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"STUNNING AND EMOTIONAL." – *The New York Times, Critic's Pick*

"SPELLBINDING ENTERTAINMENT." – *Variety*

"★★★★ DAZZLING AND THRILLING." – *Time Out New York*

"THE BEST NEW MUSICAL ON BROADWAY!" – *Theatermania*



***TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
AT SHEA'S BUFFALO THEATRE
Performances in Buffalo April 14-19***

BOOK BY FOUR-TIME TONY AWARD® NOMINEE RICK ELICE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY PIGPEN THEATRE CO.

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY SARA GRUEN

ORIGINAL DIRECTION BY TONY AWARD NOMINEE JESSICA STONE

"Many wonders await audiences in this gorgeously imaginative Broadway musical." – *The New York Times*

BUFFALO, NY – Shea's Performing Arts Center and Broadway Presenting Partner Albert Nocciolino are pleased to announce tickets are now on sale to the North American tour of the critically acclaimed musical based on the bestselling novel, ***WATER FOR ELEPHANTS***, hailed as a Critic's Pick by *The New*

York Times. Part of the Five Star Bank 2025-26 Broadway Season, **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** is coming to Shea's Buffalo Theatre for eight performances April 14 – 19, 2026.

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.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS is based on the critically acclaimed and New York Times Bestselling novel by **Sara Gruen**. The Broadway musical has a book by four-time Tony Award® nominee **Rick Elice** (*Jersey Boys*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*), a soaring score by the acclaimed **PigPen Theatre Co.** (*The Tale of Despereaux*), with tour direction by **Ryan Emmons**, recreating the original direction by Tony Award nominee **Jessica Stone** (*Kimberly Akimbo*).

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS features circus design by Tony Award nominee **Shana Carroll** (*The 7 Fingers*), choreography by Tony Award nominees **Jesse Robb** (*Miss Saigon*) and **Shana Carroll**, scenic design by Drama Desk Award winner **Takeshi Kata** (*Clyde's*), costume design by **David I. Reynoso** (*Sleep No More*), lighting design by two-time Tony Award winner **Bradley King** (*Hadestown*), sound design by Tony Award nominee **Walter Trarbach** (*Spongebob Squarepants*), projections by two-time Tony Award nominee **David Bengali** (*Good Night, and Good Luck*), hair & makeup design by **Luc Verschueren/Campbell Young Associates** (*A Beautiful Noise*), puppet design by **Ray Wetmore & JR Goodman**, **Camille Labarre** (*Into the Woods*), puppet direction by **Joshua Holden**, music supervision and arrangements by Drama Desk Award winner **Mary-Mitchell Campbell** (*Some Like It Hot*) and **Benedict Braxton-Smith** (*Kristin Chenoweth: For the Girls*), orchestrations by Tony Award winner **Daryl Waters** (*New York, New York*), **Benedict Braxton-Smith** and **August Eriksmoen**, fight direction by **Cha Ramos** (*Jagged Little Pill*), associate circus designer by **Antoine Boissereau**, associate choreography by **Paige Parkhill**, and casting by **The TRC Company**, **Claire Burke, CSA** & **Frankie Ramirez, CSA**.

The **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** tour stage management team is led by production stage manager **Kathleen Carragee** and is supported by Stage Manager **Maris Keller** and Circus Stage Manager **Stan Barile**. The company management team is led by company manager **Heather Moss** with associate company manager **Taylor Parris**. The tour music director/conductor is **Sarah Wilhelm Pool**. **Mimi Intagliata** serves as the Executive Producer for the production.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS won **Drama Desk Awards** for **Outstanding Direction of a Musical** (Jessica Stone), **Outstanding Sound Design of a Musical** (Walter Trarbach), **Outstanding Fight Choreography** (Cha Ramos) and **Outstanding Puppetry** (Ray Wetmore, JR Goodman, & Camille Labarre), the **Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Director of a Musical** (Jessica Stone), and the **Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Choreography** (Jesse Robb & Shana Carroll).

GHOSTLIGHT RECORDS released the **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS: Original Broadway Cast Recording**, which preserves the show's soaring score by the acclaimed **PigPen Theatre Co.**, which is available on CD and all streaming and digital formats. The CD's full-color booklet features production photography, complete lyrics, synopsis, and liner notes by book writer **Rick Elice**. The album is produced by **Mary-Mitchell Campbell** and **Ian Kagey**.

Broadway Licensing Global has secured worldwide licensing right to the critically acclaimed Broadway musical **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS**. The flagship musical publisher for the world's fastest growing theatrical licensing company, **Broadway Licensing Global**, includes **Dramatists Play Service** and **Playscripts**.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS had its world premiere in Atlanta on **The Coca-Cola Stage** at **Alliance Theatre**, running from June 7, 2023, through July 9, 2023. The critically acclaimed production had *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* raving, "**WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** is a triumph! Truly dazzles." **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** premiered on **Broadway** at the **Imperial Theatre**, running from March 20, 2024, through December 8, 2024. The production was a *New York Times* Critic's Pick, with chief NYT theater critic Jesse Green describing the show as "Huge", "Heart-filling", and "Emotionally vivid."

Individual tickets for **Water for Elephants** go on sale Friday, December 5. Tickets are available through Shea's Box Office at 650 Main Street in Downtown Buffalo or on Shea's website at: <https://www.sheas.org/performances/water-for-elephants>. Groups requesting 10 or more tickets can contact Mary Oshei at 716-829-1153 or moshei@sheas.org.

Follow Shea's Performing Arts Center on [Facebook](#), [Twitter\(X\)](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#) for up-to-the-minute announcements

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Additional Resources:

Video: [WFE Official Tour Trailer.mp4](#)

Photos:

[1. Connor Sullivan, Helen Krushinski, and Zachary Keller, Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade.jpg](#)

[5. The cast of WATER FOR ELEPHANTS, Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade.jpg](#)

[8. Zachary Keller, Connor Sullivan, Helen Krushinski, and the cast of WATER FOR ELEPHANTS, Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade.jpg](#)

[11. The cast of WATER FOR ELEPHANTS, Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade.jpg](#)

[12. Zachary Keller, Helen Krushinski, and Ella Huestis, Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade.jpg](#)

For more information please visit: www.waterforelephantsthemusical.com

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