City Theater
Heart of the Performing Arts

BIDDEFORD MAINE’S HISTORIC OPERA HOUSE

205 Main Street · Downtown Biddeford
Show Coupon Packs, Group or Individual Tickets Available
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MISSION STATEMENT
City Theater Associates, Incorporated is a non-profit organization, housed at City Theater in Downtown Biddeford, Maine. Its mission is to foster an appreciation for the performing arts by using creative avenues to increase community involvement.

CITY THEATER BOARD
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Mark Nahorney, Vice-President · Karen Gallagher, Treasurer
Briana Chu, Secretary & Volunteer Coordinator
Tad Williams, Bar Manager · Valerie Nahorney, Box Office Manager
Irene Lemay, Fundraising Coordinator
Elizabeth Mantis, Correspondence Secretary · Jim LaBelle, Member
Ex-officio Members: Matt Eaton, Will Clarke, Carrow MacLean, Karleena Stoner
Alyssa Rojecki Forcier, Theater Manager · Linda Sturdivant, Artistic Director

City Theater Associates, Incorporated
205 Main Street · Post Office Box 993 · Biddeford, Maine 04005
Box Office: (207) 282-0849 · Email: info@citytheater.org
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Builder's Supply Inc.
In the late 1840’s, the City of Biddeford purchased a parcel of land at the corner of Adams and Main Streets, and at that site planned a building to house the city’s municipal offices, as well as the original opera house. The opera house opened in October of 1860 with a play depicting slavery in the Southern states – appropriately on the eve of the Civil War. With those first performances, an era of theatrical history began for the city of Biddeford. Renowned thespians Edwin Booth, Joseph Jefferson and Pat Rooney appeared over the years before appreciative audiences.

On December 30, 1894, a raging fire destroyed the entire city building. An emergency city council meeting was called for on January 2, 1895. From that initial session until the final architectural designs were completed, the question of whether or not to rebuild the opera house was hotly debated. Eventually, the dispute over building a performance arts center was settled in favor of the arts, and the planning for a larger and more structurally sound facility was initiated. John Calvin Stevens, the world-famous Maine architect, designed a richly ornamented opera house in the colonial revival style, complete with a dramatic horseshoe balcony. A large, ornate brass chandelier with glass shades showcased the stenciled ceilings. The rebuilt opera house reopened January 20th, 1896 and quickly resumed its role as a cultural focal point in York County.

A favorite among audiences was Vaudeville, with Biddeford as an important stop on its circuit. Dramatic performances by such stage immortals as the Barrymores, along with minstrel shows, community pageants and plays were among the Theater’s popular offerings. J. J. Salvas, local theatrical director and actor of note, regularly entertained capacity crowds.
in full motion. The highlights of this effort include a new marquee along with restored and reproduced stenciling on the Theater’s lobby walls, house walls, and ceiling. The Theater also received modern updates to its lighting and sound system, a digital projector and the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system. Old buildings demand constant maintenance and the upgrades continue. Today, efforts are under way to make upgrades to stage flooring, the costume room and public restrooms, as well as to re-point exterior brickwork, and to make long-overdue upgrades to the fly system (most of the pulleys and the pin rail above the stage are original equipment).

City Theater continues its long-held mission of fostering an appreciation for the performing arts. In addition to five main stage productions, we have expanded our season by collaborating with other non-profits and entertainment organizations to bring music, comedy and dance to the City Theater stage.

Our 2022-2023 season included a broad range of events, plays, musicals, and other arts as we continue to recover from the pandemic. Our main stage shows included gems such as Sylvia, Christmas My Way, Nunsense, Exit Laughing, and Sweet Charity. We also welcomed back local favorites comedian Juston McKinney and pianist/singer Joe Boucher for Winterfest, City Theater also began to further expand the types of performances and events at our theater.

This past season we hosted two wildly popular concerts, one at Valentine’s Day and another for our first Pride Weekend, featuring some of the best performers at City Theater. We also hosted our very first (but not our last) drag show featuring Curbside Queens!

In 1996 the Theater celebrated its 100th year anniversary and was awarded a gift of new seats from the city of Biddeford. Soon a combination of funding received from federal, state, municipal, private, and business sources put restoration efforts into full motion. The highlights of this effort include a new marquee along with restored and reproduced stenciling on the Theater’s lobby walls, house walls, and ceiling. The Theater also received modern updates to its lighting and sound system, a digital projector and the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system. Old buildings demand constant maintenance and the upgrades continue. Today, efforts are under way to make upgrades to stage flooring, the costume room and public restrooms, as well as to re-point exterior brickwork, and to make long-overdue upgrades to the fly system (most of the pulleys and the pin rail above the stage are original equipment).

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The hard work of our nearly 100% volunteer-driven theater was recognized as we received several awards, including the Gold Medal: Best Live Theater in the State of Maine via the Best of the 207 contest. City Theater’s win against other amazing theaters in the state recognizes the hard work of our mostly volunteer board, staff, actors and crew. City Theater has also won recent awards from Broadway World for costumes and music for The Rocky Horror Show, as well as acting and directing awards for On Golden Pond.

As we look to our past to help shape our future, our upcoming season and events promise to be just as entertaining as ever. Stay tuned for more movies, more concerts, more community engagement, and more art than ever!

We appreciate the support of our patrons, local businesses, nonprofits and the greater community. Welcome back to our home. We hope to see you soon – and often – for more of what you love at Biddeford’s City Theater.
BIDDEFORD MAINE’S HISTORIC OPERA HOUSE

City Theater
Heart of the Performing Arts

September 29th – October 15th

BY NORA EPHRON & DELIA EPHRON
DIDECTOR: LINDA STURDIVANT

Based on Ilene Beckerman’s bestselling book.
A play of monologues and ensemble pieces about women, clothes
and memory covering all the important subjects – mothers, prom dresses,
mothers, buying bras, mothers, hating purses and why we only wear black.
“Funny, compelling…brought down the house.” – New York Times

PERFORMANCE TIMES
7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS • 2 PM SUNDAY MATINEES 10/8 & 10/15

Special Thanks to our Generous Season Underwriters: Builder’s Supply Inc. and Pizza By Alex

Thanks to Season Sponsors: Carefree Creative, Jim Godbout Plumbing & Heating,
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Show Sponsor: The Lincoln • Set & Costume Sponsors: Hope Memorial, Biddeford+Saco Chamber
Partnering for better

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care is proud to sponsor City Theater's 2023-2024 Season. Together, we can work toward better for everyone in our communities.

Learn more at harvardpilgrim.org
The hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan child who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported back to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy's enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas. This modern-day Christmas classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner Elf.
Friends of City Theater

We at City Theater would like to express our appreciation to the many donors whose generosity allows us to continually bring amazing performances to this community. The following individuals, families and organizations have generously committed money, goods and/or services:

DIRECTOR - $500 OR MORE:
Anonymous

PRODUCER - $251-$500:
Keith & Kathleen Jacques and Jim & Amy LaBelle

ASSOCIATE: $101-$250:
Steve & Rachel Barrett, Patricia Boston, Michael Cantara, Winifred Chisholm, Steven Ellis & Ted Williams, Karen Gallagher, Theresa Maloney Kelly, Irene Lemay, Joyce Manfre, Derek Schubert, Brenda Seeley, Laura & Dennis Walton, Lynn White

SUPPORTER: $25-$100:

We receive many contributions under $25, for which we thank you, too. Every dollar helps!

BIDDEFORD MAINE’S HISTORIC OPERA HOUSE

MARCH 8TH – 24TH

Music & Lyrics by Stuart Ross

DIRECTOR: LINDA STURDIVANT

MUSIC DIRECTOR: PATRICK MARTIN

CHOREOGRAPHER: MARIEL ROY

When four young singers are killed in a car crash, they posthumously take the stage for one final gig in this goofy, 1950s nostalgia trip. Forever Plaid is one of the most popular and successful musicals in recent memory. This deliciously fun revue is chock-full of classic barbershop quartet harmonies and pitch-perfect melodies!

PERFORMANCE TIMES

7:30 PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS • 2 PM SUNDAY MATINÉES MARCH 17 & 24

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Ten strangers are summoned to a remote island. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they’re unwilling to reveal and a secret that will seal their fate as each has been marked for murder. As the weather turns and the group is cut off from the mainland, the bloodbath begins, and one by one, they are brutally murdered in accordance with the lines of a sinister nursery rhyme.

**Performance Times**

7:30 PM Fridays & Saturdays • 2 PM Sunday Matinées 5/19 & 5/26

*Special Thanks to our Generous Season Underwriters: Builder’s Supply Inc. and Pizza By Alex*

*Thanks to Season Sponsors: Carefree Creative, Jim Godbout Plumbing & Heating, Pension Professionals & Attaché Business Center and Stoner & Company*

*Show Sponsor: Walmart*

*Set, Costume & Orchestra Sponsors: Batson River Brewing & Distilling, McArthur Library*
Transit is expanding our fleet of clean and quiet electric buses!

BSOOB Transit will have four zero-emission battery electric buses active in the fleet early in 2024. Our agency is committed to advancing initiatives that will reduce emissions and promote environmental stewardship.

Along with these new vehicles, BSOOB Transit now provides a new connection between Biddeford, Kennebunk and Sanford on Route #71. Also, BSOOB Transit’s #54 Silver Line Circulator provides service between downtown Biddeford, Saco and University of New England – and it’s FREE.

Visit bsoobtransit.org for more information about all of your public transportation options including local routes and daily commuter services between Biddeford, Saco and Portland.

Watch for the Trolley too!
Seasonal trolley service to and from area hotels, campgrounds, beautiful beaches and local attractions.

We are proud to support the arts in our community.

As a local community bank we are committed to being a vital part of the communities we serve. We are committed to giving our customers the access and convenience they expect from a modern bank – without sacrificing the personal touch that has always defined us. Our suite of personal and business banking products is designed to make banking easier, no matter what corner of the world you’re in.

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We hope you enjoy the show!
BIDDEFORD MAINE’S HISTORIC OPERA HOUSE

City Theater
Heart of the Performing Arts

July 19th – August 4th

Music & Lyrics by
Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein

Director: Linda Sturdivant
Music Director: Patrick Martin
Choreographer: Mariel Roy

Rodgers & Hammerstein’s first collaboration remains, in many ways, their most innovative, setting the standards and rules of modern musical theatre. In a Western territory just after the turn of the 20th century, a high-spirited rivalry between local farmers and cowboys provides a colorful background for Curly, a charming cowboy, and Laurey, a feisty farm girl, to play out their love story. Their romantic journey, as bumpy as a surrey ride down a country road, contrasts with the comic exploits of brazen Ado Annie and hapless Will Parker in a musical adventure embracing hope, determination, and the promise of a new land.

Performance Times
7:30pm Fridays & Saturdays • 2pm Sunday Matinees 7/28 & 8/4

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Thanks to Season Sponsors: Carefree Creative, Jim Godbout Plumbing & Heating, Pension Professionals & Attaché Business Center and Stoner & Company
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A Gift to City Theater

The full, colorful history of La Salle de l’Opéra is unfortunately a story that has become commonplace throughout the country – magnificent opera houses falling into disrepair, but being lovingly resurrected by tireless volunteers, and through generous contributions from individual theater enthusiasts and business patrons alike. If you would like to see City Theater continue to move forward in the community, please consider donating! With questions about donations, call (207) 282-0849.

CONTRIBUTION LEVELS

- Director $500 or More
- Producer $251-$500
- Associate $101-250
- Supporter $25-$100

Please donate via our secure website or PayPal by scanning the appropriate QR Code:

City Theater Website
PayPal Website

Or mail your check to City Theater, PO Box 993, Biddeford ME 04005

Please note that all contributions to City Theater are fully tax-deductible, and will help to ensure that a cultural tradition of over 125 years continues in our community.

A non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, City Theater Associates, Incorporated is grateful for all contributions we receive from our generous supporters.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please send your check to City Theater Associates, Inc. P.O. Box 993, Biddeford ME 04005. Or you may donate online at www.citytheater.org. Of course, contributions of in-kind gifts, materials and services are also welcome.
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In 2010, we lost a dear friend and true theater supporter to ovarian cancer. When Becky Witham passed away she left City Theater a gift for the creation of Becky's Closet. As you sit in your seats, look up high above you; this area is our costume and prop room. Becky's generosity enabled us to build racks and bins to organize and separate every little article of clothing and accessory. Her legacy also allowed us to create a sewing room to make costumes and do on-the-spot repairs. We are eternally grateful for her donation to our theater and are proud to hang the Becky's Closet plaque over the door at the top of the stairs.

According to the American Cancer Society, each year in the U.S., more than 21,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and about 15,000 women die of the disease. September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. For more information about ovarian cancer please visit www.ovariancancer.org.
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