

# SHEA'S CALL-BOARD

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

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

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SHEA'S BUFFALO THEATRE! TALES FROM SHEA'S HISTORY

January 16, 2024, marked the 98th anniversary of Shea's Buffalo Theatre. The theatre opened in 1926 under the moniker of "The Wonder Theatre," and was the dream of Michael Shea.

In honor of our anniversary, we would like to take you back in time to 1975 when the Friends of the Buffalo Theater, led by L. Curt Mangel proposed to manage and restore Shea's Buffalo Theatre after it was foreclosed in December of 1974. The Friends of the Buffalo Theater were able to get Shea's Buffalo Theatre on the National Register of Historic Places on May 6th, 1975.



National Register of Historic Places

The Main Street facade of Shea's Buffalo Theatre in 1974 as taken by Curt Mangel.



National Register of Historic Places

The Mighty Wurlitzer Organ in 1974 as taken by Curt Mangel.



National Register of Historic Places

Top of the Grand Staircase overlooking the Grand Lobby taken by Curt Mangel in 1974. This sculpture currently sits in the Roberta Drapana's Spotlight Lounge.



National Register of Historic Places

The Main Street Vestibule facing inward taken by Curt Mangel in 1974.

## UPCOMING EVENTS SHEA'S BUFFALO

**JIM GAFFIGAN: BARELY ALIVE TOUR**  
FEB 8-10, 2024

**FUNNY GIRL**  
FEB 13-18, 2024

**HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE IN CONCERT**  
FEB 22-23, 2024

**FREE FAMILY FILM SERIES: THE SUPER MARIO BROS. FILM**  
MAR 3, 2024

**LES MISÉRABLES**  
MAR 12-17, 2024

**JOHN CRIST: THE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TOUR**  
MAR 22, 2024

**SHEN YUN**  
MAR 23-24, 2024

**TAMIA & JOE**  
MAR 30, 2024

## SHEA'S 710

**THE PIANO MEN**  
FEB 9, 2024

**COUPLES THERAPY**  
FEB 16-17, 2024

**FREE FAMILY FILM SERIES—DISNEY/PIXAR'S SOUL**  
Presented by Tompkins Bank  
FEB 18, 2024

**THE FLEETWOOD MAC EXPERIENCE**  
FEB 24, 2024

**THE ULTIMATE HEART TRIBUTE NIGHT! FEATURING STRAIGHT ON**  
MAR 2, 2024

**JIMBO'S DRAG CIRCUS WORLD TOUR**  
MAR 5, 2024

**THE 80'S HAIR BAND EXPERIENCE**  
MAR 9, 2024

## SHEA'S SMITH

**THE BOWLING PLAY**  
Second Generation Theatre  
FEB 23- MAR 10, 2024

Below is a sippet of the Statement of Significance submitted to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Click [here](#) to read the full Nomination Form located in the U.S. National Archives.

“...But the most significant new aspect of movie theaters was the appearance chosen, the impression to be made. They were often designated as treasure palaces, their interiors heaped high with exotic plaster riches. At the time of its completion in 1926, ‘The Buffalo’ was regarded as the pinnacle of Michael Shea’s career. This magnate of the early 20th century entertainment world was born in 1859 in Buffalo of humble origins. Seventy-six years later with the construction of ‘The Buffalo’, Shea had built for his own hometown a two million dollar ‘wonder theater’ for everyone to enjoy...”

The year-long construction of “The Buffalo” was carefully chronicled in the city’s newspapers throughout 1925. In January Michael Shea was photographed ankle deep in snow on the site trying to break ground with the traditional spade. In April the first steel column of the new Buffalo theater made news, and by June the steel skeleton was nearly completed. With a Chicago architectural firm and a Buffalo contractor, John Gill and Sons, the finished theater was the combined product of technical expertise and materials from both cities. The terra cotta for the Main Street facade came from an architectural terra cotta firm located at 203 South Dearborn Street in Chicago. The interior decorations were done primarily by William Hengerer Co. of Buffalo, while the lighting fixtures were the exclusive domain of Victor S. Pearlman and Co. of Chicago. Heating and plumbing contracts went to George H. Drake Inc. of Buffalo. Another local enterprise of international fame, the Rudolf Wurlitzer Co. was responsible for the mammoth theater organ which was built at the time of the building’s construction with pipes ranging from the size of a straw to 32 feet in length...

Fifty years later, these sensational movie theaters have become rare monuments in urban downtowns. They have disappeared at an alarming rate or have suffered drastic interior renovations to simplify maintenance. “The Buffalo” has been spared this fate despite the presence of the same economic forces. The building was sold by Shea’s Publix Theater chain to Loew’s Theaters who more recently sold the building and continued to rent it. In December, 1974, the theater fell into the city’s hands through foreclosure when the former owner failed to pay back taxes. A non-profit group known as “Friends of the Buffalo” is seeking an arrangement with the city to handle the maintenance of the building while Loew’s continues to rent it.

One of the best preserved big city movie theaters of its vintage, “The Buffalo” still contains an overwhelming amount of its original decor. It is representative of the most lavish of Rapp and Rapp’s commissions and is a priceless record of an exuberant period of American history.”

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### **KINDER TRANSPORT**

*Jewish Repertory Theatre of WNY*  
**The Maxine & Robert Seller Theatre at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo**  
FEB 1–25

### **LONDON CALLING**

*American Repertory of WNY*  
**American Repertory of WNY**  
FEB 8–24

### **THE FOLKS AT HOME**

*Alleyway Theatre*  
**Alleyway Theatre**  
FEB 9–MAR 2

### **TREASURE ISLAND**

*Starry Night Theatre*  
**The Ghostlight Theatre**  
FEB 15–25

### **THE 39 STEPS**

*UB Theatre and Dance*  
**UB Katharine Cornell Theatre**  
FEB 16– 17

### **TEACH**

*SUNY Buffalo State Theater*  
**The Flexible Theatre**  
FEB 21– 25

### **BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL**

*MusicalFare Theatre*  
**MusicalFare Theatre**  
FEB 21–MAR 24

### **AN EVENING WITH THE STARS GALA 2024–2025**

*Curtain Up Productions*  
**Historic Palace Theatre**  
FEB 22

### **THE TAMING**

*Niagara University Theatre*  
**Leary Theatre**  
FEB 22– 25

### **THE LIGHT FANTASTIC**

*Road Less Traveled Productions*  
**Road Less Traveled Theater**  
FEB 22– MAR 24

### **THE ODD COUPLE**

*UB Theatre and Dance*  
**UB Katharine Cornell Theatre**  
FEB 23– 24

### **GRUMPY OLD MEN: THE MUSICAL**

*O’Connell and Company*  
**New O’Connell & Company Theater**  
FEB 23– MAR 10

### **BETRAYAL**

*Irish Classical Theatre*  
**Irish Classical Theatre**  
FEB 23–MAR 17

### **FAUCI AND KRAMER**

*First Look Buffalo Theatre Company*  
**Canterbury Woods Performing Arts Center**  
FEB 23–MAR 17

### **RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN’S CINDERELLA**

*Curtain Up Productions*  
**Historic Palace Theatre**  
MAR 7– 17

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

### THANK YOU!

Buffalo is familiar with snowstorms, which can lead to complications when hosting tours. Unless there is a driving ban in the City of Buffalo or the tour cancels their performance, showtime is happening. As the familiar statement entails, the show must go on.

Thus, we would like to extend a special acknowledgment to the teams of staff who worked tirelessly during the run of GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY. From our environmental services staff who shoveled out the loading docks to clear the way for the many trucks that needed to unload, to our box office and marketing staff on the front lines working long hours to accommodate exchanges and answer questions, and to the hospitality staff, production staff, volunteers, and all others who help make the show go on, thank you for all you do!

We would also like to thank all our patrons for their patience and understanding during the run of GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY as we navigated the circumstances and communicated with the tour to provide answers to your questions and concerns.

## DINNER AND A SHOW

### JOIN US AT THE SHEA'S BISTRO AND BAR!

Shea's is known as a spot for outstanding entertainment, but did you know you can also get an excellent bite to eat here? Come for dinner and cocktails at Shea's Bistro and Bar!

The Bistro offers a Prix Fixe Menu. It comes with three courses- a starter, entrée, and dessert. Your starter is typically a choice between a soup or salad. For your main course, you can choose between four items featuring various beef, seafood, chicken, and vegetarian options. Then, you can top it all off with a delectable dessert! For our last show, GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY, Bistro patrons had to make the difficult decision between a Chocolate Torte with cherry glaze or a French Apple Cake with caramel sauce! New menus are crafted for each performance using seasonal ingredients, so you can always expect something new, exciting, and obviously tasty for each show!



### BLITHER SPIRIT

Niagara Regional Theatre Guild  
Ellicott Creek Playhouse  
MAR 8– 24

### HAMLET

Brazen-Faced Varlets  
Compass Performing Arts Center  
MAR 8– 24

### THE PAJAMA GAME

Lancaster Opera House  
Lancaster Opera House  
MAR 8– 24

### HERSTORY: HISTORY HER WAY, A ONE-ACT SERIES: BIG BUTT GIRLS AND OTHER FANTASIES, THE REMIX

Ujima Company, Inc.  
Lorna C. Hill Theater.  
MAR 8– 10

### SURVIVORS

Jewish Repertory Theatre of WNY  
The Maxine & Robert Seller Theatre at  
the Jewish Community Center of Greater  
Buffalo  
MAR 9– 10

### THURSDAYS PLAY READING SERIES– ANTIGONE

SUNY Buffalo State Theater  
The Flexible Theatre  
MAR 14

### BUFFALO QUICKIES

Alleyway Theatre  
Alleyway Theatre  
MAR 15– 30

### HERSTORY: HISTORY HER WAY, A ONE-ACT SERIES: BIOPSEE

Ujima Company, Inc.  
Lorna C. Hill Theater.  
MAR 15– 17

### THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Rocking Horse Productions  
The Meeting House  
MAR 15– 24

### HERSTORY: HISTORY HER WAY, A ONE-ACT SERIES: MOM, HOW DID YOU MEET THE BEATLES?

Ujima Company, Inc.  
Lorna C. Hill Theater.  
MAR 22– 24

## THEATRE NEWS

**Broadway Legend Chita Rivera Dies at 91. Broadway Theatres Will Dim Lights in Her Honor On Feb 17th.**

**MY SON'S A QUEER (BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO?)** Postpones its Broadway Run.

**SOME LIKE IT HOT** Takes Home Grammy Award For Best New Musical Theater Album.

**Lillias White to Depart HADESTOWN** on Mar 17th.

Your Prix Fixe dinner includes soft drinks, coffee, or tea. But that doesn't stop you from experiencing the unique cocktails available at each show! Alcoholic beverages and appetizers may be added a la carte. Our performance-themed, specialty cocktails are considered a real "show-stopper!" Past favorites include the "Herstory" during SIX, a "Gander Cran" during COME FROM AWAY, and the "Fishnets & Fireworks" during MOULIN ROUGE! THE MUSICAL. Come in and try one of these great, unique creations!



The Bistro is open prior to Shea's Buffalo Five Star Bank Broadway Series Performances. For weekday evening performances, Shea's Bistro opens at 5:00pm. On weekends, it opens immediately following the matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday. Reservations are strongly encouraged as there are times when tables are unavailable- seating for our performances of FUNNY GIRL is almost full- so act fast! Reserve your spot at the Shea's Bistro and Bar today by either emailing [Bistro@sheas.org](mailto:Bistro@sheas.org) or calling (716) 856-3260. See you at the show!

## SPONSOR OF THE MONTH – JANUARY TOMPKINS BANK

Founded in 1836, Tompkins Community Bank serves the Central, Western, and Hudson Valley regions of New York, and the Southeastern region of Pennsylvania. As a community-based financial institution, we consider it our duty to provide innovative financial solutions for local families and businesses as they navigate their financial journeys. Through our unique local decision-making model, Tompkins offers personalized service and exceptional responsiveness, while delivering a broad range of products and services for consumers and businesses. Insurance services are offered through Tompkins Insurance Agencies, and wealth management services are available through Tompkins Financial Advisors. Further information is available at [www.tompkinsbank.com](http://www.tompkinsbank.com).



Tompkins is very excited to once again be the leading sponsor of the Free Family Film Series at Shea's Performing Arts Center and to partner with Shea's to facilitate family-friendly community events throughout 2024. We look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

**THE WHO'S TOMMY Sets Full Casting For Broadway Revival. Broadway's SIX Announces Loyalty Program In Partnership With Broadway Direct.**

**Tyne Daly Exits 2024 Revival of DOUBT; Any Ryan Will Take Over. DOUBT Will Now Open March 7th.**

**The White House and National Endowment for the Arts Held First-Ever Summit On the Arts on Jan 30th.**

**Tom Holland to star in Jamie Lloyd's ROMEO AND JULIET.**

**GROUNDHOG DAY Musical Released For Licensing on Groundhog Day.**

**Complete Cast Announced For Encores! JELLY'S LAST JAM, Led By Nicholas Christopher.**

**Sara Bareilles and Sarah Ruhl to Team Up on a Musical Adaptation of THE INTERESTINGS**

**A BEAUTIFUL NOISE, THE NEIL DIAMOND MUSICAL Will Host Open Call Auditions For the Starring Role of "Neil Diamond-Then" on Feb 13th.**

## GET TO KNOW THE MUSICALS & PLAYS ON BROADWAY

### WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

#### Imperial Theatre

The critically acclaimed bestselling novel WATER FOR ELEPHANTS comes to vivid life on Broadway in a unique, spectacle-filled new musical.

After losing what matters most, a young man jumps a moving train unsure of where the road will take him and finds a new home with the remarkable crew of a traveling circus, and a life—and love—beyond his wildest dreams. Seen through the eyes of his older self, his adventure becomes a poignant reminder that if you choose the ride, life can begin again at any age.

Directed by Tony Award® nominee Jessica Stone (Kimberly Akimbo), with a book by three-time Tony nominee

# WE FOUND OUR BEAT

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR ON SCHOOL TIME PERFORMANCE OF FIND YOUR BEAT A SUCCESS!

Thank you to the 400+ guests who came to see the On School Time Performance of FIND YOUR BEAT! Your joy and enthusiasm helped to make the event a complete success! Also, thank you to Devi Bollywood Performing Arts and Gaitrie Subryan for sharing their stories and being a part of this fantastic partnership!



Performances in Shea's On School Time Series, like FIND YOUR BEAT, bring educational shows, designed for young audiences, to the Shea's stages. Don't miss our next and final On School Time Series show of the season, THE MAGICAL CLOSET MYSTERY, this March. Stay tuned for the next edition of The Call-Board for more information about this exciting new show!

There are more ways for your students to be involved in the arts here at Shea's! Sign up for our Winter and Summer Break camps! Click here for more information on our educational programs!

Rick Elice (Jersey Boys, Peter and the Starcatcher) adapted from Sara Gruen's novel, and a soaring score by the acclaimed PigPen Theatre Co., WATER FOR ELEPHANTS unites innovative stagecraft with the very best of Broadway talent in an authentic and deeply moving new musical that invites us all to give ourselves to the unknown.

### DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES

#### Studio 54

Kelli O'Hara and Brian d'Arcy James star in a searing new musical about a couple falling in love in 1950s New York and struggling against themselves to build their family. The New York Times calls Days of Wine and Roses "a jazzy, aching new musical with wells of compassion!" (Critic's Pick) and The Washington Post raves, "Kelli O'Hara and Brian d'Arcy James soar! One of the best new musicals this year."

Adapted from JP Miller's 1962 film and original 1958 teleplay, composer & lyricist Adam Guettel (Floyd Collins) and playwright Craig Lucas (An American in Paris) reunite in their first collaboration since their acclaimed The Light in the Piazza. Directed by Michael Greif (Dear Evan Hansen).



This issue of the SHEA'S CALL-BOARD is prepared by members of the Development Department including writing from Julianna Tracey and Cassandra Lippert.

Special thanks to Bobbi Scott for information on the Bistro and to Jake Gear for information on our Educational Programs.

## SHEA'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

#### Physical Address

646 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14202

#### Mailing Address

PO Box 1130, Buffalo NY 14205

#### Administrative Office

716-847-1410

#### Box Office

716-847-0850

#### 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.

**SHEA'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
Arts Engagement and Education  
**CAMPS**

<b>SING YOUR STORY</b> February 19 - 23, 2024 Ages 10 - 17 \$250 Using a song of their choice, students will explore their unique experience to create a connecting monologue and devise their own design ideas in lighting and costumes.	<b>SHEA'S SUMMER MUSICAL THEATRE INTENSIVE</b> July 8 - 19, 2024 • Ages 10-17 \$450 Students take classes in dancing, acting, writing and music all while preparing for a final showcase of their own original 10-minute musical on the Shea's Mainstage.
<b>THE ACTOR'S EDGE</b> July 22 - August 2, 2024 • Ages 13 - 17 \$450 • Auditions required Students take classes in a wide variety of acting techniques taught by professional actors and directors all while prepping for a final showcase of scenes and monologues.	<b>COMEDY ON CUE</b> August 5 - 9, 2024 • Ages 9-12 \$250 Students learn the basic foundations of comedic acting and writing while writing and rehearsing their own original comedy sketches in the style of Saturday Night Live.



REGISTER HERE  
or at [sheas.org](http://sheas.org)



A PUERTO RICAN ADVENTURE  
**the Magical Closet Mystery**  
Illustrated by Carlos Torres  
**María Pérez-Gómez**  
Illustrated by Carlos Torres