

NOVEMBER 2026

FROM THE WINGS

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT IN ROCHESTER BY TRANSFORMING THE WEST HERR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Through PROJECT REST**OUR**ATION, RBTL is transforming the historic West Herr Auditorium Theatre and Performing Arts Center into an arts and cultural hub for the Greater Rochester region. Restoration and revitalization of the iconic landmark promises to provide a renowned entertainment venue for the entire community, which upon completion, will shine as the anchor of the Neighborhood of the Arts.

You can help continue the transformation of this architectural masterpiece with a tax-deductible, year-end contribution to RBTL's Capital Campaign. There are a number of giving levels at which you can pledge. Your support could receive significant tax and financial benefits, while helping to preserve the future of RBTL and the West Herr Auditorium Theatre and Performing Arts Center. (Please consult your attorney or professional advisor.)

Visit rbtl.org for more information, or contact RBTL CEO, Arnie Rothschild, at 585-277-3332 or ahr@rbtl.org for assistance with a contribution.

Your support with a sustainable gift will make a lasting impact for generations to come!



DESIGNATE YOUR YEAR-END GIFT

TO PRESERVING AND MAKING HISTORY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

THE SOUND OF MUSIC
December 1-6

NUTCRACKER! BALLET
December 10

RPO PRESENTS
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
IN CONCERT
December 11

BEETLEJUICE THE MUSICAL
December 18-20

RPO PRESENTS
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
January 13

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

@RBTLAUD

THE SOUND OF MUSIC RETURNS TO ROCHESTER THIS DECEMBER

Back for the first time since 2017, ***THE SOUND OF MUSIC*** is returning to the West Herr Auditorium Theatre December 1-6. For more than 65 years, this Rodgers & Hammerstein classic has captivated audiences with its universal themes of love, resilience and the power of music. It was inspired by the true story of Maria and the von Trapp family, and ahead of the Rochester engagement, we're noting some key dates:

1880
Georg von Trapp is born in Austria-Hungary.

1905
Maria Augusta Kutschera (later von Trapp) is born in Austria.

1924
Maria becomes candidate for novitiate at Nonnberg Abbey.

1926
Maria is sent from the abbey to tutor one of Georg's daughters.

1927
Maria and Georg von Trapp marry at Nonnberg Abbey in Salzburg.

1936
The Trapp Family Singers form, touring throughout Europe.


Photo by Jeremy Daniel

1938
The von Trapp family flees Austria after the Nazi annexation, settling in the U.S.


Photo by Jeremy Daniel

1939
The Trapp Family Singers give their first major U.S. concert in New York City.

1949
The Story of the Trapp Family Singers is published by Maria von Trapp (the memoir that inspired the musical).

1956
Final Trapp Family Singers concert in the United States.

1959
The Sound of Music debuts on Broadway at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.

1961
West End production opens in London at the Palace Theatre and runs for 2,385 performances.

1963
Original Broadway production closes after 1,443 performances.

1965
The Sound of Music film premieres and surpasses *Gone with the Wind* to become the highest-grossing film of all time.

1966
The Sound of Music wins Best Musical or Comedy at the Golden Globes and earns 5 Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

1990
The film is selected for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry for its cultural significance.

1995
The Sound of Music, starring Marie Osmond, makes its Rochester debut at the Auditorium Theatre as part of RBTL's 1994-1995 Broadway Season.

2003, 2017 & 2026
The Sound of Music tour returns to the Auditorium Theatre.

Tickets for ***THE SOUND OF MUSIC*** at the Auditorium Theatre are available at Ticketmaster.com or the Box Office.

SPOTLIGHT ON: *BEETLEJUICE*

Engagement Dates:
December 18-20, 2026

Music & Lyrics:
Eddie Perfect
(Tony® Award Nominee for ***BEETLEJUICE***)

Book:
Scott Brown & Anthony King
(*Gutenberg! The Musical!*)

Scenic Design:
David Korins
(Emmy® Award Winner for *Grease: Live!* &
Tony Award Nominee for *Hamilton* & ***BEETLEJUICE***)

Age Recommendation:
13+
(*Contains strong language, mature references and a lot of the crazy, inappropriate stuff you would expect from a deranged demon.*)

Running Time:
2 hours & 30 minutes, including intermission


Photo by Matthew Murphy

Synopsis: He earned his stripes on Broadway… now the ghost-with-the-most is returning to Rochester. Based on Tim Burton's dearly beloved film, this hilarious musical tells the story of Lydia Deetz, a strange and unusual teenager whose whole life changes when she meets a recently deceased couple and a demon with a thing for stripes. With an irreverent book and a score that's out of this Netherworld, ***BEETLEJUICE*** is a remarkably touching show about family, love, and making the most of every Day-O!

BEETLEJUICE
The Musical. The Musical. The Musical.

2019 TONY AWARD® NOMINATIONS

*Best Musical
*Best Book of a Musical
*Best Original Score
*Best Scenic Design
*Best Lighting Design
*Best Costume Design
*Best Sound Design
*Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role (Alex Brightman)

What the Critics are Saying:

"SCREAMINGLY GOOD FUN! An eye-popping musical with off-the-wall humor, wickedly good tunes, endless visual delights, and (gasp!) even heart."
– *Variety*

"A riotous, rambunctious, spectacular production, with huge laughs, full-throttle performances and a mischievous sense of fun that literally seems to drip from the ceiling."
– *The Hollywood Reporter*

"A gut-busting Broadway musical where ghouls go wild! You are in for one irreverent, funny roller-coaster ride."
– *Newsweek*


Photo by Matthew Murphy


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ANNOUNCING LOCAL SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN 2026-2027 STARS OF TOMORROW SEASON

RBTL's arts education program, Stars of Tomorrow, which is sponsored by the Cornell/Weinstein Family Foundation, with additional support from WROC News 8 and Lake Beverage, recognizes the high school musical and its performing arts students in Tony® Award fashion. It's dedicated to supporting the process of growth and learning, encouraging commitment, discipline and teamwork, and acknowledging excellence.

High schools in Monroe and surrounding counties with fall or spring musical productions are invited to participate in Stars of Tomorrow. A team of trained and qualified adjudicators evaluates the productions, and provides students and directors with written feedback and rubric scores in a variety of areas.

Here are the local schools participating in the 2026-2027 Stars of Tomorrow season:

Albion
The Wiz

Allendale Columbia
The Lightning Thief

Aquinas Institute
Little Shop of Horrors

Avon
Once Upon a Mattress

Batavia
Big Fish

Bishop Kearney
The Lightning Thief

Bloomfield
Into the Woods

Brighton
Seussical

Campbell-Savona
The Little Mermaid

Charles Finney
The Little Mermaid

Churchville-Chili
Anything Goes

Dansville
Once Upon a Mattress

Eastridge
The Wiz

Fairport
Little Shop of Horrors

Gananda
Little Shop of Horrors

Greece Odyssey
Mamma Mia!

Greece Olympia
Something Rotten!

The Harley School
Pippin

Hilton
Mamma Mia!

Honeoye Falls-Lima
Chicago: Teen Edition

Le Roy
42nd Street

Lima Christian
Tuck Everlasting

Lyons
The Little Mermaid

Lyndonville
Once Upon a Mattress

Marcus Whitman
Spelling Bee

Marion
Matilda

McQuaid Jesuit
Les Misérables

Midlakes
The Hello Girls

Mount Morris
Once Upon a Mattress

Mynderse
Tuck Everlasting

Newark
Mystic Pizza

North Rose Wolcott
Footloose

Our Lady of Mercy
Legally Blonde

Palmyra-Macedon
Wonderland

Penfield
Frozen

Penn Yan
Once Upon a One More Time

Pittsford Mendon
Sweeney Todd

Pittsford Sutherland
Cinderella

Red Jacket
Mean Girls

Rush-Henrietta
Anastasia

School of the Arts
Frozen

Spencerport
The Little Mermaid

Victor
Chicago: Teen Edition

Warsaw
Hadestown

Wayne
Spamalot

Webster Schroeder
Hunchback of Notre Dame

Williamson
Wonderland

York
Frozen

At the end of the year, participating schools have the opportunity to perform a selection from their musical on stage at the Auditorium Theatre. Recognition is given to schools with the highest scores in each of the adjudicated categories, and students are given a chance to shine. This season's Stars of Tomorrow Celebration Gala will take place on May 21, 2027.

10 REASONS TO GIVE THE GIFT OF ENTERTAINMENT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

RBTL prides itself in offering something for everyone at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre, and this holiday season is no different. Whether it's Broadway, ballet, concerts or film screenings, RBTL has no shortage of opportunities. Here are just some of the reasons to give the gift of live entertainment this year:

1
Live theatre keeps on giving
Photos, programs and stories become keepsakes.

2
No sizing or guessing needed
Theatre fits everyone!

3
Time together
Tickets in pairs or groups mean a shared night out.

4
Experiences over items
No clutter, nothing to return.

5
The arts spark conversation
People talk about the show for days or years afterward.

6
Live theatre inspires
It makes people laugh, cry and think.

7
The anticipation is part of the gift
It's something to look forward to.

8
The "WOW" factor
Tickets in a card are exciting.

9
A gift for everyone
Works for children, grandparents and all in between!

10
Celebrate creativity and support the industry
Honor the artists who bring shows to life.

Not sure which show to buy tickets for? Gift certificates are available at rbtl.org/gift-certificates, the Auditorium Box Office or by calling 585-222-5000. Gift certificates are redeemable for all Auditorium Theatre events.

ON SALE NOW:





















ON SALE DECEMBER 7:









ON SALE DECEMBER 18:

