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PERFORMANCE! 2023-24

A Playbill for The Public Theatre and Maine Music Society



THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

By Larissa FastHorse

Directed by Associate Prof Tim Dugan

Gannett Theater

Nov 2,3,6 at 7:30 pm

Nov 4, 5:00 pm | Nov 5, 2:00 pm

Good intentions. Bad decisions. Great fun. This satirical comedy a troupe of really well-meaning theater artists dream of creating something revolutionary: a culturally sensitive, totally inoffensive Thanksgiving school pageant that finally gives a voice to Native Americans. Finding said Native Americans... isn't so simple. Sending up a whole feast of social issues, this biting funny play roasts everything right, wrong, and woke in America.

FALL DANCE CONCERT

Schaeffer Theatre

Artistic Director: Asst. Prof Brian J Evans

Dec 2, 5:00 pm | Dec 3, 2:00 pm

Dec 4, 7:30 pm

Featuring Composition Seminar students and capstone works by graduating choreographers.

THE GRAVEDIGGERS UNION

By Brian James Polak

Directed by Kevin R. Free

Gannett Theater

March 7, 8,11 at 7:30 pm | March 9, 5:00 pm

March 10, 2:00 pm

A colorful collection of gravediggers at a New Hampshire cemetery are suddenly at risk of losing their livelihoods when the Walmart of

cemeteries opens just across the street. Faced with the possible loss of their dysfunctional but comforting existence, they do what most people would do in this circumstance, they try to buy their graveyard by putting on a play to raise money. What could go wrong?

EL PROXIMO TREN

A senior thesis project

by Miguel Pacheco Gonzalez '24

The Martin Andrucki

Black Box Theater

March 28, 29, April 1, 7:30 pm

March 30, 5:00 pm | March 31, 2:00 pm

Venezuelan Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance major Miguel Pacheco Gonzalez '24 will lead a devised theater project, inspired by Argentinian theater artist Alfredo Rosenbaum, exploring the topic of human migration and the resulting loss and rebirth.

THE MARCY PLAVIN SPRING DANCE CONCERT

Schaeffer Theatre

Artistic Direction: Asst Prof Tristan Koepke

April 5, 8 at 7:30 pm

April 6, 5:00 pm | April 7, 2:00 pm

Featuring repertory works by contemporary choreographers in collaboration with the Bates Dance Festival.



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Sat., Dec. 9 • 7:00 pm
Sun., Dec. 10 • 2:00 pm



Sat., March 16 • 7:00 pm
Sun., March 17 • 2:00 pm



Sat., May 11 • 7:00 pm
Sun., May 12 • 2:00 pm

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Paint Night

Oct 20 - 29 by Carey Crim

Imagine *Steel Magnolias* with modern day issues, as six women gather for a much-needed girls' night out. This world premiere is a hilarious and heartfelt look at mothers and daughters and the way women support each other in our unpredictable world. A great girls' night out!

My Witch: The Margaret Hamilton Stories **Nov 10-12**

Jean Tafler portrays Margaret Hamilton in a delightful story about the famous "Wicked Witch of the West" actress who left an indelible mark on all of us.

A Christmas Carol

Dec 8 - 10 adapted by C. Schario

Six actors and a fiddler perform the Dickens out of this beloved holiday classic in a way you've never imagined and will never forget! Children 18 and under only \$15!

Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Jan 26 - Feb 4 by Katie Forgette

Get ready for heartwarming laughter and all the polyester you can handle! Whether you grew up Catholic, lived through 1973, or your family resembles the "fun" in dysfunctional, this nostalgic and heartfelt new comedy is for you!

The best plays and professional actors from Broadway and beyond for a TOP PRICE OF \$30

Secret Hour

Mar 15 - 24 by Jenny Stafford

Married couple Kate and Ben invent a game called "terrible secret hour" where they each confess an unflattering truth and promise to love one another regardless. But is being truthful the same thing as being true to oneself? Entertaining, humorous, poignant, and thoughtful, you'll be talking about this provocative new play all the way home.

Lunenburg

May 3 - 12 by Norm Foster

When Iris's husband is unexpectedly killed in a plane crash, her lawyer reveals she has inherited a beautiful home in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia - that she never knew existed! What follows is the perfect combination of mystery, comedy, and romance, as she and her best friend set out from their home in Brunswick, Maine for a laugh-filled, poignant road trip North to unravel the mystery of her husband's secret life.

RIVERFRONT EVENT SERIES

2023-24



Oct. 7 Runnin' Down a Dream: Tom Petty Tribute



Oct. 13 Sweet Baby James: America's #1 James
Taylor tribute artist Bill Griese



Oct. 14 Baked Bean Supper with dessert



Oct. 15 Piano Series Duo Mundi George & Guli



Oct. 19, 20, 21 Fright Night Walk



Oct. 29 Fiddle-icious



Nov. 3 The Women Who Risked Everything for Freedom concert with Malinda Haslett

Nov. 9, 10, 11 Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest

Nov. 17 Robert Washington: Elvis Tribute

Dec. 15, 16 Sights & Sounds of Christmas Show

Dec. 17 "Just Us" Entertainers Christmas Show

Jan. 26 Piano Men: The Music of Elton & Billy

Feb. 3 Welcome to Maine comedy show

Feb. 10 Imari & the Sahara Desert Dancers

Feb. 17 Josee Vachon

March 9 Magic Bus: The Who Tribute

April 3 Windham Chamber Singers

April 5: Studio Two: The Beatles Tribute

July 13: Heather Pierson Trio

More events in our online calendar!



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October 28 & 29, 2023

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Dmitri Shostakovich

*Anastasia Antonacos,
Guest Pianist*



January 20 & 21, 2024

Song & Dance Music from Around the World

Copland, Strauss, Mahler,
Ginastera, Piazzolla,
Moncayo, Bernstein

*Philippe Lema,
Guest Baritone*



March 23 & 24, 2024

A New Artistic Mélange

Jessie Montgomery,
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
Edward Elgar

*Emily Jacobsen,
Guest Conductor*



May 18 & 19, 2024

Cityscape, Seascape, Soundscape

Aaron Copland,
Claude Debussy,
Ludwig van Beethoven

*Tim Hovlan, Trumpeter
Billie Jo Brito, English*

Saturdays: 7:00 p.m. @ Franco Center, Lewiston • **Sundays:** 2:30 p.m. @ Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

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That is why our founders named us THE PUBLIC THEATRE.

With one of the lowest prices for professional theatre in Maine, and probably all of New England, we know that most people in our audience might still see a show if the cost of our tickets were 5 or 10 or even 20 dollars higher, but we also know that higher pricing would leave some people out.

Right now some people in our community just can't afford to see theatre on a regular (or even occasional) basis. Why does that matter? Because the free exchange of ideas between people of different backgrounds is what inspires growth and change and compassion in a community -- and who couldn't use more of those?

If you're someone who would pay more for a play at The Public Theatre, and believe in the value of an inclusive community, please make a contribution. You can even add it to your order the next time you purchase a ticket.

Donations to The Public Theatre are tax deductible and go directly towards helping us create great theatre for everyone.

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The Public Theatre

31 Maple St., Lewiston, ME 04240



The Public Theatre was founded to bring high quality professional theatre to the people of Maine, at an affordable price. We strive to make our presentations accessible to all, especially those less likely by tradition or inclination to attend live theatre. In choosing our season, we look for plays that speak from the heart; that are life-affirming and uplifting even when the subject matter is dark or painful; that use our language in powerful and provocative ways; that invite the audience to see their world in a new way. Artistic excellence is central to the mission of The Public Theatre.

The Public Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

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A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens, adapted by Christopher Schario

Directed by
Christopher Schario

Stage Manager
Chris Lomaka*

Costume Design
Frederica Jepson

Set Design
Duper Berry

Lighting Design
Bart Garvey

CAST

Scrooge Dale Place *

Schoolboy, Dick Wilkins, Tiny Tim, Turkey Boy Simon Golob

Bob Cratchit, Marley's Ghost, Fezziwig, Old Joe Russell Berrigan *

Fred, Christmas Present, Peter Cratchit Nicholas Perron

Fan, Mrs. Fezziwig, Belle, Martha, Laundress McKenna Canty

Christmas Past, Mrs. Cratchit, Charwoman Sheila Stasack *

Sound Effects & Christmas Future Keegan Penny

Fiddler Beck Welling

A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Christopher Schario, adapted from the book by Charles Dickens is presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., in New York.



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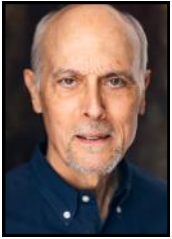
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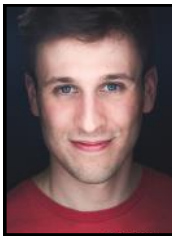
DALE PLACE (*Scrooge*) Broadway: *Heisenberg*, Nat'l Tour: *The Humans*. Off-Broadway: New York Shakespeare Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, Lincoln Center Theater. At The Public Theatre: *Human Error*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Rumors*, *Marvin's Room*, *Deathtrap*, and others. Regional: Huntington Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Old State House-Boston, New Repertory Theatre, Northern Stage, Lyric Stage, Hanover Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage, Greater Boston Stage Co., Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Barnstormers Theatre. Film: *The Fighter*, *The Proposal*, *Joy*, *Gone Baby Gone*, *What's Your Number*. Television: "Law & Order: Organized Crime," "We Crashed," "Julia."



SHEILA STASACK (*Mrs. Cratchit/Xmas Past*) couldn't be happier to be appearing once again at The Public Theatre. Past performances here include Patty in *Be Here Now*, Mommy in *Miss Witherspoon*, Bessie in *Marvin's Room*, Mrs. Kravitz in *Red Herring*, Ruella in *Communicating Doors*, and Jane in *Fallen Angels*. Sheila has a delightful, comedy movie currently available on Prime Video, *Love in Kilnerry*. She has also appeared on TV in *FBI:Most Wanted*, *Bull*, *Law and Order, Forever*, *The Path*, *The Brotherhood*, *Against the Law*, *The Unusuals*, and *Guiding Light*. She has over two dozen audiobooks to her credit. Sheila is a proud member of Actors' Equity.



RUSSELL BERRIGAN (*Marley/Cratchit*) A Rhode Island native, Russell attended the University of RI and was a founding member of Providence's Wickenden Gate Theatre. He has worked at Trinity Rep, New Rep, Wheelock family Theatre, Foothills Theatre and North Shore Music Theatre. Favorite roles include Timmy in *The Subject Was Roses*, Harry in *The Sum of Us* at Brown University's Summer Theatre, John Merrick in *The Elephant Man* and Rod in *At the Still Point*. Russell has appeared at The Public Theatre in *Sideman*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Sexy Laundry*, *Be Here Now* and *A Christmas Carol* (15 years).



NICHOLAS PERRON (*Fred/Xmas Present*) A Boston resident, Nick has been touring the Northeast with the Comedy troupe "Please and Spank You" headlining the Portland comedy Festival and the Big Pond Improv Festival. He also performs with Improv Boston, Fresh Ink Theatre and Greater Boston Theatre Co. His work in Flat Earth Theatre's production of "X" was lauded as one of the top 10 productions of 2021. Other theater credits include: *Move Your Face*, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, *Reasons to be pretty*, and *Assassins* among others. Born in Maine, Nick graduated from the Fountain School of Performing Arts in Halifax, Nova Scotia. You can also hear him on the podcast "Tabletopped". Nick thanks his parents and Fiancé, Alice, who have been so supportive. Happy Holidays!



MCKENNA CANTY (*Belle/Fan*) is excited to be making her acting debut at The Public Theatre! She is an actor from the Boston area, and studied communication and theatre at UMass Amherst, where she graduated in 2021. Her recent Theatre Credits include: *Unbridled Passions* (NOVA Nightsky Theatre), *Boeing Boeing* (Arlington Friends of the Drama), *Dearly Beloved* (Quannapowit Players), *The Siren Song* (UMass Amherst), *As You Like It* (BU Shakespeare Society). She worked

off-stage at The Public Theatre as the ASM for *Paint Night*, and she is so happy to work with their wonderful team once again. Special thanks to Mom, Dad, and Julia, her favorite audition rehearsal partners.



SIMON GOLOB (*Tiny Tim*) is 9 years old and lives in Sabattus, Maine. He is a 4th grade student at Carrie Ricker School in Litchfield. Some of his interests are Amateur Radio, participating in Reader's Theatre and walking at the ocean.



BECK WELLING (*Fiddler*) is 15 years old. He began playing Violin/Fiddle at the age of 4 with renowned local fiddler Ellen Gawler. Homeschooling his entire life has allowed Beck's love for music to grow into a passion that continues to provide new experiences and opportunities. This past September, under the guidance of a new teacher, Seán Healy, Beck competed and took first place in the northeast junior Scottish fiddle championships, qualifying him for the 2024 national championships. Beck lives on a farm in New Gloucester, Maine, swims competitively year-round, and loves to hike in the mountains.



KEEGAN PENNY (*Sound Effects & Christmas Future*) is from Thornton, NH and holds a degree in Theatre: Acting and Directing from the University of New Hampshire. Over the past year, Keegan has ventured from Sarasota, FL where he worked as an acting apprentice/fellow at Florida Studio Theatre, to Kings Mountain, NC where he played the role of Lord Germain/Ensemble in the production of *Liberty Mountain*.

Other credits include; Christopher in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, and the male swing for *Shear Madness*, where he went on for Mikey for closing week. Keegan would like to thank his partner Cam, as well as his parents who push him to excel every day.



CHRISTOPHER SCHARIO (*Executive/Artistic Director*) has been Artistic Director of The Public Theatre since 1993. His adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, published by Dramatists Play Service in 1996, was developed for The Public Theatre and has enjoyed successful productions at professional and amateur theatres throughout the world. He received a BFA in Acting from Ohio University and an MFA in Directing from Carnegie-Mellon University.



JANET MITCHKO (*Co-Artistic Director*) Aside from being the Co-Artistic Director of The Public Theatre, Janet has spent much of the past 30 years as both a director and actress and is proud to call The Public Theatre her artistic home. She is a graduate of the acting program at Carnegie-Mellon and her favorite role will always be the proud mother of bside.beehiiv.com creator Emily Schario.

CHRISTINE LOMAKA (*Stage Manager*) has had the good fortune to have worked with The Public Theatre on five other productions, most recently *Be Here Now*. Other companies she's worked with include Arizona Theatre Company, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Portland Stage Company, Trinity Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Syracuse Stage, LA Opera, and Houston Grand Opera. Chris spent 15 years in Los Angeles working in film, television, opera and theater, and was the production manager and lighting designer for The Groundlings. Chris has been a member of Actors Equity since 1987.

DMITRI KUBBS (*Technical Director*) Professionally Dmitri has split his career between environmental education, managing petting zoos, and theater production. Most recently he made the titular prop for Opera Maine's production of the "The Rocking-Horse Winner". He lives in Auburn with his wife, son, and lots of unfinished projects.

ELIJAH MOORE (he/him) (*Assistant Technical Director*) is a Temple University graduate. Since graduating Elijah has worked mainly as a lighting technician at countless venues in the Philadelphia area such as The Wilma, The Arden, The Interact, The Bucks County Playhouse, and The Bearded Ladies. Additionally, Elijah worked as Assistant LD and Electrician in Medora North Dakota, with Stage West Productions, and most recently filling in as Electrics Supervisor in Door County, Wisconsin with the Peninsula Players. During his free time, he likes to go to the skatepark, snowboard, listen to live music, play roller hockey, and disc golf.

2023-24 Season Underwriters



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Judy D'Amour
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Johannah DeGrandpre
Olga Dolgicer
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Diana Dowd
Hannah Estes
Michael Ferris
Christina Finneran & Paul First
Ruth Fiske
Anna & Ed Flotten

Denis & Pauline Fortier
Mary Fortunato
William Fuller
Susan Glines
Susan & Kenneth Gordon
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Evelyn Greenlaw
Mrs. Gisele Guerrette
Jody Harris
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Shawn McDonnell
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Leon Parker
Joan Pedersen
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Cecile Potvin
Carl Prouty
Paul & Sharron Raczynski
Emily Reese
Lucille Rioux
Barbara & Michael Shapiro
Sue & Ken Spalding
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Susan Stiker
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Lisa Therrien
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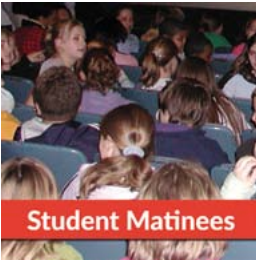


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