



For Release: December 1, 2025

Contact: Theresa Kennedy

Tkennedy@sheas.org

716-803-4281 (cell)

“Holidays in the Heart of Buffalo” Invites People to Experience the Magic of Buffalo’s Theater and Entertainment District

A Celebration of Arts, Food, Skating, and a Seasonal Atmosphere Reinforces the District as a Vibrant, Walkable Hub

New Visit Buffalo Interactive Map Makes Planning Outings Easier Than Ever

Buffalo’s Theatre and Entertainment District is launching **Holidays in the Heart of Buffalo**, a new collaborative initiative inviting the community to enjoy a show, share a meal, lace up your skates, and soak in the magic of the season—all right in the heart of the city.

Anchored by shows from Buffalo’s leading theatres, the December lineup features 66 performances and events, offering something for every age and interest. Highlights include holiday classics like **Irving Berlin’s White Christmas the Musical** produced by MusicalFare Theatre; **The Nutcracker** a collaboration between Neglia Ballet, Shea’s and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra; and **A Christmas Carol** produced by Alleyway Theatre; as well as exciting performances with a modern-day twist, such as **‘Twas the Night Before...BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL**.

“The holidays bring people together, to celebrate, uplift local businesses, and create memories to last a lifetime. Nowhere is that shared spirit felt more strongly than Buffalo’s Theatre and Entertainment District,” said **Brian Higgins, President & CEO of Shea’s Performing Arts Center**. “When the arts, local businesses, and the community unite, it fuels the vibrancy and connection that defines a thriving city.”

“The Theatre and Entertainment District truly is the heart of Downtown Buffalo, and it’s never more apparent than this holiday season,” said **Randall Kramer, Artistic/Executive Director of MusicalFare**. “The festive atmosphere is palpable whether you’re seeing a show, enjoying a meal at one of the fantastic restaurants or enjoying some family time at Rotary Rink. MusicalFare is excited to be involved in this collaborative effort, not only with its production of **Irving Berlin’s**

White Christmas, but in helping to promote everything the District has to offer. We are thrilled to be a part of the renewed vitality that's sure to be appreciated by everyone who experiences it."

This year, the district will glow even brighter thanks to the Chippewa Alliance, which has expanded holiday lights, décor, and seasonal streetscape enhancements throughout the neighborhood. Their effort helps transform the Theatre and Entertainment District into a welcoming winter destination, encouraging residents and visitors alike to stroll, dine, shop, and take in the festive atmosphere before and after performances.

Chippewa Alliance President Chris Ring said, "Our new color-changing string lights bring a warm, festive glow to the district, matching the spirit of each season and holiday. Paired with the Theatre District's recent enhancements, they help create a brighter, more welcoming place for families and neighbors to stroll, shop, and celebrate. Additional touches—like holiday banners, seasonal flowers, and well-lit décor—go a long way in shaping the overall feel of a commercial district, making it more vibrant, inviting, and full of community charm."

Visit Buffalo is proud to introduce its new Theatre & Entertainment District online map, visitbuffalo.com/entertainment-district. The interactive map spotlights the concentration of dozens of theaters, live-performance venues, bars, restaurants, shopping and seasonal activities within a walkable stretch of downtown—making it easy to plan an evening out or a full day of holiday fun. All participating holiday events and programming will be listed on Visit Buffalo's new landing page. It's dedicated to the district and offers one central place for audiences to explore what's happening throughout the season.

"Buffalo's Theatre and Entertainment District has always been one of the most vibrant corners of our city, and this holiday season is the perfect moment to shine a light on everything it offers," **said Patrick Kaler, president and CEO of Visit Buffalo**. "Our new district map brings all of these incredible venues, restaurants, and experiences together in one place, making it easier than ever for residents and visitors to plan a night out or a full day downtown. We're grateful to Shea's Performing Arts Center for leading this collaborative effort — it's partnerships like these that help us create a welcoming, walkable, and truly memorable experience in the heart of Buffalo."

Festivities include the **season opening of Rotary Rink at Fountain Plaza on December 6**, coinciding with the Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration from 5:00–8:00 p.m., a longstanding Buffalo tradition that brings families together for skating, music, and holiday lights. The 2025-26 Ice-Skating Season is presented by **Community Bank**. Outdoor ice skating at Rotary Rink is free to the public, with skate rentals available for just \$3 for adults and \$2 for kids.

"Buffalo Place is thrilled to support this collaborative effort highlighting the Theatre and Entertainment District during one of the most magical times of the year," **said Michael Schmand, Executive Director of Buffalo Place Inc.** He continued, "Downtown Buffalo shines during the holidays, but what makes it truly special is that its energy, creativity, and local spirit are here all year long. We're proud to work alongside our partners to promote the incredible experiences, restaurants, and cultural institutions that make this district such a vibrant destination. This initiative is a wonderful reminder of how much there is to enjoy in the heart of our city."

December Event Highlights:

Mr. Wolf

November 14- December 14

Produced by Road Less Traveled Theater
456 Main St., Buffalo

Golden Girls: Lost Episodes VII

November 21 - December 7

Produced by O'Connell and Company
Shea's Smith Theater., 654 Main St., Buffalo

Irving Berlin's White Christmas the Musical

December 4-21

Produced by MusicalFare Theatre
Shea's 710 Theatre, 710 Main Street, Buffalo

The Nutcracker

December 5 – 7

Presented by Neglia Ballet, Shea's & the BPO
Shea's Buffalo Theatre, 646 Main Street, Buffalo

Rotary Rink at Fountain Plaza

Opens December 6, with the Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration from 5:00PM – 8:00PM

Hurricane Diane Free Reading

December 8

Second Generation Theatre's Free Reading Series
Shea's Smith Theatre, 658 Main St., Buffalo

A Christmas Carol

December 9 – 28

Alleyway Theatre, 1 Curtain Up Alley

A Charlie Brown Christmas

December 10th at 7:00 PM

Shea's Buffalo Theater, 646 Main St. Buffalo

Shea's Free Family Film: Elf

December 12th. At 7:00 PM

Shea's Buffalo Theatre, 646 Main St., Buffalo

Sisters Christmas Catechism

December 14th at 3:00 PM

Shea's Smith Theatre, 654 Main St., Buffalo

'Twas the Night Before...by Cirque Du Soleil

Part of the Five Star Bank 2025-26 Broadway Season

December 17 – 28

Shea's Buffalo Theatre, 646 Main Street, Buffalo

Featured restaurants include:

Bacchus Wine Bar and Restaurant: Celebrating 25 years of Fine Dining on Buffalo NY. Bacchus offers complimentary valet parking to all of our guests.

Banshee Irish Pub: Stop in for 2 for 1 delicious Irish Coffee's at one of our 2 fireplaces. Or 2 for 1 of our homemade Irish dessert. Barry's Irish Cream Espresso Cheesecake covered with Chocolate ganache.

The Bijou: Our menu is a delightful fusion of flavors, showcasing a variety of dishes that will tantalize your taste buds. Come and explore our culinary creations today!

Buffalo Chophouse: Buffalo Chophouse is Western New York's premier steakhouse, serving only the finest USDA PRIME steaks as well as a selection of fresh succulent seafood. Located in the heart of the Buffalo Theater District, Buffalo Chophouse is the perfect place to celebrate a special occasion, or treat yourself to the most fabulous dining experience in Western New York. We offer free valet parking. Shea's Performing Arts Center We offer a 15% discount on your FOOD BILL (only) when you show a same day ticket for a performance at Shea's Performing Arts Center. THE DISCOUNT IS VALID FOR DINING EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE SHOW, BUT YOU MUST PRESENT THE TICKET TO YOUR SERVER TO RECEIVE SAVINGS, AND IT IS LIMITED TO ONE DISCOUNT PER VISIT AND CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER BCH PROMOTION.

Chez Ami: Open seven days a week! Enjoy 15% off dinner when you show your Shea's Ticket, before or after the show. Free valet parking and walking distance to the theater.

Eat Fresh Catch: \$1.75 oysters Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 2 for \$50 lobster rolls through end of December, \$8 glasses of wine specials

Graylynn Gin Bar & Market: Mere steps away from Buffalo's Theater District, Graylynn boasts a cozy English-style pub featuring unique cocktails and hearty menu items. Stop in this holiday season to enjoy our housemade Tom & Jerry cocktails and bring home your own custom Graylynn Tom & Jerry mug!

Lucky Day Whiskey Bar: Lucky Day Egg Nog is back for the Holidays! Stop in for a glass of this holiday classic or take home a bottle as the perfect gift.

Patina 250: Join us before the show! Patina 250 offers complimentary valet parking to dining guests. Voted "Best Downtown Restaurant" 2025 in Buffalo Spree Best of WNY. There are plenty of small plates to be shared or if you are looking for something special, try one of our homemade pasta dishes! Vegetarian and gluten free friendly menu selections readily available.

Details on **Holidays in the Heart of Buffalo** including shows and participating residents can also be found on the Buffalo Place website at: <https://news.buffaloplace.com/2025/11/24/holidays-in-the-heart-of-downtown-buffalo>

###