

SHEA'S CALL-BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

GOING VERTICAL!

AN UPDATE ON THE ELEVATE SHEA'S EXPANSION!

At the close of summer, foundation work of the expansion was completed along with repointing and restoration of the historic south masonry wall of Shea's Buffalo Theatre. In the past couple of weeks, construction has transitioned into the masonry elevator and stair towers as the new addition begins to rise above grade. The building will continue to take shape as we move through the new theatre season.



Foundational supporters are encouraging the community to join the "I Built Shea's" movement, with the goal of raising \$1 million by the end of 2026 - Shea's Buffalo's centennial year. Each person donating a minimum of \$100 for the 100th anniversary will be featured in a signature component of the new building. Give now and your impact is immediate and doubled. Visit sheas.org/ibuiltshesas.



UPCOMING EVENTS: SHEA'S BUFFALO

MORRISSEY
SEP 22

43 NORTH FINALS
OCT 8

PITCH 10
OCT 22

ANDREW DICE CLAY
OCT 23

BORED TEACHERS: IS IT FRIDAY YET? COMEDY TOUR
OCT 24

ALICIA KEYS' HELL'S KITCHEN
FIVE STAR BANK 2026-27 BROADWAY
SEASON
OCT 27- NOV 1

GRACE & GRIT
NOV 3

THE BASEMENT YARD PODCAST LIVE!
NOV 6-7

THE GREAT GATSBY
FIVE STAR BANK 2026-27 BROADWAY
SEASON
NOV 10-15

SHEA'S SHOPPING SOIREE
NOV 19

SWAN LAKE
PRESENTED BY CLASSICAL ARTS
NOV 20

THE NUTCRACKER
PRESENTED BY NEGLIA BALLET IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH BPO AND SHEA'S
DEC 4-6

THE SOUND OF MUSIC
FIVE STAR BANK 2026-27 BROADWAY
SEASON
DEC 8-13

THE PRINCESS PROMS
DEC 23

SHEA'S 710

HAIR
MUSICALFARE THEATRE
SEP 17- OCT 4

HA-HA-HALLOWEEN SHOW!
CREATIVE EXCHANGE SERIES
OCT 7

For more information on the Elevate Shea's campaign at any giving level contact John Schaller (jschaller@sheas.org), Ken Liszewski (kliszewski@sheas.org), Guy Tomassi (gtomassi@sheas.org) or visit: www.sheas.org/elevatesheas.

THE CURTAIN IS OFFICIALLY UP!

YESTERDAY, THE CURTAIN ROSE ON THE 2026-27 BUFFALO THEATRE SEASON.

Buffalo's Theatre District took center stage on Friday, September 18, as Curtain Up! 2026 celebrated another year of live theatre in Western New York. Produced by the Theatre District Association of WNY, the annual celebration officially marked the opening of Buffalo's professional theatre season with performances, parties, and a lively street festival throughout downtown Buffalo.

The week-long celebration began on Monday, September 14, with the Plaza of Stars Induction Ceremony. Longtime arts leader and children's theatre pioneer Meg Quinn was honored with a star in the Buffalo Theatre District. The ceremony began at Shea's 710 Theatre before moving outside for the unveiling of the star, followed by a reception at The Bijou.



Meg Quinn and her grandchildren at the Plaza of Stars Induction Ceremony.



SWEENEY TODD

MUSICALFARE THEATRE
OCT 22- NOV 8

DISNEY'S FROZEN

MUSICALFARE THEATRE
NOV 28- DEC 20

SHEA'S SMITH

BAT BOY

SECOND GENERATION THEATRE COMPANY
OCT 1-18

THE SUPER PICKLE: A

HILARIOUS MUSICAL PARODY
OCT 24

PROOF

SECOND GENERATION THEATRE
NOV 19- DEC 6

THE BETSY CARMICHAEL

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
DEC 18-20

SISTER'S CHRISTMAS

**CATECHISM: THE MYSTERY OF
THE MAGI'S GOLD**
DEC 23

IN THE COMMUNITY

GULP! THE GAY BEACH MUSICAL

Produced By: Buffalo United Artists
Compass Performing Arts Center
SEP 11 - 27

GUYS AND DOLLS

Produced By: O'Connell & Company
Canterbury Woods
SEP 11 - 27

A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN

Produced By: D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre
D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre
SEP 11 - OCT 3

BECKY SHAW

Produced By: Alleyway Theatre
Alleyway Theatre
SEP 12- OCT 3

NUTS

Produced By: Desiderio's Dinner Theatre
Bobby J's Italian American Grille
SEP 16- NOV 14

JUICY AND DELICIOUS

Produced By: Ujima Company, Inc.
Lorna C. Hill Theater
SEP 17-27

A REBEL REVISITED: MOVEMENT VARIATIONS INSPIRED BY MARTHA GRAHAM

Hosted by Torn Space Theater
SEP 18

A FAIRY TALE DOUBLE BILL

Produced By: Buffalo Opera Unlimited
Flickinger Performing Arts Center at
Nichols School
SEP 18- 20

FINDING NEVERLAND

Produced By: Historic Lockport Palace Theatre
Historic Lockport Palace Theatre
SEP 18-27

Friday night's Curtain Up! festivities followed the traditional "Three-Act" structure, giving attendees the opportunity to create their own evening in the Theatre District.

Act 1 kicked off the evening with the Curtain Up! Cocktail Kickoff Party. Guests gathered at Scene One Market Arcade Cinemas from 5–7 p.m. for cocktails, an open bar, and hors d'oeuvres catered by The Bijou. Others chose to begin their evening with dinner at one of the many restaurants throughout the Theatre District and surrounding downtown area.

Act 2 officially welcomed the new Buffalo theatre season. At 7:30 p.m., curtains rose at theatres throughout the district, offering audiences an eclectic mix of musicals, dramas, comedies, and theatrical productions.

This year's Curtain Up! lineup included:

[BECKY SHAW](#)- Alleyway Theatre, Sep. 12- Oct. 3
[BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB](#)- Shea's Buffalo Theatre, National Tour Premiere, Sep. 12-19
[THE DA VINCI CODE](#)- Road Less Traveled Productions, Sep. 18- Oct. 18
[EMMA](#)- Irish Classical Theatre Company, Sep. 18-Oct. 4
[A FAIRY TALE DOUBLE BILL](#)- Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Sep. 18- 20
[GULP! THE GAY BEACH MUSICAL](#)- Buffalo United Artists, Sep. 11-27
[GUYS AND DOLLS](#)- O'Connell & Company Productions, Sep. 11-27
[HAIR](#)- MusicalFare Theatre at Shea's 710, Sep. 17- Oct. 4
[JUICY AND DELICIOUS](#)- Ujima Theatre Company, Sep. 17- 27
[A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN](#)- D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre, Sep. 11- Oct. 3
[NUTS](#)- Desiderio's Dinner Theatre Sep. 16- Nov. 14
[A REBEL REVISITED: MOVEMENT VARIATIONS INSPIRED BY MARTHA GRAHAM](#)- Torn Space Theater, Sep. 18

From the classic story of Emma to the musical energy of HAIR, the mystery of THE DA VINCI CODE, and the vibrant sounds of BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB, this year's lineup offered something for every kind of theatre fan.

Act 3 began when the curtains fell and the celebration spilled onto Main Street.

Starting at 10 p.m., Main Street transformed into a free, open-air celebration stretching between Chippewa and Tupper Streets. Theatre-goers and festival attendees filled the street for an evening of live music, specialty performances, fire performers, interactive art, food, drinks, and more.

Entertainment throughout the evening included pianist Griffin Kramer, who performed show tunes, classics, and sing-along favorites. Buffalo music award winners WIDE RIGHT brought a mix of current hits, classic rock, country, disco, Motown, and more, while fire troupe PYROMANCY added an exciting visual element to the festivities.

Food trucks and bars were also available along Main Street, giving guests plenty of options to keep the celebration going after their shows.

With theatres packed, music filling the streets, and performers taking over downtown, Curtain Up! once again demonstrated why the annual celebration has become one of Buffalo's signature arts events.

EMMA

Produced By: Irish Classical Theatre Company
The Andrews Theatre
SEP 18- OCT 4

SWEET CHARITY

Produced By: Niagara Regional Theatre Guild
The Ellicott Creek Playhouse
SEP 18- OCT 4

THE DA VINCI CODE

Produced By: Road Less Traveled Theatre
Road Less Traveled Theatre
SEP 18- OCT 18

1776: THE MUSICAL

Produced By: Lancaster Opera House
Lancaster Opera House
SEP 25- OCT 11

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

Produced By: Aurora Players
The Roycroft Pavilion
OCT 9-25

THE HAUNTING OF HOOVERTON HOTEL

Produced By: Alleyway Theatre
Alleyway Theatre
OCT 24- NOV 14

DAMES AT SEA

Produced By: Kenan Center
Taylor Theatre
OCT 29- NOV 8

THE LAST YIDDISH SPEAKER

Produced By: Jewish Repertory Theatre
Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre
OCT 29- NOV 22

JULIUS CAESAR

Produced By: D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre
D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre
Oct 30- NOV 21

MAN OF LA MANCHA

Produced By: Niagara Regional Theatre Guild
The Ellicott Creek Playhouse
NOV 6- 22

UNCLE VANYA

Produced By: Road Less Traveled Theatre
Road Less Traveled Theatre
NOV 13- DEC 13

ANNIE

Produced By: Historic Lockport Palace Theatre
Historic Lockport Palace Theatre
NOV 13-22

THE PIGEON GETS A BIG TIME HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Produced By: Theatre of Youth
Allendale Theatre
NOV 18- DEC 19

A SHERLOCK CAROL

Produced By: Irish Classical Theatre Company
The Andrews Theatre
NOV 27- DEC 13

MIKE RANDALL AS CHARLES DICKENS, PRESENTS: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Produced By: Historic Lockport Palace Theatre
Historic Lockport Palace Theatre
DEC 5-6

Whether you spent the evening watching a musical, laughing at a comedy, enjoying a classic play, grabbing dinner with friends, or joining the street party after the show, Curtain Up! offered a chance to experience Buffalo's theatre community in one unforgettable night.

The fun didn't end on Friday, though. Theatre of Youth will be holding their annual CURTAIN UP FOR KIDS FAMILY FUNDRAISER tomorrow morning, Sep. 20th. This fun family event runs from 9:00am to 1:00pm and includes red carpet photos, crafts, theatre games, free books, and a special staged reading of one of Theatre of Youth's upcoming productions of THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COUNT: THE MUSICAL. The event is a minimum donation of \$10 per person. Register [here](#) today!

FOR KIDS!

- FAMILY WORKSHOP
- EXCLUSIVE READING OF THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD MUSICAL
- BREAKFAST TREATS
- RED CARPET PHOTO BOOTH
- CRAFTS
- PUPPETS
- FREE BOOKS

THEATRE OF YOUTH
203 ALLEN STREET, BUFFALO NY
SEPTEMBER 20TH
9AM-1PM

930-1030AM
ACTING 101
FAMILY EDITION

11AM-12PM
EXCLUSIVE STAGED
READING OF
LITTLE ENGINE...

MINIMUM DONATION
OF \$10/PERSON
ENCOURAGED

A FAMILY FUNDRAISING EVENT

And if you missed this year's Curtain Up!, there's no reason to wait until next September. Go see one of the shows featured in this year's lineup and support Buffalo's incredible local theatre scene all season long.

SHEA'S 710 TO KICK OFF SPOOKY SEASON WITH BUFFALO COMEDYSPORTZ'S HA-HA-HALLOWEEN SHOW

GET TO KNOW THE NEXT EVENT IN OUR CREATIVE EXCHANGE SERIES

Shea's Performing Arts Center is getting into the Halloween spirit early with the return of its Creative Exchange at Shea's 710 series, featuring a night of laughs, costumes, cocktails and competitive improv comedy.

The Ha-Ha-Halloween Show with Buffalo ComedySportz will take place Wednesday, October 7, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Shea's 710 lounge and cabaret. The happy hour-style event will bring Buffalo ComedySportz's fast-paced, referee-led short-form improv to the stage, led by Buffalo Comedy Collective.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Produced By: Alleyway Theatre
Alleyway Theatre
DEC 5-27

CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Produced By: Kenan Center
Taylor Theatre
DEC 11- 20

THE HATEFUL ELF
Produced By: Alleyway Theatre
Alleyway Theatre
DEC 11- JAN 2

THEATRE NEWS & FEATURES

Composer-Lyricist Duncan Sheik Has Died at 56

JOHN PROCTOR IS THE VILLAIN and August Wilson Top This Year's Most Produced Lists.

SPRING AWAKENING Revival Sets Principal Cast.

TWO STRANGERS (CARRY A CAKE ACROSS NEW YORK) Sets Closing Date on Broadway.

Patti LuPone Will Return to the New York Stage in FULL GALLOP.

Rosie O'Donnell Will Join THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Next Month.

Andrew Lloyd Webber to Release PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Remastered Cast Recording, With New Tracks.

Nikki M. James, Rory O'Malley Set 12-Week Return to Broadway's THE BOOK OF MORMON.

Kristin Chenoweth, Whitney Leavitt, Cody Simpson, More Join THE TRAITORS Season 6.

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Receives Landmark \$60 Million Donation.

How Broadway's PARANORMAL ACTIVITY Translates an Iconic Screen Horror for the Stage.

Horror Play IVORIES Will Make New York Premiere Off-Broadway.

Tony-Winner J. Harrison Ghee Takes Two-Month Break From OH, MARY! Tour On Medical Advice.

Guests can expect an evening filled with spontaneous comedy, spooky specialty cocktails and Halloween candy. Attendees are also encouraged to come dressed in costume for a chance to win prizes in the evening's Halloween Costume Contest.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., giving guests time to grab a cocktail, mingle and get settled before the comedy begins at 6:30 p.m. Costume contest winners will be announced around 7:30 p.m., so guests are encouraged to stick around and see who takes home the top prizes.

The Creative Exchange at Shea's 710 series, sponsored in part by KeyBank, offers a variety of events throughout the year designed to bring the community together in a casual setting. Upcoming events include:

Wednesday, January 6: Game Night

Wednesday, February 10: Black History Month Event

Wednesday, April 14: Art in Our Schools & Community

Wednesday, June 23: Pride Month Celebration

Admission to the Ha-Ha-Halloween Show is just \$5, with the cover payable online through Shea's or at the door on the day of the event. Space is limited, and advance payment is highly encouraged.

Whether you come for the improv, the cocktails, the costumes or simply a night out with friends, Shea's 710 is inviting Buffalo audiences to start spooky season with plenty of laughs.

So grab your best costume, bring your friends and get ready for a Halloween-themed night of comedy at Shea's 710 Cabaret.



ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD Original Script Put Up For Auction.

Playbill to Host Comic Con Panels With SCHMIGADOON!, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, MAYBE HAPPY ENDING.

Designers for THE LOST BOYS, MEXODUS, and More to Receive Henry Hewes Design Awards.

The Martha Graham Dance Company Has Moved to New Space in Times Square.

Ellen Greene-Hosted LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS 40th Anniversary Screening Will Play NYC's Town Hall.

LEGALLY BLONDE Musical Tour Will Play London Coliseum Starring Amber Davies.

GET TO KNOW THE MUSICALS & PLAYS ON BROADWAY

JUST IN TIME CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE THEATRE

Just In Time is an "utterly electrifying" (Entertainment Weekly) new musical that brings to life the story of Bobby Darin, the legendary singer whose short but remarkable journey took him from teen idol to global sensation. Developed and directed by Tony Award® winner Alex Timbers (Moulin Rouge!, Beetlejuice), with a book by Warren Leight and Isaac Oliver, the show immerses audiences into an intimate nightclub "so seductive in ambiance that you find yourself not wanting to go back outside" (Chicago Tribune). Complete with iconic hits including "Beyond the Sea," "Mack the Knife," "Splish Splash," and "Dream Lover," Just In Time is "a helluva good time at the theater" (Time Out).

WANTED JAMES EARL JONES THEATRE

Texas, 1893 — Twin sisters Mary and Martha Clarke are on the run. As Black women who pass for white and hide in plain sight, they straddle a dangerous line between two Americas. But as powerful forces close in to keep their family from claiming a future of their own, Mary and Martha are driven to desperate measures to save their mother and their family's

CALLING ALL ADJUDICATORS!

BECOME AN ADJUDICATOR FOR THE 2026-27 SHEA'S WONDER AWARDS!

Shea's Arts Engagement and Education is now accepting applications from arts educators, industry professionals, and qualified theatre artists across Western New York who are interested in serving as adjudicators for the 2026–2027 Shea's Wonder Awards.



The Shea's Wonder Awards is a dynamic program dedicated to celebrating and supporting the arts in Western New York high schools. The initiative aims to foster excellence in musical theatre while providing students with meaningful educational opportunities, encouraging young talent, promoting collaboration, and building a strong sense of community among students and educators.

As part of the program, volunteer adjudicators travel to select high schools throughout the region to attend and evaluate musical theatre productions. Using scoring tools and rubrics provided by Shea's Arts Engagement and Education, adjudicators offer constructive feedback and help recognize the hard work and creativity of participating students.

Adjudicators are reimbursed for their travel expenses and are required to attend one mandatory training session led by the Shea's Arts Engagement and Education staff. Each selected adjudicator will attend approximately three to five productions throughout the year.

Those interested in becoming a Shea's Wonder Awards adjudicator can apply [here](#). Applications are due Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

The 2026–2027 Shea's Wonder Awards season will culminate in a special awards ceremony on Saturday, May 15, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. at the Shea's Buffalo Theatre.

For more information about becoming an adjudicator or the Shea's Wonder Awards program, please contact Arts Education Coordinator, Jake Grear at jgrear@sheas.org.

legacy. When survival demands they do the unthinkable, the sisters nevertheless fight for self-determination, dignity, and the inheritance they have long been denied.

A soulful and dangerous new Broadway musical, *Wanted* is the mostly true story of Mary and Martha Clarke: sisters, outlaws, legends. This New York Times Critic's Pick has been hailed as "thrillingly original" with an "audacious and rollicking story." The production stars Solea Pfeiffer as Mary and Liisi LaFontaine as Martha, with Grammy® winner Ledisi as Tallulah and Grammy nominee Luke James as Elijah. The Kinfolk, a vibrant chorus of ancestors, guide them forward on an odyssey of sisterhood, rebellion, and freedom.

Wanted features book and lyrics by Variety "Star to Watch" Angelica Chéri, a descendant of the Sisters Clarke, and music by Richard Rodgers Award-winning composer Ross Baum. The production is directed by Tony Award® nominee and Obie Award® winner Stevie Walker-Webb, with choreography by Chelsey Arce.



This issue of the SHEA'S CALL-BOARD is prepared by members of the Development Department, including writing from Julianna Tracey and Cassandra Lippert. Thank you to Theresa Kennedy and Robert Brunschmid for the information and photos featured in our construction update.

SHEA'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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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.