

SHEA'S CALL-BOARD

MAY 25, 2023

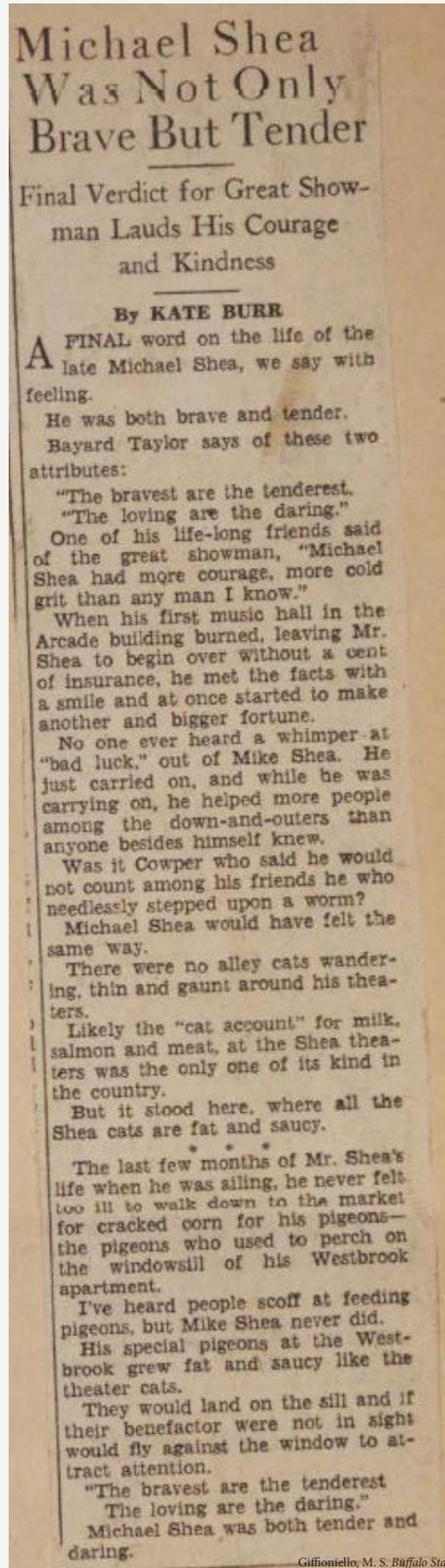
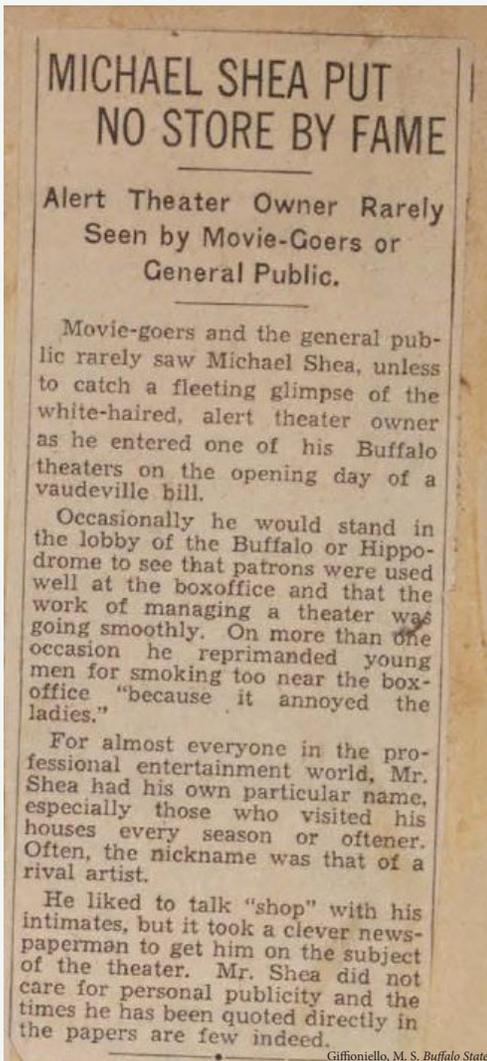
Call-board (n.): a bulletin or notice board backstage at a theatre

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL SHEA

A DAY IN SHEA'S HISTORY

When Michael Shea, owner of Shea's Buffalo Theatre passed away on May 16, 1984 at age 75 he made the front page of The Buffalo Evening News.

What followed was a series of tributes and in memorials honoring the showman, that despite being part of show business, had liked to be kept out of the spotlight. Hundreds attended his funeral service "to pay a last tribute to the man who rose from the ranks to a place of leadership but who remained the friend of all those he had known."—*The Buffalo Evening News*



UPCOMING EVENTS

SHEA'S BUFFALO

THE KENNY AWARDS

MAY 27, 2023

DANCE SPECTRUM "HOME AGAIN"

JUNE 2 - 3, 2023

JAGGED LITTLE PILL

JUNE 6-11, 2023

YOGA ON THE STAGE

Shea's Young Professionals
Fundraiser for Shea's

JUNE 13, 2023

JOHN MELLENCAMP

JUNE 16, 2023

DEAR EVAN HANSEN

JUNE 20-25, 2023

SHEA'S 710

HELLO, DOLLY! IN CONCERT

Starring Buffalo
JUNE 2-3, 2023

LATE NITE CATECHISM

JUNE 4, 2023

32ND ARTIE AWARDS

JUNE 5, 2023

CAST ANNOUNCEMENT PARTY

THE COLOR PURPLE

Ujima Compan, Inc., Second Generation

Theatre, Shea's 710 Theatre

JUNE 7, 2023

FIND YOUR BEAT

Devi Bollywood Performing Arts

JUNE 15-16, 2023

SHEA'S SMITH

TICK, TICK...BOOM!

Second Generation Theatre

MAY 19-JUNE 4, 2023

IN THE COMMUNITY

THE GOLDEN GIRLS: THE LOST

EPISODES, VOL. 3

Alleyway Theatre

Alleyway Theatre

JUNE 1-JUNE 18

STYX: 2023 WORLD TOUR

Artpark

Artpark Amphitheater

JUNE 2

SPONSOR OF THE MONTH – MAY

WEGMANS

Making a difference in the communities they serve we are shining a light on Wegmans this month. With 104 stores in 7 states, they are one of the largest private companies in the U.S. Wegman's is a family-owned company that was founded in 1916 and is headquartered down the I-90 in Rochester, NY.

Wegmans and Shea's have a partnership that goes back over many years supporting our special events and education programming, like Kids Night on Broadway and family-based entertainment.

With their support we have been able to provide families in Western New York the opportunity to visit and experience the wonder of Shea's Performing Arts Center.

Wegmans commitment to their customers and people are "Every day you get our best," and that is certainly true!

To learn more about Wegmans visit their site:



WATER IS THE ENEMY OF SHEA'S THE FRAGILITY OF PLASTER AT SHEA'S BUFFALO THEATRE

As a historical building, Shea's Buffalo Theatre faces one constant threat—water. Uncontrolled water has the power to set back years of restoration work and damage important parts of the theatre.



In spring of 2022 you may have looked up admiring the beauty and grandeur of our ornate ceiling in our Petite Lobby only to notice part of it cut away. This was due to a small leak that caused water to slowly run down an archway, softening and permanently damaging the plaster and paint. All damaged plaster had to be removed and new molds had to be cast from another Petite Lobby arch to rebuild the plaster for the portion that was lost. The source of the leak was located and repaired to prevent further damage.

Once it was summer and the frequency of events at Shea's Buffalo Theatre had diminished, scaffolding was erected, new plaster was installed, and extensive painting was done to ensure the newly replaced portion matched the original, undamaged sections. The leak was discovered in March of last year and it was not until September, the week before *THE PROM* opened, that the restoration was finally complete.



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Irish Classical Theatre
Irish Classical Theatre
JUNE 2-JUNE 25

HEAD OVER HEELS

Bellissima Productions
Lorna C. Hill Theatre
JUNE 9-17

THE SOUND INSIDE

D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre
D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre
JUNE 9-JUNE 25

BLOOM

Raices Theatre Company
Road Less Traveled Theatre
JUNE 9-JUNE 25

GRAND HORIZONS

Lancaster Opera House
Lancaster Opera House
JUNE 9-JUNE 25

YOUNG THE GIANT WITH MILKY CHANCE

Live Nation
Artpark Amphitheater
JUNE 13

RHYTHM AND BREWS

Kleinhans Music Hall Fundraiser
Kleinhans Music Hall
JUNE 16

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

Shakespeare in Delaware Park
Shakespeare in Delaware Park
JUNE 22-JULY 16

THE ARTIE AWARDS

CELEBRATING SOME OF WNY'S BEST

The Artie Awards are one of the biggest nights in Buffalo Theatre. Beginning in 1991, the Artie Awards celebrate excellence in theatre in Western New York. The Arties also raises funds for the HIV/AIDS and Immunodeficiency Clinic at ECMC. The nominations for this year's awards were announced on May 8th and include *ONCE ON THIS ISLAND* and *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS*. Check out the full list of nominations [here](#). Come see some of the Western New York's best be awarded on June 5th!

THEATRE NEWS

The Writer's Guild of America will permit an altered Tony Awards ceremony to air on June 11 on CBS and Paramount+.

This month, Broadway's *MJ: THE MUSICAL* recouped its investment.

Nicole Scherzinger is slated to star as Norma Desmond in a new revival of *SUNSET BOULEVARD* in the West End.

Although the arch restoration is complete, Shea's Buffalo is still in danger from water. Water leaks can come from anywhere but especially the roof. Our roof replacement project would preserve our gorgeous historic ceilings, protect the investments made by countless donors, as well as safeguard the assets in the building.

The total cost for the roof replacement project is over four million dollars. Though this is a significant amount, replacing the roof will prevent damage and protect a multi-million-dollar restoration investment. Some funding has already been raised to replace parts of our roof system this summer, but we have applied and are seeking funds to replace major portions of roof system that include the areas above the lobby and auditorium. It is our hope we can raise enough to replace our roof systems soon and continue to preserve the beauty of Shea's ceilings!

IT'S AWARD SEASON

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF WNY HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

The Tony Awards may be in June, but local students are looking forward to the Kenny Awards! Presented by Shea's Performing Arts Center and The Lipke Foundation, The Kenny Awards celebrates excellence in high school musical theatre in Western New York.



Ten finalist schools were chosen in the fall, and nominees were selected for fifteen award categories last month. Awards will be presented on Saturday, May 27, 2023, at 6 PM and include live performances from the finalists on stage at Shea's Buffalo. The Lipke Foundation will provide a \$10,000 grant to the theatre program that receives the award for Outstanding Musical Production. Recipients of the Outstanding Leading Actress and Actor awards will travel to New York City to participate in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (The Jimmy Awards) presented by the Broadway League Foundation at the Minskoff Theatre.

2023 Kenny Awards Finalists

Amherst Central High School
Seussical: The Musical

Nardin Academy
Disney's The Little Mermaid

Pine Valley Central School
Little Women

Maryvale High School
Disney's Beauty and the Beast

Iroquois High School
SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical

Maple Grove High School
Disney's Newsies

Barker Junior/Senior High School
Cinderella

North Tonawanda High School
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

West Seneca West Senior High
Mean Girls

Lockport High School
All Shook Up

THE MIGHTY WURLITZER THAT COULD

THE HISTORY OF SHEA'S BUFFALO THEATRE'S PERMANENT RESIDENT

Last month, we told you about the planned restoration of our Mighty Wurlitzer Organ. This refurbishment wasn't the first time the organ has been restored to its former glory. Back in its heyday, the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ was played by some of the finest musicians the 1920s and 1930s had to offer—Harold Ramsay, Henry Murtagh, and Jesse Crawford. The start of World War II, however, spelled ruin for the wonderful instrument. With the start of the war, the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ was

The Tony nominated musical **NEW YORK, NEW YORK** has announced they will be launching a North American tour in January 2025.

BAD CINDERELLA announced its closing date. The Andrew Lloyd Webber Musical will play its final performance on June 4th

PETER PAN GOES WRONG announced its Broadway extension. The comedy, which was slated to close its limited run on July 9th will now run through July 23rd.

Tony nominated Paloma Young reveals the creative process and challenges of making clothes right for the musical & **JULIET**.

Winners of the 2023 Chita Rivera Awards have been announced and include **A BEAUTIFUL NOISE**, **BOB FOSSE'S DANCIN**, and **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**.

KIMBERLY AKIMBO launches a new annual grant program to help fund NYC high school musical theater productions.

GET TO KNOW NEW BROADWAY MUSICALS & PLAYS

KIMBERLY AKIMBO

Booth Theatre

Fresh from its off-Broadway run, and with nine Tony nominations is KIMBERLY AKIMBO! Kim is a bright and funny Jersey teen, who happens to look like a 72-year-old lady. And yet her aging disease may be the least of her problems. Forced to maneuver family secrets, borderline personalities, and possible felony charges, Kim is determined to find happiness in a world where not even time is on her side.

HERE LIES LOVE

Broadway Theatre

After sold out and critically acclaimed runs at The Public Theatre, London's National Theatre and Seattle Rep, HERE LIES LOVE is making its Broadway debut! This highly anticipated and revolutionary musical follows the rise and fall of former Filipina First Lady Imelda Marcos. The Broadway Theatre has been transformed into a high-energy, dance club environment where audience members can stand and move with the actors. HERE LIES LOVE is also making history with the first all-Filipino cast on Broadway.

used less and less and our Mighty Wurlitzer Organ declined rapidly.

In 1946, plans were made to refurbish the organ, but they were ultimately halted by the 1948 Supreme Court ruling *United States v. Paramount*. The ruling declared that Hollywood studios, like Paramount, held monopolies by owning their own movie houses. Shea's Buffalo, one of these Paramount houses, was taken over by the Loew Corporation following this decision. The corporation didn't have plans to use the instrument, so the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ essentially rotted for 30 years.

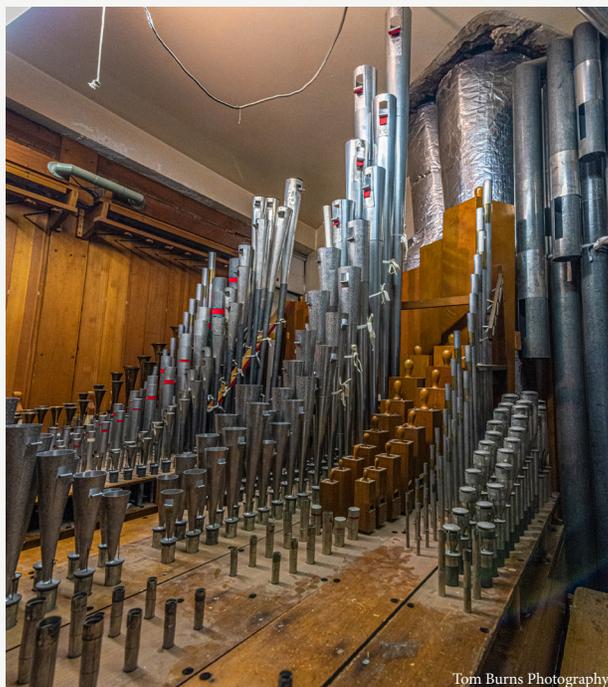
Water damage to the organ's pipes from massive leaks in the ceiling as well as mushrooms growing in the instrument's chambers, led to serious discussions of simply scrapping the organ in the 1960s. In this state, the organ did give an impressive, come-back performance. In July of 1964 the American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts held their annual convention in Buffalo. At this point, the Shea's building itself had fallen into disrepair. Yet, these instrumentalists flocked to Shea's Buffalo—at midnight no less—to listen to the, still gorgeous, sound of the organ. Held together with bailing wires and rubber bands, the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ was briefly brought out of retirement.

When the city of Buffalo took over the theatre in the mid-1970s, a more intensive effort was made to restore not only the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, but the entire building. The declining Shea's building was threatened with being torn down. The not-for-profit Friends of the Buffalo Theatre stepped in and saved Shea's from the wrecking ball. The goal of the Friends of the Buffalo Theatre was to restore Shea's back to its beautiful, original state. They started this project, of course, by attempting to restore the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ.

During the next couple years, the Friends of the Buffalo Theatre were able to raise over \$100,000 through federal and state grants to repair the organ. Organ technicians also volunteered their time and expertise to assist in the restoration. The repairs made to the organ included rebuilding and refinishing the entire console, installing a modern solid state multiplex system, replacing missing pipes and ranks of pipes, re-leathering the entire instrument, and, eventually, doing delicate revoicing work. The Shea's Mighty Wurlitzer was rededicated in 1984, emitting rich tones as beautiful as it was in 1926.

Continued maintenance and restoration is critical to maintain the decades of effort organ enthusiasts, experts and volunteers have made into keeping our Mighty Wurlitzer Organ a wondrous staple of the Wonder Theatre!

You can support the Mighty Wurlitzer Fund today by visiting the [Support Shea's](#) section of our website.



Tom Burns Photography

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

St. James Theatre

Nominated for nine Tony Awards, NEW YORK, NEW YORK is a spectacular, big band, love letter to New York City. With a blend of brand new songs and classics, NEW YORK, NEW YORK tells the story of a reinvigorated New York City after the events of World War II. A collection of artists try to "be a part of it" and make their dreams a reality in the bustling Big Apple.

PARADE

Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre

Tony Award Winner Ben Platt and Tony Nominee Michaela Diamond star in the gorgeous new revival of PARADE. Nominated for six Tony Awards, PARADE follows the real-life story of Leo and Lucille Frank, a Jewish American couple dealing with anti-semitism in the American south. When Leo is accused of an unspeakable crime, the couple's faith and devotion are put to the test.

& JULIET

Stephen Sondheim Theatre

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.



This issue of the SHEA'S CALL-BOARD is prepared by members of the Development Department including writing from Julianna Tracey, Cassandra Lippert, and Beth Potozniak. Special thanks to Robert Brunschmid for providing information on the Roof Restoration Project and the Wurlitzer Organ. Newspaper clippings provided by the Buffalo State University Archives.

SHEA'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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Website

www.sheas.org

Shea's website (www.sheas.org) and Ticketmaster.com are the official ticket retailers of tickets to shows at Shea's Performing Arts Center.