

JULY 2025



# FROM THE WINGS

## SENATOR COONEY DELIVERS \$1 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR RBTL

Earlier this month, New York State Senator Jeremy Cooney announced \$1,000,000 in state capital funds he secured for the Rochester Broadway Theatre League. Senator Cooney explained that the grant is funding the renovation of the Joseph A. Floreano Room located at the West Herr Performing Arts Center. It's the only stream of funding helping to make this room's restoration a reality.

"RBTL and the historic West Herr Performing Arts Center brings world class performances directly to the heart of our city, serving as a cornerstone of what makes our community so special," said Senator Cooney. "This substantial investment is proof of our continued commitment to the arts outside of NYC and creating the kind of theatre that Rochesterians can enjoy for years to come."

"As has proven to be the case so many times in our community, Senator Cooney is the first to listen, the fastest to act and always fights hard to bring money to worthwhile projects," said RBTL CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Arnie Rothschild. "State leadership does great work behind the scenes, but today, I am glad that what Senator Cooney is doing to make this restoration a reality is taking center stage."

Restorations will include a new pre-show concessions and gathering area, work to the detailed drywall and ceiling, flooring, new paint and more cosmetic upgrades. Combined with a new rear drop-off entrance, the new Floreano Room will be central for the accessible route for patrons with disabilities. The room is named after Joseph Floreano, longtime Executive Director of the Rochester Riverside Convention Center and former board member of RBTL.

RBTL is incredibly grateful to Senator Cooney for securing this significant funding and helping to progress PROJECT RESTORATION! It's funding like this, along with community support, that is essential to realizing the vision of a beautifully restored cultural landmark.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### RBTL'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 4

### THE GREAT GATSBY BALLET

September 23

### CELTIC THUNDER

September 24

### 2025-2026 M&T BANK

### BROADWAY SEASON

October 21-June 14



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

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



@RBTLAUD



# WORK IN FRONT OF WEST HERR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER BEGINS

Construction crews have begun working in front of the West Herr Performing Arts Center to do a much-needed replacement of the steps leading up to the building. The old stairs have already been taken out, as is evident to anyone who drives by on East Main Street or visits and sees the major hole in the ground. In addition to new steps, the sidewalks will also be expanding to better accommodate foot traffic.

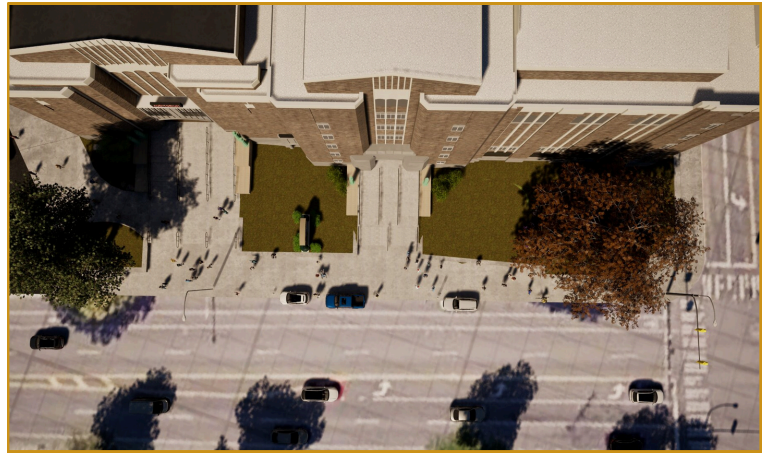
The goal is to have this work done by the fall.

For the latest information and photos on the restoration efforts, visit [WestHerrPAC.org](http://WestHerrPAC.org) or follow WHPAC on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Current Construction



Potential Renderings





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## SPOTLIGHT ON: *KIMBERLY AKIMBO*

Engagement Dates: March 24-29, 2026

Music By: Jeanine Tesori ("Shrek" & "Fun Home")

Book, Lyrics & Original Play By: David Lindsay-Abaire ("Shrek" & "High Fidelity")

Directed By: Jessica Stone ("Water for Elephants")

Age Recommendation: 13+

Running Time: 2 hours & 25 minutes, including intermission

**Synopsis:** "Kimberly Akimbo" is the Tony Award®-winning Best Musical about growing up and growing old – in no particular order. 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.

**Reviews:** According to The Washington Post, "It feels like a miracle. I loved it from the first note to the last. It's one of those perfect inventions that convinces you that the world isn't so terrible after all. Hilarious and heartbreaking, it's the kind of entertainment – wise, original, moving – that stamps musical theater as one of the best things ever made in America."



Carolee Carmello in the National Tour of Kimberly Akimbo.  
Photo by Joan Marcus

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## SPOTLIGHT ON: *WICKED*

Engagement Dates: February 18-March 1, 2026

Music & Lyrics By: Stephen Schwartz ("Pippin" & "Godspell")

Book By: Winnie Holzman ("My So-Called Life")

Author of Original Novel: Gregory Maguire

Directed By: Joe Mantello ("Glengarry Glen Ross," "9 to 5" & "Pal Joey")

Age Recommendation: 8+

Running Time: 2 hours & 45 minutes, including intermission



Zoe Jensen as Glinda and Jessie Davidson as Elphaba in the National Tour of Wicked. Photo by Joan Marcus

**Synopsis:** "Wicked," Rochester's most "popular" musical, looks at what happened in the Land of Oz... but from a different angle. 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." From the first electrifying note to the final breathtaking moment, "Wicked"—the untold true story of the Witches of Oz—transfixes audiences with its wildly inventive story.

**Reviews:** Time Magazine said, "If every musical had the brains, heart and courage of 'Wicked,' Broadway really would be a magical place" Variety called it "A cultural phenomenon," while The New York Times hailed it as "Broadway's biggest blockbuster!"

# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

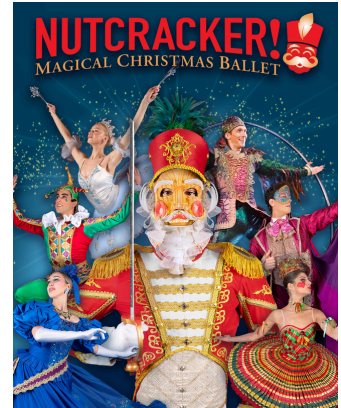
RBTL has a number of holiday favorites taking the West Herr Auditorium Theatre stage this December. Celebrate Christmas early by securing your tickets now for the following shows:

## NUTCRACKER! Magical Christmas Ballet: December 2

Share the joy of "NUTCRACKER! Magical Christmas Ballet" with family and friends. Give the gift of a spectacular holiday experience featuring an international cast, whimsical puppetry and opulent costumes and sets, hand-crafted by the finest artisans of Europe. Go back to a simpler time and make memories your family will cherish forever. Celebrate the season with America's most beloved Nutcracker tradition! Tchaikovsky's timeless score sets the stage for a Christmas your family will never forget.

Make the evening even more unforgettable with these special add-ons (purchased in addition to show ticket):

- **Wooden Nutcracker Doll** - Take a keepsake home with "NUTCRACKER! Magical Christmas Ballet's" Official Wooden Nutcracker. His uniform is trim and polished to perfection and his eyes dance with delight - a perfect stocking stuffer or memory maker for the family!
- **Photo Opportunity in Lobby** - Whisk your family off to meet a "NUTCRACKER!" ballerina. Head to the photobooth in the lobby for your moment under the lights and get your Christmas keepsake photo taken!



## Straight No Chaser - Holiday Road Tour: December 3

Look up "holiday music" in the dictionary, and it's likely that there is a photo of the nine-person a cappella group Straight No Chaser, instead of a standard definition. For more than two decades, the group has provided the soundtrack of the season, bringing millions of fans to their feet while putting them in the holiday spirit. Year after year, fans anxiously await the moment they can officially hit play on Straight No Chaser favorites. And this year is no different. Straight No Chaser is back on tour, serving up an all-you-can-eat buffet of holiday music (with none of the calories).



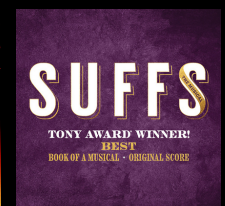
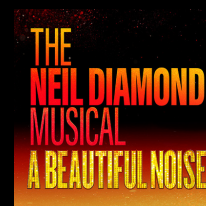
## Jim Brickman: The Gift of Christmas: December 19

"Jim Brickman: The Gift of Christmas" celebrates the gift of family, the gift of friends, the gift of peace, and the gift of love, wrapped up in sweet sounds of the season only he and his piano can provide. Join Jim Brickman and friends this Christmas season for an unforgettable concert experience filled with music, laughter & heartwarming stories. Audiences can expect a captivating blend of timeless holiday classics, along with Brickman's biggest hits like "The Gift," "Love of My Life," "Destiny," and "Valentine," and joyfully unexpected surprises. Escape with Jim Brickman to a magical atmosphere that brings friends and family together to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas.



Tickets for all three of these incredible holiday shows are on sale now at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) and the Auditorium Box Office.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE 2025-2026 M&T BANK BROADWAY SEASON





# RBTL SEEKING HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL EVALUATORS FOR STARS OF TOMORROW PROGRAM

RBTL's arts education program, Stars of Tomorrow, which celebrates the high school musical and highlights the importance of the arts in education, simply would not be possible without dedicated evaluators. The program is dedicated to supporting the process of growth and learning by providing written feedback to schools, which encourages commitment, discipline and teamwork and recognizes excellence. In the 2024-2025 Season, the program saw its highest participation rate in history, and the upcoming Season proves to be even bigger. We are currently looking to expand our team of evaluators. If the criteria below seems like you, please consider joining us!



## Evaluators will meet at least one of the following requirements:

- A degree in a relevant field (music, theatre, dance, etc.).
- And/or extensive work experience in one of those disciplines on a professional or academic basis.
- And/or are professional artists or educators with knowledge of the American musical theatre canon.
- And/or demonstrate experience in or knowledge of musical theatre.

## Additionally, all candidates:

- Must possess the ability to effectively communicate in writing.
- Must possess the ability to evaluate production elements and student performances in a constructive manner, maintaining an overall positive tone.
- Must be trained in the Stars of Tomorrow evaluation process by RBTL.
- Have the ability to recognize potential bias/conflicts of interest and to recuse oneself from those productions/students.
  - No judge will be assigned to a school with which there may be a conflict of interest, either through a connection to the school or to anyone associated with the production.
- Have the ability to evaluate fairly.
- Have the ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Have enthusiasm for high school musical theatre.

Interested? Reach out by emailing RBTL's Director of Education, Holly Valentine, at, [holly@rbtl.org](mailto:holly@rbtl.org).  
Or click below to learn more and apply.

[APPLY HERE](#)

To learn more about Stars of Tomorrow, or other RBTL arts education programs, visit [RBTL.org/education](https://rbtl.org/education).



# GROUP TICKET RESERVATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SELECT SHOWS IN THE 2025-2026 M&T BANK BROADWAY SEASON

If you're purchasing 10 or more tickets to the same performance of a show in the 2025-2026 M&T Bank Broadway Season, you may be eligible for a group sales booking. Group reservations for "Clue," "& Juliet," "Spamalot," "Kimberly Akimbo," "A Beautiful Noise" and "Suffs" are now open.

Group sales pricing varies by performance day and seat locations.

[View Group Pricing](#)

Booking as a group also comes with a number of benefits, including:

- Advance Seating (when booking prior to the public on-sale).
  - Add additional seats to your order at any time (subject to availability).
  - Secure the best pricing when booking early.
- Easy Payment Terms
  - Non-refundable 50% deposit is due within 2 weeks of date of invoice.
  - Payment is due in full 30 days after receipt of deposit (or at the time of booking when reserving within 60 days of a performance).
  - Credit card or check payment is accepted.
  - Additional payment flexibility offered for school groups.
    - \*Tickets are subject to availability. All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges. Pricing and performance dates/times are subject to change.
- Group Recognition in Broadway Program Books (deadlines apply).
- Group Gathering Spaces Coming Soon!
  - We soon hope to have a variety of pre-show reception spaces available for groups. Feel free to inquire.

Submit your reservation today to guarantee the best availability. Groups will be seated on a rolling basis, and an invoice will be sent to you once your group has been seated.

(If you are a K-12 teacher who has already submitted an interest form, you are in the queue and will be contacted.)

[K-12 School Groups:  
Click Here](#)

[Non-School Groups:  
Click Here](#)

Questions? For more information, contact the Auditorium Box Office at 585-222-5000 or at [mail@rbtl.org](mailto:mail@rbtl.org).

## JOIN RBTL FOR A COCKTAIL RECEPTION FOLLOWING PLAY AT OUR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, August 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Midvale Country Club

\$150 Per Person - *Benefits RBTL's Arts Education Programs*

Cocktail Reception includes Raffle Prizes, Silent Auction and Live Auction

[Register Here](#)