

# SHEA'S CALL-BOARD

May 1, 2024

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

## "YOU CAN DANCE, YOU CAN JIVE"

### A LOOK INTO OUR MAMMA MIA MASTERCLASS!

On Wednesday, April 10th "Dancing Queens," Kings, and Monarchs came to the rehearsal room in Shea's 710 for an extra special class. While the National Tour of MAMMA MIA was in town, Buffalo students had the opportunity to attend a dance masterclass and learn more about the show.

This electric dance class was led by MAMMA MIA company member and Buffalo native, Gabe Amato. After a fun warm up, Gabe taught a combo from the Dancing Queen portion of the show's glitzy encore- an iconic part of the musical. Students were so excited to learn choreography actually performed in the show. A short Q and A about being in a touring musical, what it's like to perform in MAMMA MIA, etc. followed the dance portion of the class. Gabe's last piece of advice to students was to have joy in everything they do and embrace the fun and laughter in auditions, performances, and life in general.

Everyone rocked! It was clear everyone was "having the time of [their] lives!" Thank you to Gabe Amato for teaching this amazing class and thank you to all the students that came out and danced their hearts out!

Be on the lookout for more exciting masterclass opportunities during our 2024-25 Five Star Bank Broadway Season! If your student is "looking out for a place to go" learn more about theatre this summer, check out our exciting summer camps.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SHEA'S BUFFALO

**STEVE MARTIN & MARTIN  
SHORT:  
THE DUKES OF FUNNYTOWN**  
MAY 4

**BROADWAY MEATS BUFFALO**  
HOSTED BY SHEA'S SPOTLIGHT  
COMMITTEE  
MAY 10

**SHREK THE MUSICAL**  
SPONSORED BY GALLAGHER  
MAY 16-19

**SHEA'S HIGH SCHOOL  
MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS**  
MAY 25

**DANCE SPECTRUM:  
CELEBRATING 45**  
MAY 31-JUN 1

**KEVIN JAMES:  
OWLS DON'T WALK**  
JUN 2

**PERFORMING ARTS DANCE  
ACADEMY**  
JUN 8

**MJ THE MUSICAL**  
2023-24 FIVE STAR BANK BROADWAY  
SEASON  
MAY 16-19

**BORED TEACHERS: THE  
STRUGGLE IS REAL!**  
COMEDY TOUR  
SEP 14

**THE PRICE IS RIGHT LIVE**  
SEP 21

**SOME LIKE IT HOT**  
2024-25 FIVE STAR BANK BROADWAY  
SEASON  
SEP 24-29

### SHEA'S 710

**ONCE**  
2023-24 FREY ELECTRIC SEASON  
MUSICALFARE THEATRE  
MAY 2-19, 2024

**SHEA'S 710 24-25  
FREY ELECTRIC SEASON  
ANNOUNCEMENT**  
MAY 15, 2024

**THE PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE**  
FEATURING ANYBODY OUT THERE  
MAY 23

## SEASON SPOTLIGHT

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SHOWS IN THE 2024-25 FIVE STAR BANK BROADWAY SEASON

Last issue we highlighted SOME LIKE IT HOT and & JULIET. This issue we will explore Disney's THE LION KING and THE WIZ. Make sure you read the next few issues for more information on the next shows.

## Disney's THE LION KING

Opening Night on Broadway: November 13, 1997 at the Minskoff Theatre

Book By: ROGER ALLERS and IRENE MECCHI

Music and Lyrics By: ELTON JOHN and TIM RICE

Additional Music and Lyrics By: LEBO M. MARK MANCINA, JAY RIFKIN, JULIE TAYMOR, and HANS ZIMMER

Giraffes strut. Birds swoop. Gazelles leap. The entire Serengeti comes to life as never before. And as the music soars, Pride Rock slowly emerges from the mist. This is Disney's THE LION KING, making its triumphant return to the Shea's Buffalo Theatre!



More than 100 million people around the world have experienced the awe-inspiring visual artistry, the unforgettable music, and the uniquely theatrical storytelling of this Broadway spectacular – one of the most breathtaking and beloved productions ever to grace the stage.

Winner of six Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, THE LION KING brings together one of the most imaginative creative teams on Broadway. Tony Award®-winning director Julie Taymor brings to life a story filled with hope and adventure set against an amazing backdrop of stunning visuals. THE LION KING also features the extraordinary work of Tony Award®-winning choreographer Garth Fagan and some of Broadway's most recognizable music, crafted by Tony Award®-winning artists Elton John and Tim Rice.

There is simply nothing else like THE LION KING.



Darian Sanders as Simba  
The Lion King North American Tour ©Disney  
Photo by Deen van Meer



Darian Sanders as Simba and Khalifa White as Nala  
The Lion King North American Tour ©Disney  
Photo by Matthew Murphy  
This image has been cropped from the original.



Mukelisiwe Goba as Rafiki  
The Lion King North American Tour ©Disney  
Photo by Matthew Murphy  
This image has been cropped from the original.



Lionesses Dance  
The Lion King North American Tour ©Disney  
Photo by Deen van Meer  
This image has been cropped from the original.

**STARRING BUFFALO'S TITANIC**  
MAY 31-JUN 1

**SISTER'S SUMMER SCHOOL  
CATECHISM**  
JUN 11

**CHICAGO TRANSIT**  
JUN 14

**STUDIO J DANCE RECITAL**  
JUN 22

**A TRIBUTE NIGHT TO THE  
EAGLES**  
FEATURING THE EAGLEZ  
JUN 28

**DREAMS ILLUMINATED  
A CANDLELIGHT TRIBUTE TO  
STEVIE NICKS**  
JUN 29

**WITCH PERFECT**  
OCT 2

## SHEA'S SMITH

**BETSY CARMICHAEL'S  
HAWAIIAN LUAU BINGO**  
O'CONNELL & COMPANY  
MAY 30- JUN 2

**THREE DECEMBERS**  
JUN 21-23

## IN THE COMMUNITY

**YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**  
Niagara Regional Theatre Guild  
The Ellicott Creek Playhouse  
MAY 3- MAY 19

**OKLAHOMA!**  
O'Connell & Company  
O'Connell & Company  
MAY 3- MAY 19

**WEDDING BAND: A LOVE  
STORY IN BLACK & WHITE**  
Ujima Company, Inc.  
Lorna C. Hill Theater  
MAY 3- MAY 19

**THURSDAYS PLAY READING  
SERIES- THE BEAR**  
SUNY Buffalo State Theater  
The Flexible Theatre  
MAY 9

**CROSSING DELANCY**  
Jewish Repertory Theatre  
Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre  
MAY 9- JUN 2

**DANCERS WORKSHOP**  
SUNY University at Buffalo Department of  
Theatre and Dance  
UB Katharine Cornell Theatre  
MAY 10-11

**A TRIBUTE TO THE BEACH BOYS**  
Lancaster Opera House  
Lancaster Opera House  
MAY 11

**SENIOR DANCE SHOWCASE**  
SUNY University at Buffalo Department of  
Theatre and Dance  
UB Katharine Cornell Theatre  
MAY 12



## THE WIZ

Opening Night on Broadway: January 5, 1975 at the Majestic Theatre

Book By: WILLIAM F. BROWN

Music and Lyrics By: CHARLIE SMALLS

Everybody look around! The Tony Award®-winning Best Musical that took the world by storm is back and coming to Buffalo.

THE WIZ returns “home” to stages across America in an all-new Broadway tour, the first one in 40 years.

This groundbreaking twist on THE WIZARD OF OZ changed the face of Broadway—from its iconic score packed with soul, gospel, rock, and 70s funk to its stirring tale of Dorothy's journey to find her place in a contemporary world.

With direction by Schele Williams (THE NOTEBOOK, revival of Disney's AIDA), choreography by JaQuel Knight (Beyoncé's “Single Ladies,” BLACK IS KING) and additional material by Tony-nominated and Emmy-nominated writer and TV host Amber Ruffin (THE AMBER RUFFIN SHOW, LATE NIGHT WITH SETH MEYERS), this dynamite infusion of ballet, jazz, and modern pop brings a whole new groove to easing on down the road. Everybody rejoice!



Photo by Jeremy Daniel



Photo by Jeremy Daniel  
This image has been cropped from the original



Photo by Jeremy Daniel



Photo by Jeremy Daniel

## SPONSOR OF THE MONTH – APRIL

### SUBURBAN PEST CONTROL

We are proud to feature Suburban Pest Control as a continued partner at Shea's! Suburban Pest Control is a family-owned and operated exterminating company with over 45 years of experience. They have been rated as top exterminators in Western New York due to their award-winning service and treat every home like their own.



**SUBURBAN**  
PEST CONTROL  
*Your best defense against pests. Period.*

To learn more about Suburban Pest Control and their services [CLICK HERE!](#)

## ON GOLDEN POND

Rocking Horse Productions

Meeting House Events

MAY 17–26

## THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE

D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre

D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre

MAY 31–JUN 16

## “I WISH...” STUDENT SHOWCASE

Bellissima Productions

Harlem Road Community Center

MAY 30

## PRIVATE LIVES

Irish Classical Theatre Company

The Andrews Theatre

JUN 7–30

## THE PRODUCERS

Lancaster Opera House

Lancaster Opera House

JUN 7–23

## WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN

MusicalFare Theatre

MusicalFare Theatre Premier Cabaret

JUN 7–16

## A BLUE NOTE PARTY WITH CRITT'S QUESTET

MusicalFare Theatre

MusicalFare Theatre Premier Cabaret

JUN 29

## HUNDRED DAYS

MusicalFare Theatre

MusicalFare Theatre Premier Cabaret

JUL 10–AUG 11

## ALICE BY HEART

Bellissima Productions

Bellissima Productions

JUL 11–21

## SISTER ACT THE MUSICAL

Curtain Up Productions

Historic Lockport Palace Theatre

JUL 11–22

## JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Starry Night Theatre, Inc.

The Ghostlight Theatre

## CASTING CALL

### DRUNK MURDER MYSTERY & OTHER UPCOMING PROJECTS

Drunk Theatre Buffalo is holding auditions for actors aged 21+ to fill a variety of roles for DRUNK MURDER MYSTERY, scheduled for Aug 4- Sep 10, and other upcoming projects. The auditions will take place in The Attic at Mr. Goodbar on Monday May 6th. Actors are asked to sign up for an audition slot on their website and to come to the audition with a short comedic monologue or story not to exceed 1 minute. If you cannot attend in person auditions you can send a self tape of your audition to [DrunkTheatreBuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:DrunkTheatreBuffalo@gmail.com) prior to May 6th.

### AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER OF WNY 2024–25 SEASON

#### GENERAL AUDITIONS

American Repertory Theatre of WNY is holding auditions for their 2024-25 season

# SHEA'S 710 THEATRE IS GEARING UP!

## THE LAST SHOW OF THE SEASON PLUS SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT SEASON'S ANNOUNCEMENT

ONCE opens May 2nd at Shea's 710 Theatre as part of the 2023-24 Frey Electric Season! The show runs Thursdays to Sundays from May 2nd to May 19th.

Produced by MusicalFare Theatre, ONCE features an impressive ensemble of actor/musicians who play their own instruments onstage and tells the enchanting tale of a Dublin street musician who's about to give up on his dream when a beautiful young woman takes a sudden interest in his haunting love songs.

BUY TICKETS

## MEET THE CAST & ENSEMBLE



*Philip Farugia*



*Amy Jakiel*



*Brandon Barry*



*Renee Landrigan*



*Katie Clark*



*Steve Capps*



*Theresa Quinn*



*John Kaczorowski*



*Bob Mazierski*



*Robert Insana*



*Arden Kacala*



*Nick Stevens*



*Jayson Clark*  
Ensemble Musician



*Maggie Zindle*  
Ensemble Musician

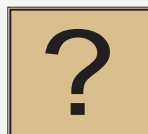
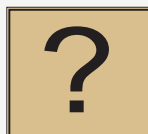


On May 15th the 2024-25 Frey Electric Season at Shea's 710 Theatre will be announced. Stay tuned for our exciting new season!

## YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

2024 - 25 Frey Electric  
**SHEA'S 710**  
Season  
Announcement

Wednesday, May 15, 2024  
10:00 AM  
Shea's 710 Theatre



general auditions on May 20th. Actors are asked to prepare two contrasting monologues, 1-3 minutes in length, and if a singer, prepare 32 bars of music to be sung a-cappella. To book an audition slot text (716) 697-0837. If you cannot make the auditions please email a video presentation to [artofwny@msn.com](mailto:artofwny@msn.com)

## THEATRE NEWS

**2024 Tony Award Nominations Announced on April 30. HELL'S KITCHEN and STEREOGRAPHIC Lead the Pack With 13 Tony Nominations.**

**THE NOTEBOOK'S Ingrid Michaelson Comforts Those Who Weren't Tony Nominated.**

**Broadway Enjoys Best-Attended Week of the 2023-24 Season While Box Office Gross Jumps.**

**FORBIDDEN BROADWAY Will Postpone Upcoming Main Stem Production Due to Overcrowded Broadway Season.**

**THE NOTEBOOK Original Cast Album Debuts at #1 On MusicConnect Top Broadway Chart.**

**THE LION KING North American Tour Celebrated 22nd Anniversary on April 27.**

**SOMETHING ROTTEN To Have UK Premiere Starring Jason Manfred**

**National Black Theatre and The Apollo to Present THE GATHERING: A COLLECTIVE SONIC RING SHOUT at The Kennedy Center.**

**WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD Holiday Revue Joins Music Theatre International Catalogue.**

**WATER FOR ELEPHANTS Original Broadway Cast Recording to be Released on May 17; Two Songs From the Album Available Now.**

**Cast Set for World Premiere of BEING ALIVE: A SONDHEIM CELEBRATION.**

**Cole Escola's OH MARY to Open On Broadway This Summer.**



# LET'S GET SOCIAL

## SHEA'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

What happens when you put a bunch of high school theatre students from across the Buffalo area into one room? You get music theatre sing-a-longs, the most creative costumes we've ever seen, and pure excitement!



On April 23rd and April 24th we hosted the Shea's High School Musical Theatre Awards Social Nights. These nights allowed students from schools participating in the award program to come together and celebrate their love of the arts.

Both nights started off with a dance

masterclass with LauRen Alaimo, the education coordinator at Second Generation Theatre learning a combination to "Does Your Mother Know" from MAMMA MIA. The students got a kick out of this fun, high energy portion of the night!



Once the dance portion of the evening was over, students were split into smaller groups. This is where the rotation began! At various points in the night, students were able to participate in different activities around Shea's Buffalo, highlighting different aspects of theatre.

The station out in our lobby was our community fair, where local theatre companies, colleges, and other theatre organizations each had booths to speak about the Buffalo Theatre Community. These booths highlighted more than just the opportunity to perform onstage—they also showed other paths in the performing arts, like careers in the Box Office, theatre education, etc. Students had "passports" that were stamped off for going to each booth, so they were able to soak up as much information as they could!

There was also a booth taking entries for the best costume of the night! We had Elphabas, Dorothys and other iconic characters gracing the Shea's Buffalo halls!



**25th Anniversary Revival of REEFER MADNESS Finds Full Cast.**

**HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD School Edition Now Released For Worldwide Licensing.**

**THE OUTSIDERS, DEAD OUTLAW and STEREOPHONIC Lead 2024 Drama Desk Awards.**

**THE WIZ to Receive Cast Recording Set For Release on July 12.**

**Manhattan Theatre Club's MARY JANE Receives Extension Through June 16.**

**Idina Menzel to Launch New Concert Tour, TAKE ME OR LEAVE ME.**

**Adi Roy to Take Over Title Role in Disney's ALADDIN on Broadway.**

**Playwright Michael R. Jackson's Tony-Award and Pulitzer Prize-Winning Musical, A STRANGE LOOP To Have Canadian Premiere in 2025.**

**ILLINOISE Leads 2024 Chita Rivera Award Nominations; BARBIE, MEAN GIRLS and THE COLOR PURPLE Films Also Recognized.**

**Christopher Ryan Grant, Van Hughes and Patti Murin to Lead World Premiere of New Musical, THE BALLAD OF JOHNNY AND JUNE at La Jolla Playhouse.**

**Actor's Equity Association Sets June 17th Deadline for Development Agreement.**

**Anna Zavelson, Jake Roxander, Frances Lorraine Samson Named 14th Annual Clive Barnes Award Winners.**

**New Study Shows that 67% of Gen Zs and Millennials Are "Broadway Curious" – Are Interested in Learning More About the Theatre Industry But Aren't Aware of Show Offerings.**

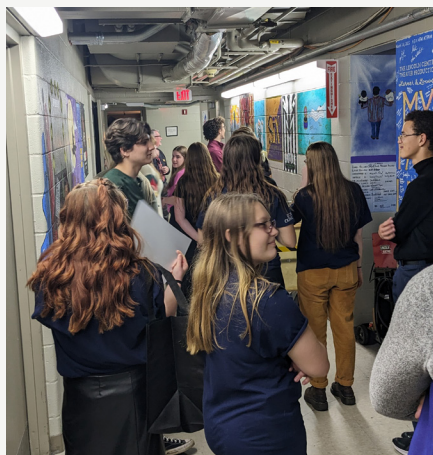
**Pop Icon, Faye Tozer to Take Over Role of Cruella de Vil in UK Tour of New Musical Version of 101 DALMATIANS.**



A relay race took place on the stage. Teams of students got to flex their tech theatre skills by putting together a “set,” and then completing a “quick change” on one of their teammates. Each team was then judged based on the accuracy and speed of their race. At the end of the night, the winning team from this race earned bragging rights and some exciting show merch!



A favorite activity of the evening was touring the backstage area of Shea’s Buffalo. Students got to see areas they would usually never see before. Highlights included, the star dressing rooms, the costume laundry room, our catering room to view the fun and creative “show tags” painted by touring companies, and the trap room- an area various shows have used to come up from the floor of the Shea’s Buffalo stage.



Once each student completed each station, it was time to party! The students got to rock out to a DJ playing music theatre hits (“Let It Go” from Disney’s FROZEN was a crowd pleaser). Rounds of theatre trivia were hosted on the Pearl Street side of our lobby. The questions focused on the shows participating in this year’s awards! The top three trivia winners also got to choose their own piece of theatre merch to bring home.

As the evening concluded, the winners of our costume contest, relay, and raffle were announced. Our costume contest and raffle winners won two tickets to see SHREK THE MUSICAL this May!



These incredibly fun two nights helped students anticipate the exciting announcement of all the Shea’s High School Musical Theatre Award Nominees on April 25th. [Click here to watch the Nomination Ceremony!](#)

## GET TO KNOW THE MUSICALS & PLAYS ON BROADWAY

### SUFFS

#### Music Box Theatre

Following a sold-out, extended run at The Public Theater, Suffs is now on Broadway — and not a moment too soon. From the singular mind of Shaina Taub, this “remarkable, epic new musical” (Variety), boldly explores the victories and failures of a struggle for equality that’s far from over.

It’s 1913 and the women’s movement is heating up in America, anchored by the suffragists — “Suffs,” as they call themselves — and their relentless pursuit of the right to vote. Reaching across and against generational, racial, and class divides, these brilliant, flawed women entertain and inspire us with the story of their hard-won victory in an ongoing fight. So much has changed since the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment over a century ago, and yet we’re reminded sometimes we need to look back, in order to march fearlessly into the future.

### ILLINOISE

#### St. James Theatre

Direct from two critically acclaimed sold-out engagements, Illinois is on Broadway for 16 weeks only.

Based on the landmark Sufjan Stevens album, Illinois “springs to epic life onstage” (The Washington Post) in a “mysterious, deeply moving and unforgettable dance-musical” (The New York Times) directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner Justin Peck.

Peck and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Jackie Sibblies Drury have crafted an original coming-of-age tale that blends dance, theater, live music and storytelling into a breathtakingly emotional journey. “Illinois explores the hot zone between childhood and adulthood when emotions can be at their most overwhelming” (The New York Times).

Don’t miss this limited Broadway engagement.



Here's a highlight of our 16 semi-finalists for the STAGE program here at Shea's. The STAGE stands for "The Student Talent and Growth Experience" and serves as a prerequisite for the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, better known as The Jimmy Awards. These semi-finalists were the highest scoring auditionees out of 45 auditions. The two winners of this program will be announced at the Shea's High School Musical Theatre Award Ceremony on May 25th and will travel to NYC this June for the Jimmy Awards. Congratulations to all of our semi-finalists, as well the nominees of our other awards categories.

2024



## The STAGE Semi-Finalists

 <b>Anna Blickwedehl</b> <i>Donna in Mamma Mia!</i> at West Seneca West High School	 <b>Ariana Minhas</b> <i>Wednesday Addams in The Addams Family</i> at Sweet Home High School	 <b>Ava Schara</b> <i>Sophia in Mamma Mia!</i> at West Seneca West High School	 <b>Connor Hesck</b> <i>Jean Valjean in Les Misérables</i> at Amherst High School
 <b>Jack McLaughlin</b> <i>Javert in Les Misérables</i> at Amherst High School	 <b>Jack Tuccio</b> <i>Gaston in Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i> at Fredonia High School	 <b>Johnny Kiener</b> <i>Billy Flynn in Chicago: Teen Edition</i> at Nardin Academy	 <b>Jonah Higgins</b> <i>Harry Bright in Mamma Mia!</i> at West Seneca West High School
 <b>Liam Dunne</b> <i>Lumiere in Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i> at St. Mary's High School	 <b>Lila Brigham</b> <i>Katherine Blake in Disney's Freaky Friday</i> at Royalton Hartland High School	 <b>Naomi Lawley</b> <i>Roxie Hart in Chicago: Teen Edition</i> at Nardin Academy	 <b>Nicholas Cox</b> <i>The Beast in Disney's Beauty and the Beast</i> at St. Mary's High School
 <b>Remy Smith</b> <i>Damian Hubbard in Mean Girls</i> at Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts	 <b>Shylah Douglas</b> <i>Cady Heron in Mean Girls</i> at Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts	 <b>Tori Gill</b> <i>Velma Kelly in Chicago: Teen Edition</i> at Nardin Academy	 <b>Veronica Kline</b> <i>Regina George in Mean Girls</i> at Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts

Also, be sure to attend the Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 25th, 2024 at Shea's Buffalo Theatre to honor all the amazingly talented students and schools!

**Shea's High School Musical Theatre Awards Are Presented By:**



Rachael Small

**Other Event Sponsors Include:**



Pfalzgraf Beinhauer  
Gear Harris Schuller LLP



Mr. and Mrs.  
Joseph Curatolo



### STEREOPHONIC John Golden Theatre

Stereophonic mines the agony and the ecstasy of creation as it zooms in on a music studio in 1976, where an up-and-coming rock band finds itself on the cusp of superstardom. Written by David Adjmi, directed by Daniel Aukin, and featuring original music by Arcade Fire's Will Butler, this electrifying new play takes audiences inside the powder keg process of a band on the brink of blowing up.

### MOTHER PLAY Hayes Theatre

It's 1962, just outside of D.C., and matriarch Phyllis is supervising her teenage children, Carl and Martha, as they move into a new apartment. Phyllis has strong ideas about what her children need to do and be to succeed, and woe be the child who finds their own path. Bolstered by gin and cigarettes, the family endures — or survives — the changing world around them. Blending flares of imaginative theatricality, surreal farce, and deep tenderness, this beautiful rollercoaster ride reveals timeless



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 Jake Gear for information on our Educational Programs and Beth Potozniak for information on ONCE and the upcoming Shea's 710 2024-25 Frey Electric Season.

## 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](http://www.sheas.org)

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