

SHEA'S CALL-BOARD

MARCH 2026

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

INTRODUCING THE FIVE STAR BANK 2026–27 BROADWAY SEASON

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF BROADWAY LIKE NEVER BEFORE

On March 11, 2026, we unveiled the Five Star Bank 2026–27 Broadway Season—a dazzling lineup of award-winning productions, unforgettable stories, and spectacular performances.

This year's exciting season features BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB, Alicia Keys' HELL'S KITCHEN, THE GREAT GATSBY, THE SOUND OF MUSIC, DEATH BECOMES HER, HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD, and OPERATION MINCEMEAT. Together, these productions highlight the very best of Broadway, blending breathtaking production value, unforgettable music, powerful storytelling, and moments of pure theatrical magic.



From the vibrant rhythms and cultural celebration of BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB to the glamour and intrigue of THE GREAT GATSBY, this season travels across eras, styles, and genres. Audiences will rediscover beloved classics, experience the energy of brand-new hits, and enjoy bold new stories that are captivating theatre fans across the country. With heartfelt drama, dazzling spectacle, comedy, history, and iconic music, the 2026-27 season truly offers something for everyone.

We are also proud to share that BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB and HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD will be teched in Buffalo, making Shea's the launch point for two national tours.

The best way to experience these incredible shows is by becoming a season subscriber. A subscription makes it easy to see it all- enjoy the same great seats for every show while sharing the excitement of each production with a community of fellow theatre lovers.

That's not all! Subscribers will also receive first access to purchase tickets for

UPCOMING EVENTS: SHEA'S BUFFALO

LEGENDS OF LAUGHTER
MAR 28

JOHN MULANEY: MISTER WHATEVER
APR 2-3

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
2025-26 FIVE STAR BANK BROADWAY SEASON
APR 14-19

JOHN LEGEND: AN EVENING OF SONGS & STORIES
APR 22

SHEA'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS— LIGHTS UP! A CANDLE MAKING EXPERIENCE AT SHEA'S
APR 25

BAT OUT OF HELL
APR 26

STARRING BUFFALO'S RENT IN CONCERT
MAY 9

DANCING WITH THE STARS: LIVE!— 2026 TOUR
MAY 10

SHEA'S FREE FILM SERIES A MINECRAFT MOVIE
MAY 17

SUFFS
2025-26 FIVE STAR BANK BROADWAY SEASON
JUN 2-7

PLANET K—POP
JUN 14

THE BOOK OF MORMON
2025-26 GALLAGHER ENCORE SERIES
JUN 19-21

SHEA'S 710

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
MUSICALFARE THEATRE
APR 2-19

HAIRSPRAY
MUSICALFARE THEATRE
MAY 7-24

A FEW GOOD MEN
ROAD LESS TRAVELED PRODUCTIONS
JUN 11-28

three special add-ons in the Gallagher Encore Series: BEETLEJUICE: THE MUSICAL. THE MUSICAL. THE MUSICAL., JERSEY BOYS, and SIX.

Click [here](#) to subscribe today!



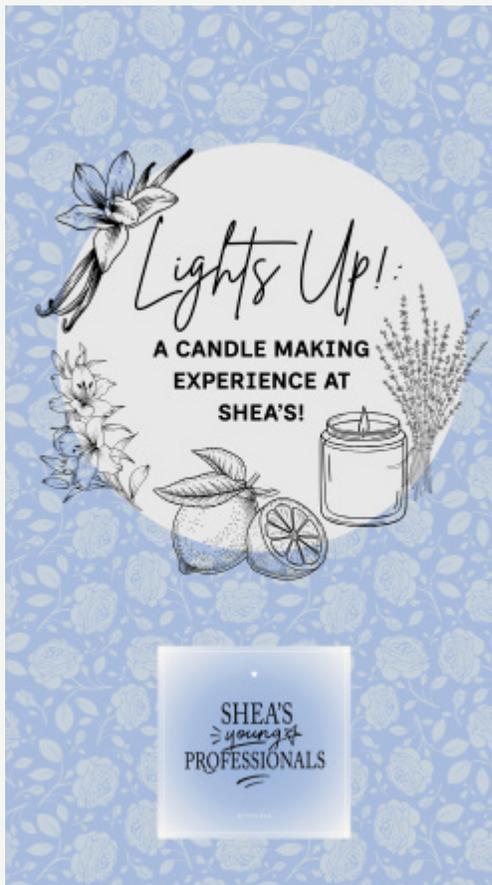
LIGHTS UP!

MAKE A SPECIAL CANDLE WITH SHEA'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS!

Join the Shea's Young Professionals and Scents of Imagination on April 25 for a candle making workshop!

The hands-on fundraising workshop will take place from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. During the event, you'll create your own custom 8 oz. candle, choosing from a range of spring-inspired scents including vanilla, rain, pear, bergamot, and magnolia. Each candle will be hand-poured using premium wax, pure fragrance oils, and cotton paper wicks. To finish, you'll design a custom candle label, giving you the chance to add your own creative touch!

While crafting your custom candle, you'll also enjoy a private behind-the-scenes look at one of Buffalo's most beloved historic venues with a mini backstage tour of Shea's Buffalo Theatre.



Proceeds from this event benefit Shea's Performing Arts Center, a non-profit organization, helping to preserve the historic theatre, deliver art education opportunities to the community, and bring world-class entertainment to Western New York.

Buy your tickets to this "scent-sational" event [here!](#)

SHEA'S SMITH

PURE GLITTER
SECOND GENERATION THEATRE COMPANY
MAY 1-17

IN THE COMMUNITY

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA
Produced By: Sotto Voce
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
MAR 20-22

TREE OF LIFE
Produced By: Jewish Repertory Theatre
The Maxine & Robert Seller Theatre
MAR 21-22

ALIVE & KICKING
Produced By: O'Connell & Company
Canterbury Woods Performing Arts Center
APR 9-19

PENELOPE
Produced By: D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre
D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre
APR 10-26

ISLANDER
Produced By: Irish Classical Theatre Company
The Anrews Theatre
APR 10-26

THE ODD COUPLE
Produced By: Lancaster Opera House
Lancaster Opera House
APR 10-26

GHOST BROTHERS OF DARKLAND COUNTY
Produced By: Road Less Traveled Productions
Road Less Traveled Theater
APR 17- MAY 17

1776: THE MUSICAL IN CONCERT
Produced By: Historic Lockport Palace Theatre
Historic Lockport Palace Theatre
APR 24-26

CURTAINS
Produced By: O'Connell & Company
Canterbury Woods Performing Arts Center
APR 30- MAY 16

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS
Produced By: Niagara Regional Theatre Guild
The Ellicott Creek Playhouse
MAY 1-17

CORDUROY
Produced By: Theatre of Youth
The Allendale Theatre
MAY 2-16

JUST FOR US
Produced By: Jewish Repertory Theatre
The Maxine & Robert Seller Theatre
MAY 7- JUN 7

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE
Produced By: Aurora Players
Historic Roycroft Pavilion
MAY 29- JUN 14

GIRL ON AN ALTAR
Produced By: Irish Classical Theatre Company
The Anrews Theatre
JUN 12-28

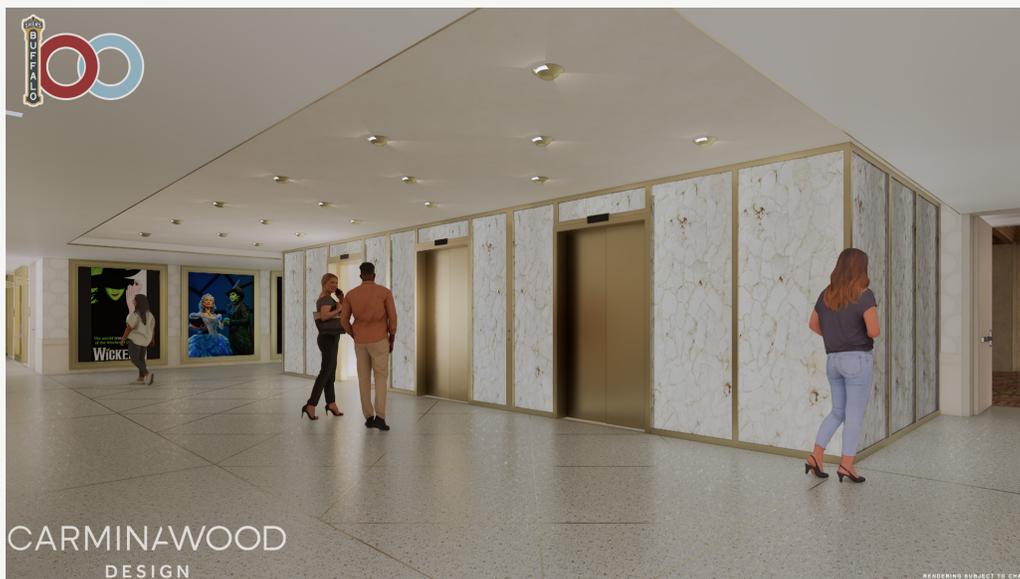
ELEVATE SHEA'S: THE NEXT ACT BEGINS NOW

SHEA'S BUFFALO EXPANSION UNDERWAY!

As we celebrate our 100th anniversary, Shea's is looking to the future with the Shea's Buffalo Theatre Expansion Project: a transformative investment in Shea's Buffalo Theatre that preserves its legacy and builds greater opportunity and accessibility for generations to come.



The tiered building, designed by Carmina Wood Design, is made of a variety of materials, including limestone, stainless steel, and glass. Playing homage to Shea's Buffalo Theatre's iconic 1926 interior, the interior design includes crystal-inspired chandeliers, brass accents, and terrazzo flooring. The expansion makes the theatre more accessible and enjoyable for patrons by providing a drop-off loop, heated pedestrian paths, new bathrooms to minimize lines, a mother's room, a sensory room, a new outdoor patio, expanded lobbies, and three new high-speed elevators.



FOOTLOOSE: THE MUSICAL
Produced By: Lancaster Opera House
Lancaster Opera House
JUN 12-28

THEATRE NEWS & FEATURES

WANTED Musical Sets Broadway Run at James Earl Jones Theatre this Fall.

Checkmate: Lea Michele Sets Final Performance Date in CHESS on Broadway

John Kander Celebrates His 99th Birthday by Approaching a Unique Milestone.

Fashion Stylists Law Roach Joins Producing Team of CATS: THE JELLCLE BALL on Broadway.

Kara Young Joins Broadway Revival of PROOF With Ayo Edebiri and Don Cheadle.

LIBERATION Announces Multi-City Run Following Broadway Engagement, Including Stop at Geffen Playhouse.

Lisa Ann Walter of ABBOTT ELEMENTARY to Make Off-Broadway Debut in HEATHERS THE MUSICAL.

Michael James Scott, Disney's ALADDIN's Longest Running Genie, to Depart May 3.

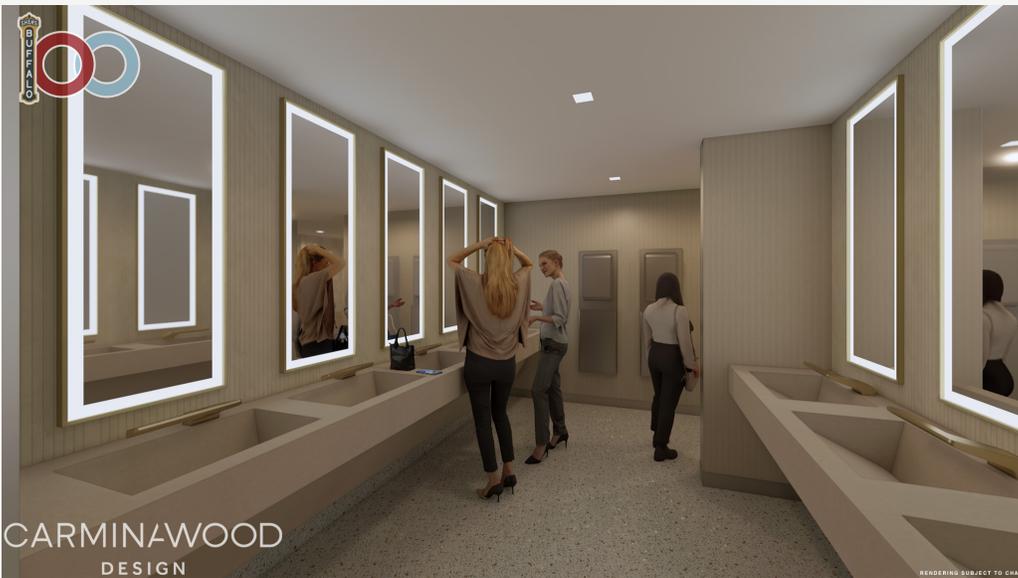
THE BOOK OF MORMON Announces 15th Anniversary Partnership With Sharpie.

How Harvey Fierstein Inadvertently Helped the Writers of THE LOST BOYS Find Their Story.

Stephen Sondheim Foundation Announces First Grant Recipients.

LaChanze, Deirdre O'Connell, Francis Jue, and Okieriete Onaodowan Join the Cast of Shakespeare in the Park ROMEO & JULIET.

BROADWAY DREAM ROLES Will Return This April to Benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS



While construction is underway, you can play a vital role in Shea's next century. If you'd like to be part of this transformational project, please consider making a gift, buying a seat plaque, or learning more about ways to get involved.

[Click Here to Buy a Seat Plaque](#)

[Click Here to Learn More and Donate Now](#)

5 Scandalous Showbiz Stories From Liza Minnelli's Memoir.

Sarna Lapine Will Direct AN AMERICAN DAUGHTER Off-Broadway.

A New First Lady for Broadway's OH MARY!: Maya Rudolph.

Tony Awards Sets 2026 Calendar of Events.

IN THE HEIGHTS Returns to NYC as New York City Center's 2026 Gala Presentation.

RIDE THE CYCLONE to Return to London.

CASTING CALL

BELLISSIMA PRODUCTIONS OPEN CALL

Bellissima Productions is holding auditions for their 2026-27 Season. This year they are asking for virtual submissions or for you to attend their one day in person auditions on April 28th from 6:00-10:00pm. Please email them at [Bellissimaproductions1@gmail.com](mailto:bellissimaproductions1@gmail.com) if you would like to attend the in-person auditions.

GET TO KNOW THE MUSICALS & PLAYS ON

STRANGER THINGS: THE FIRST SHADOW *Marquis Theatre*

Before the world turned upside down. Hawkins, 1959: a regular town with regular worries. Young Jim Hopper's car won't start, Bob Newby's sister won't take his radio show seriously and Joyce Maldonado just wants to graduate and get the hell out of town. When new student Henry Creel arrives, his family finds that a fresh start isn't so easy...and the shadows of the past have a very long reach.

From Netflix and the multi-award-winning Broadway producer Sonia Friedman Productions comes *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*. Winner of two Olivier Awards including Best Entertainment, this landmark production is brought to life by an award-winning creative team including director Stephen Daldry (*The Crown*, *Billy Elliot*, *The Inheritance*, *The Hours*, *The Reader*) and co-director Justin Martin (*Prima Facie*, *The Inheritance*). With stunning special effects, extraordinary

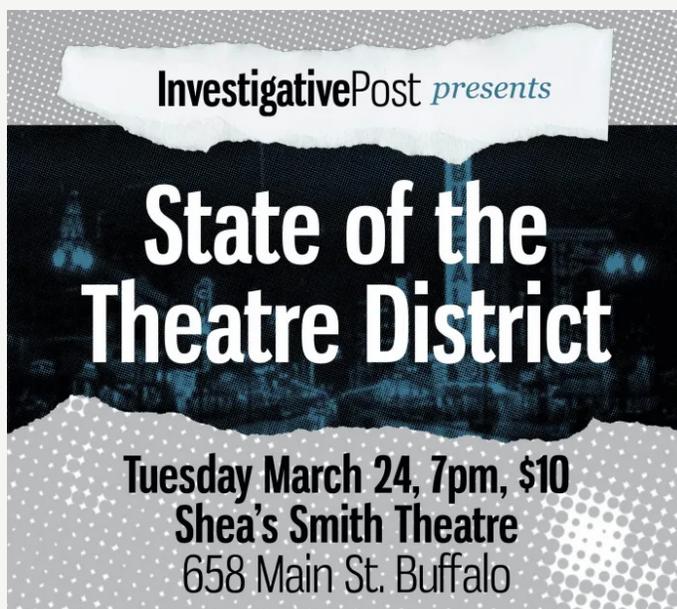
STATE OF THE THEATRE DISTRICT

JOIN US TUESDAY MARCH 24

Downtown Buffalo's Theatre District has been through a lot of change over the years. The neighborhood got a second life in the late 1970s and 1980s when Shea's Buffalo Theatre was saved from demolition and city leaders invested federal funds to help revitalize the area.

Since then, the district has seen both successes and setbacks. While it has become a cultural hub for the arts, the economic vitality once envisioned hasn't fully taken shape- something made even more challenging by the loss of thousands of downtown workers since the pandemic. Still, there's renewed energy and plenty of ideas about what could come next.

Those ideas will take center stage during a panel discussion hosted by Investigative Post on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. at Shea's Smith Theatre. The conversation will bring together several local arts and entertainment leaders, including Shea's Performing Arts Center President and CEO Brian Higgins, Donny Kutzbach of the Town Ballroom, Randall Kramer of MusicalFare Theatre, Kristin Bentley of Second Generation Theatre, and John Cimperman of 42 North Brewing. Investigative Post editor Jim Heaney will moderate the discussion.



The Theatre District has seen major transformations over the decades, from the restoration of Shea's to the opening- and sometimes closing- of restaurants, venues, and other businesses along Main Street. Even with those ups and downs, many community leaders believe the district still holds tremendous potential.

Higgins has shared a vision of creating a Theatre District that's active "24 hours a day, seven days a week," with more entertainment options and a stronger pedestrian presence. Others see opportunities to grow residential living in the neighborhood as another way to bring new life to the area.

The March 24 event will explore both the challenges and the possibilities ahead, inviting community members to be part of the conversation about the future of downtown Buffalo's Theatre District.

performances, and a storyline that will keep you on the edge of your seat, this gripping, stand-alone adventure will take you right back to the beginnings of the Stranger Things story.

EVERY BRILLIANT THING *Hudson Theatre*

Tony Award® winner Daniel Radcliffe returns to the stage in the hilarious and heartwarming play, *Every Brilliant Thing*.

In this one-of-a-kind solo show, a man looks back at his life and the glimmers of hope that carried him through. All told through a list of every wonderful, beautiful, and delightful thing—big, small, and everything in between—that makes life worth living.

After being performed in over 80 countries, this beloved hit finally arrives on Broadway for thirteen weeks only at The Hudson Theatre.

THE LOST BOYS, A NEW MUSICAL *Palace Theatre*

Welcome to Santa Carla. Perfect weather. Beautiful beaches. And a charming boardwalk...as long as you ignore all the "missing" posters.

When Lucy (two-time Tony Award® nominee Shoshana Bean) and her teenage sons Michael and Sam move to town in desperate need of a fresh start, they soon uncover the darker side of this sunny coastal community. While Lucy tries to piece her family's life back together, Michael keeps pulling away in search of belonging. As he finds connection with a local rock band and its charismatic leader, his younger brother Sam comes face-to-face with a startling reality: When night falls, Michael's new friends are even more dangerous than they first appeared.

Based on the classic Warner Bros. film, *The Lost Boys: A New Musical* arrives on Broadway this spring, directed by Tony Award winner Michael Arden (*Maybe Happy Ending*, *Parade*) and featuring music and lyrics by *The Rescues*, a book by David Hornsby and Chris Hoch, choreography by Lauren Yalango-Grant and Christopher Cree Grant (*Parade*), and music supervision by Tony nominee Ethan Popp (*Tina*). *The Lost Boys* is produced by James Carpinello, Marcus Chait, and Patrick Wilson.

A WEEKEND OF HIGH SCHOOL SHOWSTOPPERS FINAL WONDER AWARDS SEMI-FINALIST MUSICALS HIT THE STAGE

The stage lights are up and the music is playing as semi-finalist productions for the Shea's Wonder Awards continue across Western New York. High school theatre programs from throughout the region are presenting their spring musicals as part of the annual adjudication process, giving students the opportunity to showcase months of hard work and creativity.

The final weekend of semi-finalist performances will take place March 26-29. During this time, adjudicators travel to schools across the region to experience each production firsthand before nominations are announced later this spring.

The schools performing during the final weekend include:

Randolph Jr./Sr. High School (Disney's Newsies)

March 26th at 7pm, March 27th at 7pm, and March 28th at 7pm. Tickets available for \$10 at the door.

Fillmore Central High School (Hadestown: Teen Edition)

March 27th at 7pm & March 28th at 7pm. Tickets available for free at the door.

Letchworth Central High School (The Sound of Music)

March 27th at 7:30pm, March 28th at 7:30pm, and March 29th at 2:00pm. Tickets available for \$5 at the door.

Lockport High School (Big Fish: School Edition)

March 27th at 7:00pm, March 28th at 7:00pm, and March 29th at 2:00pm. Tickets available for free at https://lockporttheatre.ludus.com/index.php?show_id=200510038

Maple Grove Jr./Sr. High School (Hadestown: Teen Edition)

March 27th at 7pm, March 28th at 7pm, and March 29th at 2pm. Tickets available for \$10 at <https://ticketpeak.com/go/maplegrove/events>

Following the completion of the semi-finalist performances, nominations and the 10 finalist schools will be announced on Tuesday, April 21. In total, 25 schools are participating in this year's program.

The season will culminate with the Shea's Wonder Awards ceremony on Saturday, May 16, celebrating outstanding achievements in high school musical theatre. Select students will also have the opportunity to represent the program at the national Jimmy Awards (National High School Musical Theatre Awards), taking place June 22 in New York City.

More information about the Shea's Wonder Awards, including participating schools and program details, can be found [here](#).

CATS: THE JELLICLE BALL *Broadhurst Theatre*

Come one, come all – The Jellicle Cats are having a BALL. Based on T.S. Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, Andrew Lloyd Webber's worldwide phenomenon CATS is reimagined in a production that smashed records, won awards and left New York City purring. And now CATS: The Jellicle Ball ascends to Broadway in a kaleidoscope of glittering spectacle, iconic music and electrifying ballroom choreography that The New York Times calls "a lightning strike that sets joy free!

Broadway meets Runway in the fiercest event of the season, directed by Obie Award winners Zhailon Levingston and Bill Rauch, with choreography by Obie Award winners and New York City Ballroom legends Omari Wiles (House of Ricci) and Arturo Lyons (House of Miyake-Mugler). Don't miss this "sexy celebration of love and resilience" (New York Daily News) and "the most exhilarating fun that can be had in the theater" (The Washington Post).

The time has come, kittens. Get your tickets today.



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 for information on the Five Star Bank 2026-27 Broadway Season, the Young Professionals Lights Up! Candlemaking Experience, and the State of the Theatre District panel. Thank you to Jake Gear for information on the Wonder Awards.

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.