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Tired of seeing female characters constantly portrayed through the eyes of men in musical theatre, Meghan Randolph set out to produce a show that accurately represents women in 2018. Beyond the Ingenue, presented by Randolph’s professional company Music Theatre of Madison, is a revue of musical theatre songs that portray a variety of strong, independent ladies.

With direction by Wendy Jones-Hill and music direction by Lisa Mueller, the cast is comprised of women artists ranging from age 15 to 60. The cast includes entrepreneurs, educators, mothers, and two teenagers on the brink of learning what it means to be a woman.

“Women are so often portrayed in entertainment as having it all together...their houses are perfect, their lives are perfect, and they are perfect mothers,” Randolph says. “I think it will be fun and rewarding for people, both men and women, to hear another side of that story, to hear how hard it is to struggle with that, and to hear it in the context of musical theatre.”

Jones-Hill, Mueller and Randolph did six months of research on emerging female composers in order to curate the show. Fitting with Music Theatre of Madison’s mission to introduce new and lesser-known pieces, Randolph shares that some of the songs performed in the revue will be unfamiliar to audiences.

One of Randolph’s personal favorites is the revue’s opening number entitled Before I Lose My Mind from the seldom produced musical The Danger Year.

Music Theatre of Madison Founder and Executive Director Meghan Randolph. Photo courtesy of Music Theatre of Madison.
“It goes through the craziness of, ‘I got to do this, I’ve got to take my kids to school, I got to tell my husband not to wear that shirt, I have to read my friend’s book.’ and then sort of deteriorates into I want to take a vacation…I want to drink a bunch of wine…,” Randolph explains. “The way the song is written gives a sense of that urgency and that anxiety of everything piling up.”

All the songs from Beyond the Ingenue are from contemporary musicals, with most composed by women. Some of the themes discussed throughout the pieces include sisterhood, motherhood, aging, careers, abuse and body image.

“There are plenty of stories out there about other issues that women face that don’t have to do with men,” Randolph says. “Not that there’s anything wrong with falling in love or being in love, but we’ve already told that story.”

“Beyond the Ingenue,” presented by Music Theatre of Madison, runs Nov. 9 – 10 at The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington Ave. Both performances are “Pay What You Can.” Additional outreach performances will be announced on mtmadison.com and footlights.com
Forward Theater Celebrates 10th Anniversary Season with More Shows and First Musical

While the premises of *Skeleton Crew, Fun Home, Heisenberg* and *Life Sucks* are vastly different from one another, Forward Theater artistic director Jennifer Uphoff Gray says these four titles in the upcoming season reflect themes that are important to the company.

Since its inception in 2009, Forward established a strong reputation for using theater to get to the heart of challenging issues while providing a professional home for Wisconsin artists. The company plans to make a splash for its 10th anniversary season, expanding from three to four mainstage productions, including its first-ever musical.

“Expanding our season has really been a goal of ours since our founding,” Uphoff Gray says. “For a long time I believed four plays was the right size for our season. We would be able to provide more opportunities for our audiences to see great plays and more opportunities for community engagement, but still hopefully be a small enough package in terms of finances and time commitment that we wouldn’t see a drop off in subscribers.”

Uphoff Gray shares that in a survey sent out to Forward subscribers over a year ago asking what they thought of a larger season, 98% of them were on board.

“We just closed our subscription renewal period and blew past our renewal goals of past seasons,” she adds.

The 2018-2019 season will kick off early with the Sept. 6 opening of *Skeleton Crew* by Dominique Morisseau. Set at the start of the Great Recession, a tight-knit family of workers navigate the likelihood of losing their jobs at one of the last auto stamping plants in Detroit.

Uphoff Gray says the show is extremely relevant for a Madison audience with the 2017 closure of the Oscar Mayer facility and recent demolition of the General Motors auto plant in Janesville.

*Skeleton Crew* is the third and final play in Morisseau’s *The Detroit Project*. Marti Gobel, Di’Monte Henning, Sherrick Robinson and Candace Thomas will star in the show under Jake Penner’s direction.

“This is one of those plays that when we read it, we immediately went after the rights,” Uphoff Gray says. “The characters were so engaging and relatable and real, I believed every word that was coming out of their mouths.”


Forward Theater Artistic Director and Co-Founder Jennifer Uphoff Gray. Photo credit: Maureen Janson.
Speaking of the Tonys, *Fun Home* will feature Tony Award winner and *Hamilton* star Karen Olivo in the lead role of Alison. *Fun Home* is the first Broadway musical to feature a lesbian protagonist, a graphic novelist struggling with her own sexuality and making sense of the life of her father, a closeted gay man. The musical is adapted from cartoonist Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir by the same name.

“It’s the perfect first musical for us because it feels like a Forward play, that happens to be a musical,” Uphoff Gray says. “It’s smart, it’s moving, it’s funny, and will send you home thinking and feeling lots of things.”

For the third show, *Heisenberg* by Simon Stephens, Uphoff Gray recalls reading the script and immediately thinking of Jim Pickering and Colleen Madden.

“I think it is just going to be a treat for the audience to see these two remarkable performers in this real showcase piece,” Uphoff Gray says. “It’s brilliant and heartfelt.”

Directed by Laura Gordon, *Heisenberg* tells the story of two strangers, a flirtatious middle-aged woman and reserved older man, and how a chance encounter changes the journey of their lives.

Closing Forward's 10th anniversary season is *Life Sucks* by Madison native Aaron Poser, beginning Mar. 28.

*Life Sucks* is a reworking of Chekhov’s *Uncle Vanya* where old friends, ex-lovers, estranged in-laws and lifelong enemies reflect on the ways that life does and doesn’t suck. Directed by Uphoff Gray, the show will feature Forward favorites like Rana Roman, Sarah Day and Bill Bolz.

“It actually cracks me up that we are closing our 10th anniversary season with a play called *Life Sucks*, keeping in mind we launched our company with a show our first season called *Why Torture is Wrong And The People That Love Them*,” Uphoff Gray says. “So we started our journey with a crazy title and we are ending this season with a crazy title.”
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Charlotte’s Web

Adapted from the book by E.B. White
By Joseph Robinette

Director
Mike Lawler

Scene Designer
Keith Pitts*

Lighting Designer
Natalie George

Sound Designer
David Kelephsa Samba

Costume Designer
Monica Kilkus

Stage Manager
Anders Goodwin

* member, United Scenic Artists, Local 829

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Welcome to CTM’s 53rd season! Magical tales of discovery and adventure await you! From page to stage, every show this year is an adaptation of an award-winning book, and starting us off is one of the most beloved of all, Charlotte’s Web!

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CTM is committed to making theater accessible to everyone in our community. Here are some of the programs that CTM offers throughout the year:

SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOWS
CTM presents sensory friendly performances of select shows each season for youth with autism, learning differences, or other sensory and communication needs. For more information on these performances, visit ctmtheater.org. These performances are generously supported by National Guardian Life.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS
We offer ASL-interpreted performances for scheduled performances of CTM mainstage productions, serving the community of the hearing impaired. These services are generously underwritten by Ultratec. Check our season calendar or website for specific performance dates.

CENTER STAGE WITH CTM:
FREE THEATER CLASSES at MADISON COMMUNITY CENTERS
Center Stage with CTM provides free after-school theater programs for the youth at Goodman Center (partnering for our fifth year) and Lussier Community Education Center (our second year). These programs are the first exposure to theater for many of these students.
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Production Manager ........................................................................ Kat Sirico
Technical Director ........................................................................ Ryan Seifert
Stage Manager ............................................................................... Anders Goodwin
Assistant Stage Manager .............................................................. Nicole Hageman
Sound Engineer ............................................................................ Devante Godwin
Wardrobe Supervisor ..................................................................... Megan Dickel
Props Director ................................................................................ Cailin Short
Master Carpenter .......................................................................... Ken Keith
Scenic Carpenter ............................................................................ Jay Seevers
Charge Scenic Artist ....................................................................... Cailin Short
Scenic Artist .................................................................................. Nerissa Eichinger
Light Board Operator ...................................................................... Lauren Hinrichsen
Young Company Coach ................................................................... Jessica Kennedy

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CTM thanks the following individuals and companies for their generous contributions to our production of Charlotte’s Web:
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Associate Artistic Director ................................................................................................. Mike Lawler
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I never read (or listened to) E.B. White’s novel when I was kid. Or, at least, I don’t remember doing so. But as an adult, I read it to my oldest son when he was seven and was immediately struck by the wonderful storytelling. It wasn’t surprising because I was familiar with White and his long career as a writer for The New Yorker. It is, in short, a beautiful book, full of insights into human nature, ruminations on the cycle of life and its inevitable end, and loving descriptions of rural life (with which White was well familiar).

When given the opportunity to direct the play for CTM, my biggest concern was how to put the fullness of White’s book on stage. Giving life to a written work with real people sharing time and space with an audience is always a risky undertaking, but I have been blessed with a talented group of artists on this project – from designers to actors, stage managers, crew, and collaborators such as CTM artistic director Roseann Sheridan – that have given their creative spirits to this story. I know you will feel their presence and appreciate it as I have. Enjoy.

Mike Lawler

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Wilbur ................................................................................................................................. Sean Anthony Jackson
Charlotte ............................................................................................................................. Jessica Lanius
Templeton ........................................................................................................................... Jaclyn June Johnson
Fern ........................................................................................................................................ Jillian Sytsma
Avery ...................................................................................................................................... Elijah Edwards
Mr. Arable ............................................................................................................................. Tosumba Welch
Mrs. Arable .......................................................................................................................... Lachrisa Grandberry
Homer Zuckerman ............................................................................................................... Ian Hathway
Edith Zuckerman ................................................................................................................ Lisa Bozek-Maletic
Lurvy ....................................................................................................................................... AJ Dally-Steele
Sheep ...................................................................................................................................... Denzel Taylor
Lamb ........................................................................................................................................ Teagan Kluetzman
Goose ....................................................................................................................................... Paige Bourne
Gander ...................................................................................................................................... Casem AbuLughod
Piglet Wilbur ......................................................................................................................... Zélie Klingele
Goslings ................................................................................................................................. Tessa Ginsberg, Zélie Klingele, Meena Riesen
Piglets ....................................................................................................................................... Tessa Ginsberg, Teagan Kluetzman, Nate Lanius Kose, Meena Riesen
Spiderlings ............................................................................................................................. Tessa Ginsberg, Zélie Klingele, Meena Riesen
Uncle ......................................................................................................................................... Denzel Taylor
Ensemble ................................................................................................................................. Casem AbuLughod, Paige Bourne, Lisa Bozek-Maletic Jessica Kennedy, Denzel Taylor, Tessa Ginsberg, Zélie Klingele, Teagan Kluetzman, Nate Lanius Kose, Meena Riesen
Fern Understudy ...................................................................................................................... Ava Gardner

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ADULT COMPANY ACTORS

Casem AbuLughod (Gander, Ensemble) Casem is a Madison based performer who has acted with multiple companies including Strollers, Mercury Players, Whoopensocker, and Are We Delicious? He is excited to return to CTM since last performing in Stuart Little in 2006! Casem earned his Masters in Applied Theatre from the City University of New York. Favorite roles include Friar John in 11 Variations on Friar John’s Failure, Froggy in The Foreigner, and Musa in Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo.

Paige Bourne (Goose, Ensemble) Paige is delighted to make her CTM debut! She was recently seen in Pride and Prejudice at SummerStage of Delafield, As You Like It at Original Practices MKE, Room Service at Sunset Playhouse, and That Darn Plot at Racine Theatre Guild. Other favorite credits include The 39 Steps, Taming of the Shrew, Black Comedy, A Little Princess, and Blithe Spirit at theaters throughout Grand Rapids, MI, where she earned her degree in Theatre from Cornerstone University. Many thanks to her supportive family and this talented cast and crew!

Lisa Bozek Maletic (Edith Zuckerman, Ensemble) Lisa is thrilled to make her CTM debut! She was previously seen on the Playhouse stage in Madison Opera’s production of Threepenny Opera, as well as Madison Repertory Theatre’s productions of Bus Stop and Death of a Salesman. Internationally, Lisa performed in the Canadian premier of the one-woman show West Edmonton Mall. Locally, she has worked with several of Madison’s finest theater companies. Lisa is an accomplished voice talent, as well as film and commercial actor. Much love and gratitude to Garth and Sadie for their endless support.

Lachrisa Grandberry (Mrs. Arable) Lachrisa was last seen as Gloria in Madagascar at CTM. She’s a Milwaukee native and her credits include: LINES (Theatre LILA), Exit Strategy (Forward Theatre), Dairy Heirs (Northern Sky Theatre), Annie (Skylight Music Theatre), Junie B. Jones and Welcome to Bronzevalle (First Stage), Black Nativity (Black Arts MKE), and Hairspray (CUW). Lachrisa is an alumna of Wisconsin Lutheran College. She gives thanks to God, her family, friends, and Paonessa Talent Agency for their continued love and support.

Ian Hathway (Homer Zuckerman) Ian is thrilled to be working with CTM this season. Ian is a dance teacher and choreographer, recently returned from living in London. He has appeared in various roles with Madison Shakespeare Company, with Strollers as Leontes in The Winter’s Tale, and Imogen(s) at Broom Street Theater.

Sean Anthony Jackson (Wilbur) Sean is a native of Chicago. Past performances include Gentleman of Japan in Hot Mikado, Azor Puppeteer in Zémire et Azor, Hanna from Hamburg in La Cage aux Folles, Jamie in My Fair Lady, Jim Conley in Parade, Valère in Tartuffe, and Daniel Beauxhomme in Once on this Island. Sean also has a passion for Education Outreach and participated in several seasons of outreach programs in Milwaukee public schools teaching music and rhythm. Sean is passionate about performance but has always sought out ways to participate in the community.

Jaclyn June Johnson (Templeton) Jaclyn is an actor, director, playwright, and teaching artist based in Madison. She currently works at Preschool of the Arts and freelances as an actor and director. She holds a BA in Theatre from Cornell College and credits across the country. She wishes to thank her family and husband for their encouragement and love; and you, the audience, for supporting the arts and specifically, the uniquely healing community of theatre.
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MEET THE CAST CONT.

Jessica Kennedy (Young Company Coach, Ensemble) Jessica is ecstatic to be working with CTM for the first time. She has performed in Madison with Whoopensocker, and has been in shows in Waukesha and Milwaukee counties. Favorite past productions include Eurydice (UW Waukesha), Romeo and Juliet (SummerStage of Delafield), and Father of the Bride (Waukesha Civic Theatre). She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her.

Jessica Lanius (Charlotte) Jessica is thrilled to be performing with CTM and creating the beloved character of Charlotte. As an actor she has performed in many plays as a human, but this is her first spider. Favorite roles include Catherine in Forward Theater’s In The Next Room, Miss Julie in Theatre LILA’s Julie, Clytemnestra in Andy Arden’s Wrecked and Jill in the Drove Theater’s The Big Funk.

Jessica is the Artistic Director of Theatre LILA where she also directs and performs. Special thanks to Mike for trusting her with Charlotte! This one’s for you, Nate!

Denzel Taylor (Sheep, Uncle, Ensemble) Denzel is a theater practitioner and photographer. He credits his spoken word experiences in Milwaukee for motivating his acting, and has explored his artistic expression through the First Wave program at the UW-Madison, his alma mater. Denzel performed in four UW productions, notably Ball and Chain, and as Stage Manager in Our Town. He recently worked with Madison Shakespeare Company in The Taming of the Shrew and Sloshed Shakespeare. Striving for clarity, intention, and shared experiences every day, Denzel is thrilled to impact all audiences.

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MEET THE CAST CONT.

**Tosumba Welch** (Mr. Arable) A native of Chicago, Tosumba has lived in Madison for twenty years. His first ever performance was in 2017 as Aron the Moor in The Bartell Theatre's *Titus Andronicus*. He won the Bartie Award that year for Best Actor for his character role Simon, in Madison Theatre Guild's *The Whipping Man*.

**Young Company Actors**

**A.J. Dally-Steele** (Lurvy) A.J., a sophomore at Madison West High School, is ecstatic to be in his first CTM mainstage show. He has participated in CTM’s Summer Stage productions, including *Bye Bye Birdie, Singin’ in the Rain*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

**Elijah Edwards** (Avery) Elijah lives in Madison and is an eighth grader at Spring Harbor Middle School. He is excited to be joining the cast of *Charlotte’s Web*. Some of his recent work includes *Flat Stanley* with Sun Prairie Civic Theatre, *Hairspray* with House Theatre Co., *1776* with Four Seasons and CTM’s production of *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Elijah enjoys running cross county, playing the trombone, and producing music.

**Ava Gardner** (Fern Understudy) Ava loves seeing CTM shows and is thrilled to make her debut! She is in sixth grade at Rome Corners Intermediate and has been acting since she was four. Ava has been in chorus roles with VACT, Oregon Straw Hat Players and St. Bernard Players. She would like to thank her mom and dad for all their support and driving her to all her rehearsals!

**Tessa Ginsberg** (Gosling, Piglet, Nellie, Ensemble) Tessa is 10 years old and happy to be in her fifth CTM mainstage production. Other CTM roles include...
Skipper in *Madagascar* and Jitterbug in *Wizard of Oz*. She was also a Hot Box Chick in VACT’s *Guys and Dolls*. In her spare time, Tessa loves interior design and plays saxophone. Big thanks to Abby Nichols for voice help, Erica Berman for her encouragement, and Mom and Dad.

**Zélie Klingele** (Gosling, Piglet Wilbur, Joy, Ensemble) Zélie has been attending CTM shows since she was a baby, and is honored and delighted to be back onstage after making her CTM debut in *A Christmas Carol* (Tiny Tim) last year. When not acting, Zélie enjoys devouring books and playing make-believe with her little brothers and sister. She thanks Roseann for the opportunity to share in the magic of *Charlotte’s Web*, and her big sisters and parents for their support.

**Teagan Kluetzman** (Lamb, Piglet, Ensemble) Teagan is thrilled to be back with CTM for his sixth mainstage show. Other favorite CTM performances include *Madagascar*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, and *A Christmas Carol*. He was recently seen in VACT’s *Willy Wonka* (Charlie Bucket) and will be in the upcoming production of *Elf* (Michael Hobbs) at the Fireside. Teagan, a bilingual sixth grader at Sherman Middle School, enjoys reading, creative writing, gymnastics, singing, and tennis. Teagan hopes you will enjoy the story of *Charlotte’s Web* as much as he does!

**Meena Riesen** (Gosling, Piglet, Aranea) Meena, a fifth grader at Shorewood Elementary, was born and raised in the heart of Tokyo until she moved to Madison in 2017. She is passionate about the performing arts, and has trained in classic ballet and modern dance, hip hop and jazz, as well as singing and acting. She is thrilled to be a part of CTM’s stage, and hopes to share her passion and joy with you. Many thanks to her family for their support!

**Jillian Sytsma** (Fern) Jillian is a ninth grader at James Madison Memorial High School, and is overjoyed to be included in this fantastic cast! This is her fourth mainstage show with CTM. Some past roles include Young Sour Kangaroo (*Seussical*), Belinda Cratchit (*A Christmas Carol*), and Aunt Rita/Spiderette (*Diary of a Worm, a Spider, and a Fly*). She would like to thank her family for all their love and encouragement, and CTM for all the wonderful opportunities.

**Nate Lanius Kose** (Piglet, Ensemble) Nate is proud to make his theatrical debut at CTM! He has enjoyed performing in CTM’s Summer Stage and in his school performances. He has appeared on the Capital Stage as a Move Out Loud Hip Hop performer and his original work *Dog Potion* was performed by Whoopensocker in 2018. Nate is a creative soul, and enjoys playing the guitar, drawing, building and dancing.

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Mike Lawler (Director, CTM Associate Artistic Director) Mike is a writer and theater artist originally from Long Beach, California. He studied theater and anthropology at Western Oregon University. In 2007 Allworth Press/Skyhorse Publishing released his guidebook for students and working professionals, Careers in Technical Theater. He has also written extensively on the arts for American Theatre, Dramatics, Stage Directions, and was recently invited to be a staff writer for TYA Today, a publication of TYA/USA, the membership organization that serves and represents the national field of the theatre for young audiences. Mike has been the head of production for CTM since 2007, and Associate Artistic Director since 2016. He has designed scenery for Madison theatre for several years, including multiple shows for CTM, Forward Theater, and Theatre LILA. He also has recently designed for University Theatre and Capital City Theatre. As a playwright, Mike has written two verbatim works under the guise of Wisconsin Story Project — Cancer Stories (2010) and Uncivil Disobedience (2012), and his short play [redacted] was featured in Forward Theater’s Out of the Fire: The Banned Books Monologues, and is still performed as part of the company’s Library Monologue Series. He is making his CTM directorial debut this season with Charlotte’s Web.

Natalie George (Lighting Designer) is an award-winning designer, producer and artist based in Austin, TX. She is the Founder/ED of Natalie George Productions (NGP), a full service event and production company. In its third year of business, NGP was awarded “Best of 2017” Critics’ Pick by The Austin Chronicle. From 2009 to 2014, Natalie served as Producing Director of
Fusebox Festival, and helped the festival grow into a worldwide phenomenon. As a freelance Lighting Designer, Natalie worked steadily for The O’Neill Theater Center, Rude Mechanicals, Salvage Vanguard Theater, and Zilker Theater Productions.

Anders Goodwin (Stage Manager) Anders is thrilled to return for a second season! He loved his time with The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane and is happy to be part of the team again. A Milwaukee native, his work can be seen in local and regional theatres across the Midwest and beyond. Recent credits include Damn Yankees and How to Succeed (Park Playhouse), Steel Magnolias (Theatre at the Center), Cyrano de Bergerac and A View from the Bridge (American Players Theatre). Thanks to you, the audience, for joining us on this journey.

Monica Kilkus (Costume Designer) Monica has enjoyed working with CTM for almost 10 years now. She has designed the costumes for A Christmas Carol, A Wonderful Life, The American Girls Revue, Bunnicula, Lord of the Flies, Too Many Frogs, Aladdin and To Kill a Mockingbird. A graduate of the University of Minnesota and California School of the Arts, she has also designed for Forward Theater, Theatre LILA and Four Seasons Theatre.

Keith Pitts (Scene Designer) Keith is pleased to return to CTM. He has been designing professionally in the Midwest since 2001. He last designed CTM’s A Year with Frog and Toad (2017). Keith was the head of Design at Lawrence University, acting as assistant professor in theatre arts for six years. This fall, he’ll leave his professorial career to again become a student, pursuing his MFA in Art and

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Design at UW-Milwaukee’s Peck School of the Arts. Keith is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 and a proud alumni of the MFA in stage design program at Northwestern University.

David Kelepha Samba (Sound Designer)
Samba is a Chicago-based sound designer and head of sound at the Black Ensemble Theatre in Chicago. He has worked as sound designer on Hail Hail Chuck Berry, A New Attitude, In Tribute to Patti Labelle, and Rick Stone: Blues Man. He has worked extensively with Chicago Children’s Theatre on shows such as Jabari Dreams of Freedom, 100 Dresses, The Year I Didn’t Go to School, A Year with Frog & Toad, My Wonderful Birthday Suit and Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party. He designed CTM’s production of Tuck Everlasting and is overjoyed to be returning!

Roseann Sheridan (CTM Artistic Director)
This is Roseann’s twelfth season with CTM, following a 17-year career at American Players Theatre, where she was Producer and Associate Artistic Director. She has directed for regional and university theatres, including UW-Madison, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Next Act Theatre (Milwaukee), Penobscot Theatre (Maine), UW-Whitewater, Edgewood College and UW-Oshkosh. She has also taught at UW-Madison, Edgewood College, Lincoln University, and UW-Fond du Lac. In 2017, Roseann was a participant at The La Mama International Directors Symposium in Spoleto, Italy. Roseann holds an MFA in Directing from Virginia Commonwealth University. Sincere thanks to CTM staff, board, and many families for their commitment and dedication to this company.
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**Overture Center for the Arts Welcomes New President and CEO**

By Kim MacCormack

Like a swell of vibrant music, anticipation is growing in Madison for Sandra Gajic, the first woman named to lead Overture Center for the Arts.

Under Gajic's creative leadership, Overture will foster innovation, engage our community and continue to grow into a cultural and educational arthouse.

Gajic, 64, a Canadian national born in Yugoslavia, brings more than 20 years of performing arts management experience to her role as president and CEO of Overture. That includes senior roles at the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto, Arts Common Centre for the Performing Arts in Calgary, the Edmonton Opera and most recently Vancouver Civic Theatres.

While at Vancouver Civic Theatres, she was responsible for a successful business and organizational turnaround of four city-owned theaters which served close to 1 million people in 2017.

Building community support has been at the heart of her prosperous and rewarding career. “I do believe the role of the performing arts center has to be outside its walls,” she told the Wisconsin State Journal in an article announcing her Overture appointment.

Integral to that community engagement is diversity, inclusion and the attraction of new audiences, especially millennials. Gajic told The Cap Times, that includes choosing programming that appeals to millennials, what reflects their wants and needs, such as show start times and digital media.

She also plans to become an active contributor, leader and volunteer in Madison. In the past she has taught music to inner-city children and English to refugees and students. She speaks six languages.

Gajic's interests are varied including travel, painting, scuba diving and cross-country skiing, which Wisconsin's winter weather will willingly accommodate.

But ultimately, her passion is the performing arts and Overture patrons will see her at many performances.

“That’s what I find the purpose of what I do, to really be there when stages are alive, wherever the stages are — the lobby, found spaces, in a warehouse,” she told The Cap Times. “That’s what I love.”
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Madison Theatre Guild
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CHARLOTTE'S WEB
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Wilbur, the piglet, gains an unlikely friend in Charlotte, the crafty spider, whose dedication and loyalty changes his life forever.

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BORN YESTERDAY
Madison Theatre Guild
When Billie, Harry's showgirl mistress, becomes a liability to his business dealings, he hires a journalist to educate her.

October 5 – 20
Bartell Theatre
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Set in 1595, this hilarious smash tells the story of Nick and Nigel Bottom, two brothers who are desperate to write a hit play.

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Overture Center for the Arts
When money entrusted to his dad goes missing, Harold suspects workers in a traveling carnival are con artists.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE: LIFE ON THE VERTICAL WITH MARK SYNNOTT
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Mark Synnott breaks scientific ground, reaching incredibly inaccessible environments in search of rare species.

ELVIS MY WAY
Edgerton Performing Arts Center
The electrifying Brandon Bennett does the impossible, delivering a spine-tingling Elvis tribute that is fresh, powerful, and right on time.

October 9 – 14
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October 13
Capitol Theater
(608) 258-4141

October 20
Edgerton PAC
(608) 561-6093

October 23
Capitol Theater
(608) 258-4141
THE BEST MAN
Madison Theatre Guild
Timely and thought-provoking political thriller about ambition, scandal, ruthlessness and corruption.

November 2 – 17
Bartell Theatre
(608) 661-9696

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY
Overture Center for the Arts
Using huge projection photos and original film footage, featuring a full live band performing all the hits including “Mrs. Robinson,” and many more.

November 3
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(608) 258-4141

E. FAYE BUTLER: SONGBOOK OF JAZZ
Overture Center for the Arts
You will experience an electrifying night of storytelling and live music as E. Faye Butler performs songs by the artists who defined our culture.

October 25
Capitol Theater
(608) 258-4141

FUN HOME
Forward Theater Company
Zig-zag across Alison’s past and present as she tries to make sense of her parents’ lives, her own sexuality, and the journey of her adult world.

November 1 – 25
The Playhouse at Overture Center
(608) 258-4141

THE BEST MAN
By Gore Vidal
Directed by David Pauwels

Theater Madison

November 2 – 17
Bartell Theatre
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Overture Center for the Arts
The Kratt Brothers confront a comic villain and help bring the creatures of the animal world to safety once again!

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR—SONGS OF THE FREE
Overture Center for the Arts
With joyful South African harmonies, this powerful show offers hope to everyone.

THE RODNEY MARSALIS PHILADELPHIA BIG GRASS
Edgerton Performing Arts Center
An ensemble that brings precision, excitement and charisma to the stage.

SCHOOL OF ROCK
Overture Center for the Arts
Follow Dewey Finn, a wannabe rock star posing as a substitute teacher, who turns a class of straight-A students into a guitar-shredding rock band.

MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS
Overture Center for the Arts
You’ll be infused with the spirit of the season through the dazzling multimedia effects and the signature sound of these unique performers.

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“Ha, ha, ha” becomes “ho, ho, ho” when Chicago’s legendary comedy theater slays the season.
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