO, WDKX
- Theresa Marsenburg – Evening News Anchor, WROC-TV News 8
- Naomi Silver – President, CEO & COO, Rochester Community Baseball, Inc.

The Fundraising Committee will work to secure funding for RBTL's ongoing renovation and restoration projects at the West Herr Performing Arts Center, which focus on enhancing accessibility and the theatre-going experience for both patrons and performers. Overall, renovations will cost an estimated \$75 million. It is RBTL's goal to raise \$35 million of that from within the Rochester region. In addition to local outreach, RBTL is working with the New York State Assembly and Senate, the Federal Government and Empire State Development to obtain available funds. Renovations are also being funded by operating surplus, sponsorships and Rochester-area foundations. \$14 million has already been committed to date.



"The support from the Rochester community has been gratifying beyond explanation," said RBTL CEO and Board Chairman, Arnie Rothschild. "Starting with West Herr, and every member of our state delegation, the City of Rochester, and so many others. The encouragement is both humbling and inspiring."

New York State Senator Jeremy Cooney added, "Rochester Broadway Theatre League's new fundraising team draws on decades of experience from leaders across our community. I can't wait to see what they accomplish and am excited for the planned renovations. RBTL means so much to our community and their plans will ensure that they'll keep bringing world-class performances to Downtown Rochester for years to come."

Rochester Mayor Malik D. Evans said, "The West Herr Auditorium Theatre and Performing Arts Center is a cultural hub and economic engine for Rochester, gathering residents and visitors alike. I look forward to the restoration and renovation so that it can expand its impact and accessibility and continue to add vibrancy to our city for generations to come."

Phase One of renovations and restorations continues to make progress at the West Herr Performing Arts Center. It includes major accessibility and adaptability construction in the form of elevator access to the second-floor balcony and loge in the West Herr Auditorium Theatre and reconfiguring the main floor of the former Auditorium Center portion of the building. Also part of Phase One, was RBTL's new operation of four area parking lots and restoration of several sets of historic brass doors, which had darkened over time due to oxidization. While both beautiful and historic, the complex as it sits, provides for many challenges. RBTL is partnering with Pike Construction Services, LaBella Associates, LeChase Construction and other community advisors to augment the existing Performing Arts Center spaces in the most optimal way. RBTL's goal is to complete renovations by 2030, the building's 100th anniversary.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the members of RBTL's Fundraising Committee.

To designate a donation towards restoration efforts, contact RBTL COO John Parkhurst at [john@rbtl.org](mailto:john@rbtl.org).

# JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR RETURNS TO AUDITORIUM THEATRE

The next Special Engagement of the 2023-2024 M&T Bank Broadway Season first appeared on the Auditorium Theatre stage in 1994. Now, almost 30 years to the day later, the production returns for the sixth time! "Jesus Christ Superstar" was the last Broadway show RBTL presented before the months-long shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, that tour returns April 8-10 – celebrating more than 50 years, with a new, mesmerizing production on the road.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of Judas. It has music and lyrics by Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony winners Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber with a score rooted in rock music that includes "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Gethsemane" and "Superstar."

This new production of the Broadway classic was originally staged by London's Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. It won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival, garnering unprecedented reviews and accolades. The Chicago Sun Times said, "This is not your grandmother's 'Superstar.' Drew McOnie's choreography has the explosive feel of barely contained ecstasy, filled with flailing movements that evoke old-time tent revivals, where snake handlers spoke in tongues and miraculously cured the sick. Tom Scutt's smoke-colored costumes give the piece a timeless feel, as does his towering, sleek, steel-and-scaffolding set. Stark and shadowy, lighting designer Lee Curan's work is so rhythmic it almost feels like a part of the orchestra."



Jack Hopewell and the company of the North American Tour of Jesus Christ Superstar. Photo by Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade

The New York Times added, "Timothy Sheader's adrenaline-pumping production of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's "Jesus Christ Superstar" is ardently, honestly sincere. I haven't had so much fun listening to Mr. Lloyd Webber's score, his finest, and Mr. Rice's lyrics, his cheekiest, since I bought the concept album as a teenager."



Elvie Ellis and the company of the North American Tour of Jesus Christ Superstar. Photo by Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade

"Jesus Christ Superstar" pays tribute to the historic 1971 Billboard Album of the Year, while creating a modern, theatrical world that is uniquely fresh and inspiring. It's been found to appeal to both theater audiences and concert music fans.

With a run time of 90 minutes, and no intermission, "Jesus Christ Superstar" plays the West Herr Auditorium Theatre for three performances only April 8-10. This production is recommended for ages 10 and up. Tickets are available now at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) and the Auditorium Box Office.

## LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR

*Springtime in New York!*

April 26-28, 2024

Enjoy a weekend in New York City! Package includes roundtrip transportation by Deluxe Motor coach, two night stay at the NY Hilton Midtown and tickets to two new Broadway shows: *The Great Gatsby* and *Water for Elephants*.

For more information and to register, visit [RBTL.org](https://www.RBTL.org).