

AUGUST 2025



FROM THE WINGS

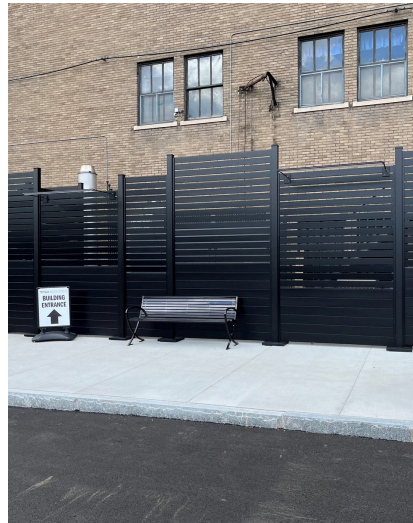
FRONT ENTRANCE WORK BEGINS AT WEST HERR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The front entrance of the West Herr Performing Arts Center and Auditorium Theatre is now temporarily closed, as construction on the sidewalks, front steps and lawn amps up. Crews are working to replace the original stairs and handrails leading up to the lobbies to make it safer for patrons. They are also widening the sidewalks and replacing retaining walls to create more open space for our busy crowds before and after performances.

Currently, those who need to access the Auditorium Box Office, or other businesses located in the West Herr Performing Arts Center, can enter the building from the rear parking lot, located off College Avenue. Signs are posted. And while you're back there, you'll notice new fencing blocking the necessary pipes and equipment, creating a more polished, sleeker look outside of the building.

Completion and reopening of the front entrance is anticipated prior to the start of the Broadway Season in October.

As always, we thank our patrons for their continued patience and support as ongoing work part of PROJECT RESTORATION continues. Community support is essential to realizing the vision of a beautifully restored cultural landmark. If you're interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to help shape the future of the arts in Rochester, you can donate here, or reach out to RBTL CEO Arnie Rothschild at 585-277-3332 or ahr@rbtl.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

THE GREAT GATSBY BALLET

September 23

CELTIC THUNDER

September 24

CLUE

October 21-26

SWAN LAKE

November 2

RPO PRESENTS JAWS IN

CONCERT

November 7



WEST HERR
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
875 EAST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14605
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SPOTLIGHT ON: SPAMALOT

Engagement Dates: January 13-18, 2026

Music, Lyrics & Book By: Eric Idle ("Monty Python's Flying Circus")

Music By: John Du Prez ("A Fish Called Wanda")

Directed & Choreographed By: Josh Rhodes ("The Who's Tommy" & "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella")

Age Recommendation: 8+

Running Time: 2 hours & 20 minutes, including intermission



The Broadway cast of Spamalot. Photo by Matthew Murphy and Evan Zimmerman

Synopsis: The show that set Broadway back 1,000 years returns! "Spamalot" first galloped onto Broadway in 2005, and the original production was nominated for fourteen Tony Awards® and won three, including Best Musical. 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. "Spamalot" features well-known song titles such as "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life," "The Song That Goes Like This," "Find Your Grail" and more that have become beloved classics in the musical theatre canon.

Reviews: The Washington Post exclaimed, "It's UNFAIR to make me laugh this much! 'Spamalot' is a tightly packed clown car speeding to musical theater nirvana!" The Wall Street Journal called it, "Pure glee! 'Spamalot' is deliriously funny!"

SPOTLIGHT ON: & JULIET

Engagement Dates: December 9-14, 2025

Music & Lyrics By: Max Martin (Winner of 5 Grammy Awards®, including Producer of the Year)

Book By: David West Read ("Schitt's Creek")

Directed By: Luke Sheppard ("In the Heights")

Orchestrations & Arrangements By: Bill Sherman ("In the Heights")

Age Recommendation: 8+

Running Time: 2 hours & 40 minutes, including intermission



Teal Wicks and Rachel Simone Webb in the North American Tour of & Juliet
Photo Credit: Matthew Murphy

Synopsis: This hilarious new musical flips the script on the greatest love story ever told. "& Juliet" asks: what would happen next if Juliet didn't end it all over Romeo? Get whisked away on a fabulous journey as she ditches her famous ending for a fresh beginning and a second chance at life and love—her way. Juliet's new story bursts to life through a playlist of pop anthems as iconic as her name, including "Since U Been Gone," "Roar," "Baby One More Time," "Larger Than Life," "That's The Way It Is," and "Can't Stop the Feeling!"—all from the genius songwriter/producer behind more #1 hits than any other artist this century. Break free of the balcony scene and get into this romantic comedy that proves there's life after Romeo. The only thing tragic would be missing it.

Reviews: Variety said, "The most fun you'll have in a theatre! A smart, laugh-out-loud shot of pure gold. Exactly what we need right now." Entertainment Weekly called it, "Exuberant & joyful & ingenious!"

PIANO FROM LONGTIME RBTL FRIEND FINDS NEW HOME IN WEST HERR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER'S FLOREANO ROOM

In March of 2025, longtime member of the Rochester Theater Organ Society (RTOS) and friend of RBTL, Russ Shaner, passed away at the age of 82. For more than 40 years, Russ served as Program Chair for RTOS, which operates out of the West Herr Auditorium Theatre. He was also a member of the RTOS Board of Directors, served as Maintenance Lead on the Wurlitzer 4/23 (opus 1951) theatre organ (housed in the Auditorium Theatre) and Publisher of their newsletter, the "RTOS Blower."

"Russ was the key to the organization for most of its life," said RTOS Vice President and Program Chair, Bob Bower. "Russ was the type of guy that found something to talk about with every person he met. He was the consistency in the organization. It takes lots of people to make RTOS a success, but everyone knows Russ."

As Program Chair, he scheduled organists from around the world to perform at RTOS's monthly concerts, often hosting them at his home, where many played on his baby grand piano. It's that same Wm. Knabe & Co. piano that Russ wanted RBTL to have, and which has now found a home in the West Herr Performing Arts Center's Floreano Room.

"Russ always thought the Theatre should have a grand piano for the stage," Bower explained. "With the purchase of the entire building, he felt there was now a space. And while a grand piano might be too big, hopefully a space could be found for his baby grand."



And find a space we did – the newly renovated Floreano Room, where patrons this coming Broadway Season can view the piano proudly on display. It's a special gift RBTL wants to share with everyone who comes to visit the Performing Arts Center.

"I was fortunate to work with Russ for many years in scheduling the RTOS concerts and coordinating access to the mighty Wurlitzer around our Broadway Season and other events," said RBTL Chief Revenue Officer, Linda Glosser. "He was both patient and tenacious and always very kind. The gift of his beautiful piano is an extension of that kindness and collaboration. We will treasure it along with our memories of Russ for a long time."



THREE ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS TO RETURN TO WEST HERR AUDITORIUM THEATRE IN 2026

For the first time in several years, three high schools in the Rochester City School District (RCSD) will host their graduation ceremonies at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre. At the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year, graduating seniors from Edison Career and Technology High School, Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School and School of the Arts (SOTA) will walk across the stage for their commencements.

RBTL had to temporarily pause hosting graduations at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre due to ongoing construction as part of RBTL's PROJECT RESTORATION. Work included an overhaul of the back parking lot off College Avenue and the rear entrance and hallway leading to the West Herr Performing Arts Center lobby.

"School of the Arts is very excited to be returning to West Herr Performing Arts Center for Commencement 2026," said SOTA Principal, Alan Tirre. "Keeping our ceremony in the Neighborhood of the Arts is important to us and having access to the new state-of-the-art facility will enhance our commencement performances to the level our graduating students deserve."

Edison Career and Technology High School Principal Anthony Rodriguez said, "I am very excited to know our students will be able to walk across the stage at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre. I am a personal fan of the theater and excited for our students and staff to share the best stage in Rochester this upcoming graduation season."

"We are thrilled to be returning to the West Herr Auditorium Theatre for our upcoming graduation ceremonies," added Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School Principal Gary Reynolds. "The staff and service at this venue are truly second to none, and we are grateful for their continued partnership. We look forward to honoring the proud tradition of Joseph C. Wilson High School graduations in this distinguished setting once again."

RBTL prides itself on providing not only arts and entertainment opportunities, but hosting live events, such as graduation ceremonies, for the Greater Rochester community. The organization is proud to once again offer its Theatre to three RCSD schools, so their graduating students have a memorable end to their high school careers.

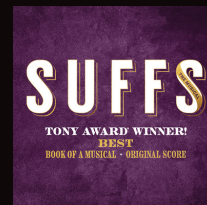
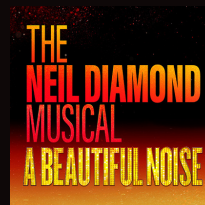
The 2025-2026 M&T Bank Broadway Season

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RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR RBTL'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT: OVER \$70,000 RAISED FOR ARTS EDUCATION

RBTL is thrilled to announce that it netted over \$70,000 at its 17th Annual Golf Tournament on August 4th. This marks a record-breaking year for the event. Proceeds from the tournament play a leading role in supporting RBTL's arts education programs, including A.R.T.S. Partners, Stars of Tomorrow and Stars of Tomorrow NYC Bound, in which thousands of local students participate each season.

One of those students, recent Greece Arcadia graduate, Tessa Meyers, helped kick off the tournament, by singing a rendition of the National Anthem. She was one of two students to represent Rochester at the 2025 National High School Musical Theatre Awards, also known as the Jimmy Awards, in New York City. Funding from this tournament helps provide students like Tessa these unique and educational experiences.

This year, more than 100 golfers took part in the tournament at Midvale Country Club, simultaneously supporting the arts in the Rochester community, while enjoying a day on the course. Funds were raised through generous sponsors, a participation fee, live auction, silent auction (emceed by Pauly Guglielmo) and raffles.

Every year, RBTL honors someone who has made a difference to the organization. This year, the Blue Heron Award honoree was New York State 138th District Assemblymember Harry Bronson, for his unwavering commitment to the arts in the community.

Arts and performance education inspires creativity and helps young people set and reach goals. RBTL is committed to education both in and out of the classroom that engages and encourages students to explore, experience and enjoy the arts. Every year, RBTL takes great pride in seeing the benefit of arts education in the Rochester community.

RBTL's education programs are made possible in part because of support for RBTL's Annual Golf Tournament from both participants and sponsors, as well as from in-kind donations year-round. To make a donation, visit rbtl.org/support-us.

To learn more about RBTL's arts education programs, visit rbtl.org/education.

RBTL is also actively seeking evaluators for its 2025-2026 Stars of Tomorrow Season. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply, or reach out to RBTL's Director of Education, Holly Valentine, at holly@rbtl.org with questions.



RBTL CEO and Board Chairman, Arnie Rothschild, presents the Blue Heron Award to Assemblymember Harry Bronson.

BACK TO SCHOOL THEATRE CHECK LIST

- ✓ 2025-2026 M&T Bank Broadway Season Tickets
- ✓ Subscription Add-On Tickets to Hamilton
- ✓ Pre-Show Dinner Reservations
- ✓ Directions/Parking Plan in Place
- ✓ Outfit
- ✓ Date to Bring to the Show
- ✓ Confirmed Performance Time
- ✓ President's Club Pass