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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*



WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

A New Musical

Coming to Shea’s Buffalo Next Week

Performances Begin Tuesday, April 14

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*

Shea’s Performing Arts Center and Presenting Partner Albert Nocciolino are pleased to announce the North American Broadway musical tour of the critically acclaimed bestselling novel **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS**, is coming to Shea’s Buffalo Theatre **April 14 – 19, 2026**. Hailed as a Critic’s Pick by *The New York Times*, **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS**, part of the Five Star Bank 2025-26 Broadway season, will be at Shea’s for eight performances. **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** arrives with a notable local tie: [Mindy Rich, Chair of Rich Entertainment Group](#), is part of the producing team behind the spectacle.

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*).

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 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).

To purchase tickets or for more information visit Shea’s Box Office at 650 Main Street in Downtown Buffalo or go to 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.

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Additional Resources:

Video & Photos: [Water for Elephants Assets](#)

For more information please visit: www.waterforelephantsthemusical.com

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