

MARCH 2025

rbtl FROM THE WINGS

RBTL AND ALBERT NOCCIOLINO ANNOUNCE 2025-2026 M&T BANK BROADWAY SEASON

The 2025-2026 M&T Bank Broadway Season at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre, presented by the Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL) and Albert Nocciolino, has been unveiled! Once again, RBTL is offering something for everyone with a 7-Show Season Ticket Package. Five shows will be performing in Rochester for the first time, including CLUE, & JULIET, KIMBERLY AKIMBO, A BEAUTIFUL NOISE: THE NEIL DIAMOND MUSICAL and SUFFS. WICKED and SPAMALOT will be making their highly anticipated returns, plus HAMILTON has been announced as a Subscription Add-On.

2025-2026 M&T BANK BROADWAY SEASON AT WEST HERR AUDITORIUM THEATRE



OPTIONAL SUBSCRIBER ADD-ON:



Additionally, the CLUE cast and crew will arrive early to hold technical rehearsals at the West Herr Performing Arts Center. This, in addition to multi-week engagements for both WICKED and HAMILTON, will help bolster the overall impact the Season has on the Rochester community.

"It is always an honor to bring the best of Broadway to Rochester audiences, including both new and classic shows, and to highlight the wonderful variety of live entertainment our industry has to offer," said longtime RBTL presenter and partner, Albert Nocciolino. "This Season is no exception. Not only does it give patrons the opportunity to experience Broadway right here in their own community, but it also exposes the City of Rochester, and all it has to give, to touring professionals... opening the door for them to return."

RBTL and Albert Nocciolino 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 and the Auditorium Box Office. Individual show tickets will go on sale at a later date. For more information, visit RBTL.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

RIVERDANCE
March 25-26

FUNNY GIRL
April 8-13

BRIT FLOYD
April 15

JEEZY
May 3

NARUTO: THE SYMPHONIC EXPERIENCE
May 10



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

RBTL.ORG



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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SHOWS COMING NEXT SEASON!



Murder and blackmail are on the menu, October 21-26, 2025, when six mysterious guests assemble at Boddy Manor for a night they'll never forget! Was it Mrs. Peacock in the study with the knife? Or was it Colonel Mustard in the library with the wrench? Based on the fan-favorite 1985 Paramount Pictures movie and inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, CLUE is the ultimate whodunit that will leave you dying of laughter and keep you guessing until the final twist.

Broadway's most fun hit musical, & JULIET, flips the script on the greatest love story ever told, December 9-14, 2025, imagining what would happen next if Juliet hadn't ended it all over Romeo, and got a second chance at life and love – on her own terms. This audience favorite is created by the Emmy-winning writer of "Schitt's Creek" and features a playlist of iconic pop hits from Max Martin and his collaborators, including "Since U Been Gone," "Roar," "I Want It That Way," "Confident," and more.



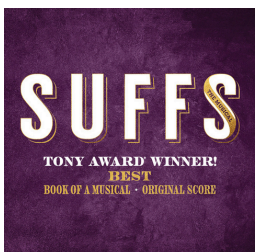
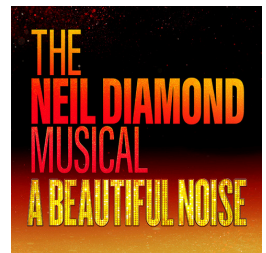
The show that set Broadway back 1,000 years... returns January 13-18, 2026! SPAMALOT, which first galloped onto Broadway in 2005 is back in an all-new revival direct from Broadway. The musical comedy lovingly ripped off from the film classic, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, has everything that makes a great knight at the theatre, from flying cows to killer rabbits, British royalty to French taunters, dancing girls, rubbery shrubbery, and of course, the Lady of the Lake.

WICKED, Rochester's most "popular" musical, looks at what happened in the Land of Oz... but from a different angle, February 18-March 1, 2026. Long before Dorothy arrives, there is another young woman, born with emerald-green skin—smart, fiery, misunderstood, and possessing an extraordinary talent. When she meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikeliest of friendships...until the world decides to call one "good," and the other one "wicked."



KIMBERLY AKIMBO is the winner of five 2023 Tony Awards including BEST MUSICAL! Kimberly is about to turn 16 and recently moved with her family to a new town in suburban New Jersey. In this "howlingly funny heartbreaker of a show" (The New Yorker), Kim is forced to navigate family dysfunction, a rare genetic condition, her first crush... and possible felony charges. Ever the optimist, she is determined to find happiness against all odds and embark on a great adventure, March 24-29, 2026.

Created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself, A BEAUTIFUL NOISE is the uplifting true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chartbusting, show-stopping American rock icon. With 120 million albums sold, a catalogue of classics like "America," "Forever in Blue Jeans," and "Sweet Caroline," numerous awards, and sold-out concerts around the world, Neil Diamond's story was made to shine on Broadway-and head out on the road across America. Coming to Rochester, April 21-26, 2026.



Direct from Broadway, June 9-14, 2026, comes the acclaimed Tony Award®-winning musical SUFFS about the brilliant, passionate, and funny American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote. Created by Shaina Taub, the first woman to ever independently win Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Score in the same season, this "thrilling, inspiring and dazzlingly entertaining" (Variety) new musical boldly explores the triumphs and failures of a struggle for equality that's far from over.

Learn more at rbtl.org/season-tickets.

REAR ENTRANCE OF WEST HERR AUDITORIUM THEATRE ONE STEP CLOSER TO COMPLETION

The rear entrance off the back parking lot of the West Herr Performing Arts Center is further taking shape. Recently, crews broke down some of the exterior wall, to create space for a new entry point. It's located right next to the old entrance, but will ensure easier access and accessibility to both the Performing Arts Center and West Herr Auditorium Theatre.

Brick work for a retaining wall along the edge of a portion of the parking lot is also making progress. That can be seen by anyone traveling down Prince Street or College Avenue.

The goal is to have this rear entrance and drop-off area ready for patrons to use by this summer! Then, the next step in RBTL's PROJECT RESTOURATION will focus on Main Street. That will include new retaining walls, refurbished (and wider) sidewalks, new stairs, handrails and lighting.

Check out the progress on the rear entrance in the pictures below.



New frame work for rear entrance going up.



Rear entrance wall opened for new entry point.



Crews work on new retaining wall near back entrance.



Brick work underway for new retaining wall.



Brick work underway for new retaining wall.

Learn more about **PROJECT RESTOURATION** at WestHerrPac.org, or to make a tax-deductible donation toward the incredible transformation. Stay up-to-date on the restoration progress by following the West Herr Performing Arts Center on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Registration Now Open!

RBTL'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, August 4th

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, visit RBTL.org.

FUNNY GIRL TO MAKE ROCHESTER DEBUT THIS APRIL

"Funny Girl," the sensational musical comedy revival, will make its Rochester debut at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre April 8-13 for eight performances only, as part of the 2024-2025 M&T Bank Broadway Season. This will mark the final engagement of the National Tour – and the last chance for audiences to see what Vogue called a "vivacious and delightfully glitzy" Broadway production.

"Funny Girl" is the story of the indomitable Fanny Brice – a real performer who became a legend during the Vaudeville era, paving the way for future female comedians. As 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. The Observer described the revival as "sparkling and explosively entertaining!" It features iconic songs, including "Don't Rain On My Parade," "I'm the Greatest Star" and "People."

This revival first returned to Broadway in 2022, where it broke box office records week after week until it closed in September the following year. Before then, the show hadn't been seen on a Broadway stage since it first premiered in 1964. Throughout the decades though, productions of "Funny Girl" have been seen on the West End, in Australia, Paris and on the road in the U.S. and U.K. That means there have been many leading ladies who have taken on the role of Fanny Brice, including Beanie Feldstein, Lea Michele, and most notably, Barbra Streisand, who starred in the original Broadway and West End casts and the Hollywood movie adaptation in 1968.

Rochester audiences will have the chance to see the incredible Hannah Shankman take on the role of Fanny Brice in this National Tour. She has a long list of credits to boast, including Broadway productions of "Hair" (also on the West End), "Les Misérables" and "Wicked." She's also been seen in National Tours of "The Band's Visit," "Rent" and "Les Misérables," and various Regional Theatre productions throughout the country, including at neighboring Syracuse Stage.

Alongside Shankman, in the role of her mother, Mrs. Brice, is Grammy® Award-winner Melissa Manchester, who has returned to the theatrical stage to celebrate a versatile 50-year career. With 19 Billboard charted hits including "Midnight Blue" and "Don't Cry Out Loud," Manchester is in the Great American Songbook Foundation's Hall of Fame, and she most recently released her 25th studio album. Other National Tour credits include "Song & Dance" and "Music of the Night." She has also appeared on screen in "For the Boys" and TV's "Blossom."



Hannah Shankman as Fanny Brice in the National Tour of Funny Girl.
Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade



Melissa Manchester and Hannah Shankman in the National Tour of Funny Girl.
Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade



First National Touring Company of Funny Girl.
Photo By Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade

Don't miss your chance to see Shankman and Manchester dazzle on stage at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre! It's the final opportunity to see what the LA Times said is "a production that revives the glory of musicals past." Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) and the Auditorium Box Office.

LOOKING AHEAD: RBTL'S 2025-2026 A.R.T.S. PARTNERS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

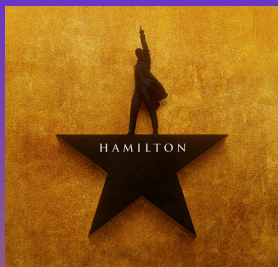
Every year, RBTL partners with schools throughout the area as part of our A.R.T.S. (Arts Reaching and Teaching in Schools) Partners Program. It allows teachers to integrate the arts into their curriculums year-round and offers customization for students in grades UPK-12. RBTL starts by selecting touring Broadway productions scheduled to play at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre, and writes units centered on show topics and themes, which are fully aligned to the Common Core Standards. RBTL then works with teachers to adapt these units into age-appropriate lessons for classroom learning.

As part of the program, RBTL's Director of Education, Holly Valentine, visits participating schools to lead professional development sessions and/or work directly with students. The culmination of the program is that all students working on the curriculum in the district are then given the opportunity to be fully immersed in the live theatre experience by attending the correlating Touring Broadway production at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre.

This is a unique opportunity in a time when funding for the arts is often cut from school budgets, and it has been proven that arts integration increases engagement and attendance in the classroom while decreasing behavioral incidents. This A.R.T.S. Partners Program ensures that arts education is provided to as many local students as possible.

The 2025-2026 A.R.T.S. Partners theme is:

Writing **YOUR** Story



Nov. 18-30, 2025
Grades 4+

Themes:

*Ambition
Legacy
Story vs. History
Author's Craft
Time
Soundtracking*



Dec. 9-14, 2025
High School

Themes:

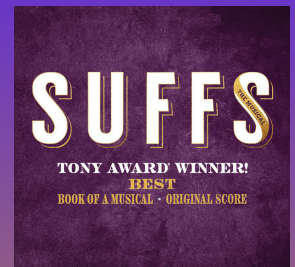
*What if?
Taking Control
Reclaiming Voice
Breaking Norms
Emotions Through
Music*



Feb. 18-Mar. 1, 2026
Grades 3+

Themes:

*Social Justice
Acceptance
Knowledge/Truth
Good/Evil
Belonging
Friendship
Identity*



June 9-14, 2026
Grades 4+

Themes:

*Perseverance
Advocacy
Equality
Leadership &
Impact
Finding Voice
Collective Action*

For more information, contact Holly Valentine, at 585-277-3338 or holly@rbtl.org,
or visit [RBTL.org/arts-partners](https://www.rbtl.org/arts-partners).

SEE TWO NEW BROADWAY MUSICALS BY ATTENDING RBTL'S SPRINGTIME IN NEW YORK WEEKEND!

Looking for a fun weekend getaway as the weather gets warmer? Join RBTL for our annual Spring New York Weekend April 25-27! Every year, RBTL hosts Spring and Holiday weekend trips to New York City. It includes deluxe motor coach transportation, two-night hotel accommodations, great seats for two entertaining shows and plenty of time for shopping and sightseeing! It's an exclusive opportunity to indulge in an exciting getaway to "The Big Apple" without the hassles of planning.

This April, attendees will see performances of "SMASH" (inspired by the hit TV series) and "Hell's Kitchen," which is a new musical from 17-time Grammy® Award winner Alicia Keys, whose songs and experiences growing up in New York inspired a story made for Broadway. Aside from seeing these shows on Friday and Saturday evening, the weekend is entirely everyone's own – whether that's for sightseeing, shopping, or even catching an additional performance Saturday afternoon. The deluxe motor coach will roll into New York City around 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25 and leave at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27 to bring everyone back to Rochester.



Cost for double occupancy is \$999 per person and \$1,459 per person for single occupancy, with the group staying at the New York Hilton Midtown. This includes the cost of transportation, hotel accommodation and tickets to two Broadway shows.

Those who have gone on RBTL's New York City weekend trips before have raved about the experience! One person said, "You make it so easy for us! The trip is so well organized, with lots of knowledge and tips for navigating NYC shared with us ahead of time." Another added, "What a spectacular weekend! The shows chosen were phenomenal, with great seats. We made so many wonderful memories as a result of this trip." Finally, an attendee said, "The weekend exceeded our expectations!"

Interested in joining us for this exciting opportunity? Click [here](#) to claim your spot! For more information, visit rbtl.org/nyc-weekend.

FOR TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY! MARCH 25-26 *RIVERDANCE* RETURNS TO WEST HERR AUDITORIUM THEATRE

Celebrate 30 years of *Riverdance* with the special anniversary tour! This spectacular production rejuvenates the much-loved original show with new innovative choreography and costumes and state-of-the-art lighting, projection, and motion graphics.

Audiences will enjoy a unique and memorable performance that blends the traditional and the contemporary, showcasing the skill and passion of the world-class dancers, musicians, and singers in the *Riverdance* ensemble.

Limited seats available at Ticketmaster.com or the Auditorium Box Office.