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



Sat., May 11 • 7:00 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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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

*Finn Henken, 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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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.

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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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Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

By Katie Forgette

Directed by
Janet Mitchko

Stage Manager
Adam P. Blais*

Costume Design
Anne Collins

Set Design
Jennifer B. Madigan

Lighting Design
Florence Cooley

Sound Design
Scott O'Brien

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Linda O'Shea.....**Kelsey Petersen***
Josephine O'Shea **Cate Damon***
Mike O'Shea/Father Lovett/Betty **Doug Rees***
Theresa Carmichael.....**Allison Briner-Dardenne***
Becky..... **Scarlett Thomas**

There will be a 15 Minute Intermission

INCIDENT AT OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP received its World Premiere in 2019 at Chenango River Theatre (Greene, NY), Bill Lebach—Artistic Director

INCIDENT AT OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP was subsequently produced by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Blake Robison Artistic Director, Buzz Ward Managing Director

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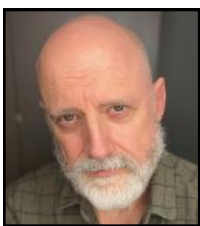
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KELSEY PETERSEN (*Linda O'Shea*) is thrilled to be making her Public Theatre debut! She currently lives in Chicago, but has previously worked in New York City and regionally at both NJ Rep and the Asolo Repertory Theatre. Select credits at the Asolo include: *As You Like It* (Rosalind), *Twelfth Night* (Viola), *Ah, Wilderness!* (Mildred), *Grapes of Wrath* (Rose of Sharon), and others. She received her BA from Case Western Reserve University and her MFA from Florida State University. Love and gratitude to Mom, Dad, and Colin -- and to Chris, always.



CATE DAMON (*Josephine*) is very happy to be making her Public Theatre debut in this wonderfully funny play. She's also excited to be back performing in her home state of Maine and, most especially, to be right here in Lewiston, where she got her start in the Community Little Theater a long, long time ago! *Off-Broadway: Johnny Got His Gun* (Mary)--Cherry Lane Theatre; *Regional: What The Constitution Means To Me* (Heidi U/S w/performance)--Capital Rep; *Rancho Mirage* (Pam), *Jack and Jill* (Jill)--New Rep, Boston; *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike* (Sonia), *Miss Maybelline's Nocturnal Flights of Fancy* (Elaine)--Martha's Vineyard Playhouse; *I Have Seen Horizons*--Stonington Opera House; *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Martha), *God Of Carnage* (Veronica), *Rabbit Hole* (Becca), *Noises Off* (Belinda)--New Century Theatre. *The Glass Menagerie* (Amanda), *Mamma Mia* (Donna), *Alabama Story* (Emily), *Harvey* (Veta)--The Majestic Theater. *Film: The God Question* (Jane Hurst). Cate is a proud member of the professional actors' unions AEA and SAG/AFTRA.



DOUG REES (*Mike/Father Lovett/Betty Heckenbach*): Doug is delighted to be back at the Public! He has previously appeared at the Public in Michael Hollinger's *Under the Skin* and more recently in Dan Clancy's *Middletown*. Other credits include Bess Wohl's *Grand Horizons* at Peterborough Players (New Hampshire); *Romeo and Juliet*, Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, Keith Reddin's *All the Rage*, and *Cyrano De Bergerac* at Pittsburgh Public Theater; "Scrooge" in the world premiere of Christopher Durang's *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, Jeffrey Jones' *Seventy Scenes of Halloween*, and David Ives' *All In The Timing* at City Theatre (Pittsburgh); the world premiere of Michael Hollinger's *Opus* at Arden Theatre Company (Philadelphia); Arthur Miller's *Resurrection Blues* at The Wilma Theater (Philadelphia); he appeared for seven years as "Mr. Fezziwig/*The Ghost of Christmas Present*" at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Doug played one of his dream roles, "The Stage Manager" in Thornton Wilder's brilliant *Our Town*, as well as appearing in *As You Like It*, *The Taming of The Shrew* and Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* at Alabama Shakespeare Festival. New York appearances include several productions at the Mint Theatre Company, and the New York City premiere

of *Opus* at Primary Stages. Television credits include *30 Rock* (NBC) and *F.B.I.* (CBS) When not working, he happily spends his time with his life partner, Janet, where they can be found as often as possible at their lovely cabin in the woods above beautiful Queechey Lake in Canaan, New York. He is also a diehard Pittsburgh Steelers fan



ALLISON BRINER DARDENNE (*Theresa Carmichael*) The Public Theatre: *Middletown, Polkadots*. Broadway: *Bright Star, Mamma Mia!*. National tours: *Bright Star, Les Miserables, Titanic, Mamma Mia!, White Christmas*. Off-Broadway: *Listen to My Heart, Song of Singapore, Forbidden Broadway, Forbidden Hollywood, Return To The Forbidden Planet*. Over 30 regional theatre credits including: American Repertory Theatre: *1776*. Alabama Shakespeare: *Steel Magnolias, Into The Breeches, Ring Of Fire*. Theatreworks Palo Alto: *Tinyard Hill* (*Outstanding Achievement Award*). The Old Globe: *Bright Star*. Actors Theatre of Louisville: *Quake* (*The Humana Festival*). Penguin Rep: *Bad Dates*. Television: *The Other Two, Law and Order* and *SVU, All My Children*. Featured soloist in *Pops Goes Vegas*, with The Indianapolis Pops Symphony Orchestra and various pop symphonies across the U.S. and Canada.



SCARLETT THOMAS (*Becky*) is thrilled to be making her debut at The Public Theatre! She was last seen as Louisa von Trapp in Ogunquit Playhouse's production of *The Sound of Music* at The Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH. Other regional credits include *Singin' in the Rain* (Young Don/Young Cosmo, Ogunquit Playhouse), *Elf The Musical* (Youth Ensemble, Ogunquit Playhouse at The Music Hall), and *Newsies* (Brooklyn Newsie, Seacoast Rep). Educational credits include *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition* (SpongeBob, OP Arts Academy), *Finding Nemo Jr.* (Dory, OP Arts Academy), *Guys and Dolls Jr.* (Miss Adelaide, The Rep Academy), and *Descendants* (Jane, OP Arts Academy). She would like to thank Janet for this opportunity and Katy for always believing in her. Much gratitude to Joyce and Ray for helping her grow "10 feet tall." Special thanks to Tori from The Prep, Bryan at Exchange Street, Rance, and everyone at The Wright Way! So much love to her family for supporting her in all her endeavors and God for all of His blessings. Enjoy the show!
[@scarlett_with_2ts](#)

KATIE FORGETTE (*Playwright*) has spent most of her professional life as an actor. At the Seattle Repertory Theatre she appeared in *Inspecting Carol, An Ideal Husband, Private Eyes, All in the Timing, Scapin, Dancing at Lughnasa, Buying Time, A Flaw in the Ointment, Harvey, The Miser, Six Characters in Search of an Author, End of the Day, Love Diatribe, and Long Day's Journey into Night*. She has also appeared in numerous productions at Intiman, ACT Theatre, The Empty Space, Village Theatre and Seattle Children's Theatre. Ms. Forgette's play, *The O'Conner Girls*, premiered at the Seattle Rep and is published by

DPS. Her mystery-comedy, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily*, has had numerous productions and is published by Playscripts, Inc. *A Facility For Living* (formerly *Assisted Living*) premiered at ACT Theatre in 2013 and is published by Sam French. She lives in Seattle with her husband, Bob.



JANET MITCHKO (*Director, Artistic Director*) Aside from being the Artistic Director of The Public Theatre, Janet has spent much of the past 30 years as both a director (*Paint Night, Perfect Nonsense, Morning After Grace, Dancing Lessons, Sexy Laundry, Middletown, Hound of the Baskervilles, Around the World in 80 Days*, etc.) and actress (*Be Here Now; A Doll's House, PART 2; The Ladies Foursome; Good People; Time Stands Still*; etc), and is proud to call The Public Theatre her artistic home.

Prior to life in Maine, Janet lived in NYC earning her living as a professional actress, voice-over talent, and director as well as an acting teacher at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. 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.



RAY DUMONT (*Executive Director*) is overjoyed to come back to his hometown as Executive Director of The Public Theatre. He grew up in Lewiston and was educated in Lewiston schools. Most recently he was Director of Development for Theatre Aspen, after two years as Associate Education Director at the Ogunquit Playhouse. He attended Boston University School of Management, where he majored in

Finance and Marketing. Ray has been working in professional theatre for over 30 years, as performer, educator, director, choreographer, and administrator. Although his career has taken him all over the country, Maine has always been his home base. He has enjoyed over 20 seasons at Maine State Music Theatre, including four incredible years as Managing Director from 1999-2003. During those years, MSMT refurbished a former bus garage into its current production and administrative home in Brunswick. Ray is dedicated to creating art that starts conversations, brings people together, and improves the quality of life in our communities, all the while providing great entertainment, here in Lewiston/Auburn. He is forever grateful for the support of his amazing family, all of whom reside in Maine, and for the daily encouragement of his partner, Josh. Proud member of AEA (Actors' Equity Association) since 1995.

ADAM P. BLAIS - (*Stage Manager*) is a Maine-based Director, Choreographer, Stage Manager and Educator. Previously at The Public Theatre: *Paint Night* (Stage Manager), *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical* (Director/Choreographer), *Murder for Two* (Director/Choreographer), *Dancing Lessons* (Choreographer) and *The Midvale High School 50th Reunion* (Choreographer). Additional credits include *Cox and Box, The Story of My Life, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Daddy Long Legs, Murder for Two, The Pirates of Penzance* (Theater at Monmouth); *King Lear, The Tempest* with Academy Award Winner Olympia

Dukakis (Shakespeare & Company); *Sweeney Todd, Speech and Debate* (University of Maine), and many others. Adam holds a BA in Theatre and an MA in Leadership Studies and is also the Production Manager and Artistic Associate at The Public Theatre.

JENNIFER B. MADIGAN – (*Set Designer*) This is her 16th set design for The Public Theatre. Her last design was *The Victorian Ladies' Detective Collective*, now among her favorites, along with *Last Gas, Wait Until Dark, Red, Indoor/Outdoor*, and *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*. She has also been the Scenic Artist for several shows designed for The Public Theatre by Kit Mayer, including *Paint Night, Screwball Comedy*, and *Tigers Be Still*. The rest of the time at The Public Theatre, she uses her vast array of creative and technical skills as the Asst. Director of Marketing & Development. Jennifer has a BA in Technical Theater from the University of Maryland, where she studied Scene Design and Sound Design.

ANNE COLLINS (*Costume Designer*) Is happy to be back at The Public Theatre for *Paint Night*. Last season she designed *The Victorian Ladies' Detective Collective* and before that *Dancing Lessons* and *The Revolutionists*. This summer Ms. Collins designed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for The Camden Shakespeare Festival and *The Sand Princess* for Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble at The Desert of Maine. She also designed a magical Fairy Godmother costume for performance artist Amanda Huotari. annecollinscostumedesign.com

FLORENCE COOLEY (*Lighting Designer*) is a local freelancing lighting designer, electrician, stagehand, and seamstress. She has a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Southern Maine (USM). She is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage employees, Local 114. She works at many local theaters including Maine State Music Theatre, where she held an apprenticeship in 2009 and has since worked as a stitcher and costume coordinator. This is Florence's first show with The Public Theatre, and she is honored for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful team. Favorite past lighting designs include: *Airswimming* (USM), *Cabaret* (Madhorse), *Twelfth Night* (Fenix Theatre Company), *Into the Woods* (Lyric), *Macbeth* (Camden Shakespeare Festival), *A Christmas Carol* (Espanola's Main Street Theatre). With City Theater Associates she has designed *Rent, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, The Full Monty, Jekyll & Hyde*, and *Gunmetal Blues*. Favorite lighting designs at Yarmouth High School include *Cinderella, Shrek, Urinetown, The Addams Family, Bottom's Dream, Secret in the Wings, Josephine's Stories, Epic Propositions*, amongst many others. Thank you for your support.

SCOTT O'BRIEN (*Sound Designer*) has composed, designed and engineered theatre and dance for a variety of off-Broadway and regional theaters across the US. He was the Resident Composer/Sound Designer for American Globe Theatre from 2000-2014, the Chautauqua Theater Company from 2006-2009, the Stella Adler Studio of Acting from 2011-2012, and the Adirondack Theatre Festival from 2013-2015 and The Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, MN for their 2019 and 2021 seasons. He has lectured on Sound

Design at SUNY-Rockland, Pace University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, The Duke Ellington School for the Arts and Montclair State University (where he was the head of the Sound Design Program from 2015-2019). Film credits include: *Eleanor*; *Godmother of American Fashion* (for VANITY FAIR FILMS) and *Phoenix Rising*; *The Silent Victims Speak*, an award-winning documentary for Noblevision Productions. His most recent projects were *Clyde's* for Playmakers Theatre (Chapel Hill, NC), *Imbroglia* for director/playwright Melissa Maxwell in Winona, MN and *The 39 Steps* for Bowdoin College (Brunswick, ME). His production company and studio Duck & Trout Music are based in Gardiner, ME. This marks his second season collaborating with The Public Theatre.

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. Elijah is a positive person and loves working with a team.

MCKENNA CANTY (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to be back at The Public Theatre! She's from the Boston area, and she graduated from UMass Amherst in 2021 where she studied communications and theater. She also appeared as Belle / Fan / Martha in *A Christmas Carol* and assistant stage managed *Paint Night* here this season. Previously, she was a Development Associate at Studio Theatre in Washington, DC for their 22/23 season. She also has experience as a house manager, wardrobe crew member, and marketing videographer. Growing up, she spent many summers on Sebago Lake and in Fryeburg, so she's thrilled to be back in Maine once again.

TENNYSON PERKINS (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to be working at The Public Theatre for the first time. He is from Portland, Maine. This past summer he worked as assistant stage manager at The Theater Project in Brunswick. He is currently a sophomore at Bennington College studying acting.



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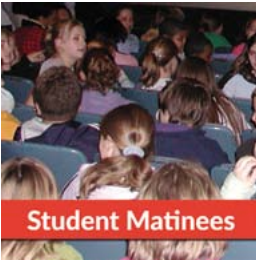


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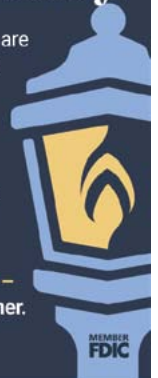


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- **Midcoast Symphony Orchestra** midcoastsymphony.org
- **Museum in the Streets trail** museumla.org
- **Maine MILL** mainemill.org
- **Olin Concert Series** bates.edu/olin-concert-series
- **The Public Theatre** thepublictheatre.org
- **The Public Art trail** laarts.org



The Public Theatre

MUSIC



LITERARY ARTS

THEATER

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