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Making the Arts Accessible for All

By Stephanie Harte

Sensory-friendly performances and the GalaPro app are two innovative ways venues are trying to improve the theater-going experience for audiences.

Autism-Friendly Theater

For parents with children on the autism spectrum, asking their family to sit quietly in the dark for the course of a two-hour production may seem out of the question. But children’s theaters around the country, including First Stage and Children’s Theater of Madison, are trying to change that.

“One of the best comments I’ve ever heard from a parent was that, ‘this experience redefined what we thought we could do as a family,’” shares Erica Berman, director of education for Children’s Theater of Madison. Both First Stage and Children’s Theater of Madison offer two to three sensory-friendly performances each season. During these performances, certain sensory elements are adjusted to be less intense for people who are sensitive to light and sound. For instance, the house lights will be kept on at all times during the production for guests to safely move around the auditorium.

Giana Blazquez, director of First Stage’s Next Steps and K-4 Program, explains that the performers are notified that audience members might be making noise and moving around during the sensory-friendly shows. Actors greet families in the lobby before the performance, while introducing themselves and the names of their characters to the children.

“We want to make it very clear to the children that we are just acting and it’s not going to be a scary thing,” Blazquez says. “We try to make sure the experience has as few surprises as possible for the students, so they can stay as regulated as they can.”

Before attending a sensory-friendly performance, parents are encouraged to download a detailed social story available on First Stage and Children’s Theater of Madison’s websites.

These packets lay out the full experience of what attending the production will be like, from where their family will park to what hallways the children will walk down to get to the auditorium. The social stories also include a synopsis of the show, with moments that may seem surprising or loud underlined.

Despite these precautions, Children’s Theater of Madison and First Stage understand that children on the autism spectrum may still feel overwhelmed during a production. That’s why quiet areas equipped with coloring books, beanbag chairs, and other toys to help the students regulate are ready at any moment.

“Even if a student only makes it through 15 minutes of a performance, the fact that they made it to the theater is still a success,” says Megwyn Sanders-Andrews, Children’s Theater of Madison’s access for all coordinator. “The art is still art. Our goal is to make sure all families can come in and enjoy our offerings.”

Upcoming Sensory Friendly Performances:

**Children’s Theater of Madison**

*How I Became a Pirate* Feb. 17 at 11 a.m. and *Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka* May 5 at 11 a.m. at The Playhouse at Overture Center.

To reserve your seats for either performance visit ctmtheater.org.

**First Stage**

*Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* March 23 at 3:30 p.m. and *Tinker Bell* May 4 at 3:30 p.m. at the Marcus Center’s Todd Wehr Theater. Contact the First Stage Box Office to reserve your space at (414) 267-2961 or email ticketmanager@firststage.org.
While you may initially feel like you are breaking a cardinal sin in the theater world, several touring Broadway productions are giving patrons a hall pass to break out their phones during a performance.

Last November, when the national tour of *School of Rock the Musical* made its way to the Overture Center in Madison, the venue tested GalaPro for the first time, with impressive results.

GalaPro, short for GalaPrompter, is an app that allows Deaf, blind/low-vision and non-English-speaking audience members a way to conveniently follow a live performance. The app offers individual multilingual subtitles, closed captioning, and audio descriptions at the click of a button.

To activate the app, users simply switch their devices to airplane mode and connect to the free GalaPro Network. This ensures patrons do not receive notifications during the production that may distract other audience members. Users have the freedom to adjust font size and brightness on the closed captioning to fit their preferences.

“This new technology is really exciting to think about down the road,” says Jacquie Goetz, Overture Center’s VP of Operations. “Eventually if everyone jumps on board we will be able to, as a theater community, offer a wonderful library of scripts and shows through the app.”
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presents
LIFE SUCKS.
by Aaron Posner
Directed by Jennifer Uphoff Gray

Scenic Designer
Mike Lawler

Lighting Designer
Noele Stollmack**

Costume Designer
Ren LaDassor

Composer & Sound Designer
Joe Cerqua**

Props Designer
Pamela Miles

Stage Manager
Sarah Deming-Henes*

Life Sucks. is generously sponsored by:

This play was supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts, and The Evjue Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of The Capital Times.

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LIFE SUCKS. is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York. First produced by Theater J at the Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater in Washington, D.C.
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Forward Theater would like to thank the former Board and Advisory Company members that contributed to our success:

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Erin Wenzel
I've been looking forward to directing *Life Sucks*. since I first read it more than two years ago.

On the very first page, seven characters enter and begin talking to the audience about their woeful lives. I used the word “talking,” but really should have utilized a much more varied and vibrant vocabulary to describe their kvetching, moping, despairing, taunting, teasing, pontificating, and longing. How very Chekhovian!

Seven lonely people, all family of a sort – either by blood, by marriage, or by choice. Gathered (as in the original *Uncle Vanya*) in the country for a long weekend of enforced togetherness. Unmoored from their daily responsibilities, they find themselves consumed by thoughts of sex, aging bodies, academic pomposity, and the erosion of the environment.

But also music. And art.

And puppets.

I’d been longing for a comedy. One with heart and soul, one with something to say. How happy I was to find this one. And with this cast of some of my – and your – favorite actors, I hope you’ll be just as happy as you walk out of the theater as I am while you walk in.

*****

On another note – another very happy one! – we are so thrilled to share with you our exciting plans for next season. It’s going to be a year of unexpected delights, with four beautiful plays that each will uplift your spirits, even as they challenge you to find hope in the darkest of places. I hope you will choose to continue your journey with us by subscribing so that you don’t risk missing any one of these extraordinary stories.

*****

As we bring this 10th anniversary season to a close, I want to once more extend to each of you my deepest gratitude for your investment in Forward Theater. We feel so very lucky to be able to create art that is of, by, and for this wonderful community. Thank you!
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for peter pan on her 70th birthday
BY SARAH RUHL
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THANK YOU AUDIENCE!

Forward Theater Company is about to complete its 10th Season and finish celebrating its 10th Anniversary — all because of YOU. This year, subscribers renewed at a rate approaching 90% — a level almost unheard of among our peers. Single ticket sales have always been reliably brisk. And our audience members have increased their donations significantly year over year, helping your theater expand its season to four mainstage productions.

In Forward Theater’s nine previous seasons, your support has allowed your theater to hire 825 artists, almost all of whom are Wisconsin residents, and to pay them a living wage. Your support has allowed your theater to establish partnerships with 32 local non-profits and to provide 45 free performances at Dane County libraries as part of its community outreach efforts. And the ART! Your support has allowed your theater to produce two mainstage world premieres, eight mainstage regional premieres, 20 mainstage Wisconsin premieres, 11 readings of full-length new plays by Wisconsin authors, and 49 original monologues.

So, what’s next?

Because of you, the AUDIENCE, your theater has added a fourth mainstage production to the lineup for its 10th Season: Skeleton Crew, Fun Home, Heisenberg, and Life Sucks. Because of you, your theater now has one extra opportunity each year to pay its actors, technicians and other theater professionals a living wage. Because of you, your theater now has one extra opportunity each year to reach out with our non-profit partners to the community on important issues. Because of you, your theater now has one extra opportunity each year to express its art, to engage its audience, and for all of us to experience together something more about the human condition.

How can your theater ever thank you enough?

FROM THE ADVISORY COMPANY… JIM BUSKE

Welcome to the final production of our TENTH SEASON! This has been a sensational year for Forward Theater (FTC) and, hopefully, for everyone in our audiences. Besides the ten-year milestone, we expanded our season to four full productions and produced our very first musical.

I think it’s appropriate, as we pass the decade mark, to take a few moments to thank the people who have helped make FTC a success. As most of you already know, FTC started with a group of ten theater professionals sitting around a table planning and dreaming about starting a theater. One of the first things we realized is that we were going to need a whole lot of help. And so, thanks to:

• All of the wonderful folks who have served on the FTC Board of Directors. Their hard work and tireless support of FTC’s artistic vision has been amazing. With their strong direction and guidance, FTC has been “in the black” financially every year.
• All of the folks who make up the FTC staff. They are hardworking, selfless and willing to work many hours to make FTC run smoothly.
• All of the theatrical artists who have worked with FTC. Hundreds of gifted theater professionals have worked with us over the past decade. They have all left their mark, in some way, on FTC.
• All of the donors, sponsors, volunteers and audience members who have given their support and enthusiasm to help make FTC a spectacular dream come true for those ten people who first sat around the table many years ago.

Have a great time at Life Sucks!! The members of the Advisory Company will see you in the lobby.
**GOING FORWARD – A CONVERSATION**

We invite you to consider the topics below and discuss them with your fellow audience members. We also hope you will join the cast at a talkback after each performance, as audience and artists meet to discuss these and any other issues brought to light by today’s show. And please keep the conversation going – on the drive home, at work, with friends, or by sharing your thoughts with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter (@forwardtheater).

Let’s start the conversation:

• In *Life Sucks.*, we learn three things that each of the characters love, and three things they hate. What would be the things on your two lists? How different would those lists be if you made them when you were significantly younger? Or older?

• There are times in *Life Sucks.* when the characters address the audience directly. How does that make you feel when that happens? How much of an effect do you think that different audiences’ reactions might have on the play?

To learn even more about the play, playwright, and Forward Theater’s production, please join us at our pre-show talks, one hour before every Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon performance, at the Playhouse Rotunda stage. Pre-show talks are free, and open to the public.

**THIS PRODUCTION IS GUN NEUTRAL**

We have been inspired by the leadership of the producers at Level Forward, who created in 2018 the “Gun Neutral” program:

Gun Neutral is a new initiative exploring ways entertainment companies, individual productions and storytellers can help solve the gun violence crisis in our country. Gun neutral is non-partisan and not political. Gun Neutral supports the storyteller’s need to be truthful and authentic in their artistic work, while establishing a gun neutral designation for individual productions and for companies willing to make a systemic commitment. For every prop gun used in a production, a donation is made to fund two areas of focus: destroying illegal and illicit weapons, and investing in youth programs for the arts in underserved areas where gun violence is most deadly.

In conjunction with this production of “*Life Sucks,*” Forward Theater Company has made a donation to the gun violence reduction work of the Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE) www.waveedfund.org.
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**CAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Actor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanya</td>
<td>William Bolz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonia</td>
<td>Elyse Edelman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella</td>
<td>Rána Roman*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babs</td>
<td>Sarah Day*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Professor</td>
<td>Brian Mani*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Aster</td>
<td>Reese Madigan*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickles</td>
<td>Marcella Kearns*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The play will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.

A prop gun will be fired during the performance.

The audience is asked to silence cell phones and refrain from using electronic devices in any way during the performance.

*Performers appear courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.*
**ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**William Bolz** (Vanya) is a member of Forward Theater’s Advisory Company. He’s appeared on stage for Forward in *The Other Place* and *The Farnsworth Invention*. He has acted for many area theater companies, including APT, Door Shakespeare, CTM and Madison Rep. His most recent role was King Lear in an original musical adaptation of Shakespeare’s play. He can also be seen in the locally produced web-series *Staydream*.

**Sarah Day** (Babs) is grateful, once again, to be playing with her friends at Forward Theater. Favorite roles at FTC include; Pam in *Exit Strategy*, Sonia in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and Luella in *Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them*. Most recently she had the extreme privilege of playing Madame Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music* with Madison Opera, and the great joy of playing Florence Foster Jenkins in *Souvenir* with Four Seasons Theatre. She is a member of the Core Company of American Players Theatre and the Advisory Company of Forward Theater. Many thanks to Jen and Aaron - you have enriched my life with so many opportunities, ever so much laughter, and seemingly endless support.

**Elyse Edelman** (Sonia) is thrilled to return to Forward Theater where she was previously in *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play* in the 2015/2016 Season. Wisconsin theater credits include multiple productions with First Stage, Door Shakespeare, Renaissance Theaterworks, American Players Theatre, In Tandem Theatre, Ruach Inc., and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Other regional theatre credits include The Guthrie, Park Square Theatre, People’s Centre Theatre (Minneapolis/St. Paul), Utah Shakespeare Festival (Cedar City), Chicago Children’s Theatre, The Accidents (Chicago), and Riverside Theatre in the Park (Iowa City). She is a proud graduate of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor’s Training Program and the inaugural class of First Stage’s Young Company. Website: [www.elyseedelman.com](http://www.elyseedelman.com).

**Reese Madigan** (Dr. Aster) is honored to be making his Forward debut. Most recently he appeared at APT as Paul Verrall in *Born Yesterday* and as Pluck the Butcher In *The Recruiting Officer*. Reese is proud to be an Associate Artist with Milwaukee Rep where he first appeared as Brick in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and most recently appeared as Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. Subsequent favorites include *Death of a Salesman*, *King Lear*, *Venus in Fur* and *Lombardi*. He is also proud to have appeared twice at both Next Act and Renaissance Theaterworks He has worked on and off Broadway in NYC and at such regional theatres as Door Shakespeare, Arena Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse, Baltimore Centerstage, The Shakespeare Theatre, and Bay Street Theatre among many others. On TV he’s appeared on *The Blacklist*, *House of Cards*, *Sherlock*. He’s the author of PIGGSVILLE, a play set in that eponymous Milwaukee neighborhood. Thank you Julie and Jen.

**Brian Mani** (The Professor) is glad to be back. He performed with Forward Theater a year ago in *Marjorie Prime*. Brian just appeared in the
Milwaukee Rep’s production of *Junk*. He resides in Milwaukee and has performed with many of the companies there and in Wisconsin over the last 30 years. His artistic home is in Spring Green where he has been a Core Company member at American Players Theatre for 19 years. Recent productions at APT include *Our Country’s Good*, *The Recruiting Officer*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Unexpected Man*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Endgame*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *American Buffalo*, to name a few. He will forego APT this summer and will be traveling to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in *Boswell*, a play written by his wife, Marie Kohler. Thank you for supporting the Arts!

**Marcella Kearns** (Pickles) is thrilled to return to Forward after *44 Plays for 44 Presidents*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, last year’s reading of *Natural Shocks*, and the inaugural Monologue Festival. Selected Midwest credits include Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, First Stage, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, In Tandem Theatre, and Metropolis; outside the region, she has been seen at Chamber Repertory Theatre, Texas Repertory Theatre, Theatre South Carolina, and the late Studio Arena Theatre. An actor, director, and teaching artist based in Milwaukee, she serves as an adjunct instructor at Carthage College and First Stage and as MCT’s Associate Artistic Director. She holds an MFA (University of South Carolina) and is a former Fulbright Fellow (Austria). Deepest thanks to Matt and Elyse for strings and strumming, and to the Forward family! This one’s for chosen families, especially Aunt Adele.

**Rána Roman** (Ella) is a Milwaukee native and proud graduate of Milwaukee H.S. of the Arts. She feels that it indeed does not suck to be returning to Forward Theater. Rána was previously seen in *Exit Strategy* (Jania) and *Mr. Burns* (Quincy/Bart), and is proud to be a new member of the Forward Advisory Company. Other recent credits include *In the Heights* (Ensemble), *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Cratchit) and *Our Town* (Mrs. Webb) at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre; *Hot Mikado* (Yum-Yum) and *In the Heights* (Nina) at Skylight Music Theatre; *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Cassandra) at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre; and *Agnes of God* (Agnes) at Renaissance Theaterworks. Coming up next, Rána will take on the role of Lilli Vanessi/Kate in *Kiss Me Kate* at Skylight Music Theatre. Many thanks to my family, both blood and chosen, who continue to shape the woman I am and the woman I have yet to become.

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Joe Cerqua (Composer/Sound Designer) is a freelance composer, producer, vocalist and sound designer. He is thrilled to be working with Forward Theater again where he has previously composed and designed sound for Skeleton Crew, Marjorie Prime, Learning to Stay, Outside Mullingar, 4000 Miles, Mr. Burns, The Flick, Silent Sky, Vanya and Sonya..., The Other Place, From Up Here, Or, Red, Sons of the Prophet, Good People, 44 Plays for 44 Presidents, Love Stories, In the Next Room..., Going to St. Ives, Why Torture is Wrong..., and The Farnsworth Invention. He has composed music and/or designed sound for over 250 productions in Chicago, nationally, and internationally. Recent projects include original music and sound design for Edward Tulane at First Stage; Rhinoceros at the Asolo, Alabama Story, Outside Mullingar at the Clarence Brown Theater; The City of Conversation at Northlight; Dear Elizabeth at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre; One House Over, The Foreigner, The Glass Menagerie Good People and Of Mice and Men at Milwaukee Rep; Tom Jones at Actors Theatre of Louisville; Born Yesterday, The Unexpected Man, Seascape, Private Lives, The Ideal Husband and The African Company Presents Richard the III at American Players Theatre; American Buffalo at Def West in LA; Rainmaker at American Blues; Wedding Band, The School of Lies, and The Time of Our Lives at the Artistic Home; and El Nogalar at the Goodman Theatre. Joe is the Producing Director/Composer in residence for the Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, a critically acclaimed 13-piece jazz orchestra and 10-member dance company. He is the Creative Director and Producer for the Music Department at Columbia College Chicago. Future projects include concerts with Cerqua Rivera, and original music and sound design for Life Sucks at Forward; She Stoops to Conquer at American Players Theater; Rhinoceros at the American Conservatory Theater; Things I Know to Be True at Milwaukee Rep and Arizona Theater Company.

Sarah Deming-Henes (Stage Manager) After nine seasons of being an enthusiastic fan of Forward Theater Co.’s work, Sarah is simply delighted to join in all the fun - which started with stage managing Skeleton Crew, Fun Home and Heisenberg earlier this season! Since 2001 she has proudly worked 14 seasons at American Players Theatre, where her very first professional (AEA) stage management contract was Thornton Wilder’s The Matchmaker - starring Sarah Day and Brian Mani. When not at APT, she has enjoyed working at many Milwaukee theater companies, including First Stage, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and, most recently and most often, The Milwaukee Repertory Theater - where she has SMed at least one production a season since 2011. Many thanks to her family and friends for unfailing kindesses!

Ren LaDassor (Costume Designer) is proud and honored to be back with Forward Theater this year. Ren is an Arkansas native and a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She worked in New York City for seven years, on and off Broadway, before moving to Wisconsin and is proud to now call Madison home. Forward Theater: Learning to Stay, Mr. Burns. A Post-Electric Play. Off-Broadway Credits: Love, Loss, And What I Wore (Daryl Roth Productions); Post No Bills (Rattlestick Theatre). Regional & NY Credits: Glass Menagerie (American Players Theatre); Camp Wanatachi (La Mama); My Name is Asher Lev (Roundhouse Theatre/Delaware Theatre Company); Kaboom (NYFringe); Adventures of Ezra Jack Keats (Weston Playhouse). Film: Cruzando (Those Guys That Girl Film Production).

Mike Lawler (Scenic Designer) is originally from Long Beach, California. He studied theater and anthropology at Western Oregon University, and is currently the Director of Development & External Relations for VSA Wisconsin. 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, TYA Today*, and many others. Mike was formerly the Associate Artistic Director for Children's Theater of Madison, and from 2013 to 2015 he was co-artistic director of Theatre LILA. He is also a co-founder of Wisconsin Story Project, the home of documentary theater works *Cancer Stories* (2010) and *Uncivil Disobedience* (2012). Recent scene design credits include *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, and *How I Became a Pirate* for CTM; *The BED* for Theatre LILA; *Learning To Stay* for Forward Theater Company; *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui* for University Theatre at UW-Madison.

**Pamela Miles** (Props Designer) is delighted to return to Forward for her fifth season. She is so proud to be a part of this generous and courageous company. Pam lives in Spring Green, WI where she has worked at American Players Theatre for ten summer seasons as the Associate Scenic Charge Artist, as well as completed three fall shows as the Scenic Charge Artist. Other companies she has painted for include: Arizona Broadway Theatre, Children's Theatre of Madison, Madison Ballet (*Dracula*) and the Summit Credit Union Inspiration Branch project. She has performed the role of Properties Designer for the Black Theatre Troupe in Phoenix, AZ and American Players Theatre for *Mary's Wedding*.

**Enya Nett** (Assistant Stage Manager) This is Enya Nett's second production with Forward Theater. Most of her theater background comes from her time at Ripon College where she earned a BA degree in English and Theater, and minored in Art. While completing her degree, she performed a large variety of roles for many shows ranging from Director and Stage Manager, to Designer, Board Operator and many others. Outside of work, Enya spends a lot of time with her family, which includes two very playful little cats. She has many hobbies such as writing and creating art, and hopes to one day have the opportunity to use these skills to help create a movie.

**Aaron Posner** (Playwright) is a Helen Hayes and Barrymore Award-winning director and playwright. He is a founder and former Artistic Director of Philadelphia's Arden Theatre, is an Associate Artist at both the Folger Theatre and Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and has directed at major regional theatres from coast to coast including the Folger, Seattle Rep, Portland Center Stage, The Alliance, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Arizona Theatre Company, Milwaukee Rep, California Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Roundhouse Theatre, Studio Theatre, Signature Theatre, Theatre J, American Players Theatre and many more. His adaptations include Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* and *My Name is Asher Lev* (both of which has enjoyed successful runs at more than 50 other theatres across the country), Ken Kesey's *Sometimes a Great Notion*, Mark Twain's *A Murder, a Mystery, and a Marriage*, an adaptation of three Kurt Vonnegut short stories, entitled *Who Am I This Time? (and Other Conundrums of Love)* and *Stupid Fucking Bird*, a variation on Chekhov's *Seagull*. Aaron was raised in Eugene, Oregon, graduated from Northwestern University, is an Eisenhower Fellow, and lives near Washington, DC.

**Noele Stollmack** (Lighting Designer) Noele is happy to be returning to Forward Theater for another season. Her lighting has appeared onstage at The Brooklyn Academy of Music, Sydney Opera House and the Library of Congress Theatre, as well as the opera companies of Ontario, Costa Mesa, Portland, Vancouver, New Orleans, Nashville, and Milwaukee's Florentine
Opera. Regional design for the theatre includes the Milwaukee Rep, Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Skylight Music Theatre, American Players Theatre and Jeff Daniel’s Purple Rose Theater. Lighting and Scenic Realization includes Meredith Monk’s international tours of *mercy & impermanence*. As Lighting Director for the Houston Grand Opera, she supervised lighting for over 50 operas and designed such productions as Andrei Serban’s *Elektra*, Dr. Jonathan Miller’s *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Aida* and the world premieres of *Harvey Milk*, *Desert of Roses* and *Dracula Diary*. Member, United Scenic Artists local 829.

**Jennifer Uphoff Gray** (Director) is the artistic director of Forward Theater Company, where she directed *Fun Home*, *Marjorie Prime*, *I & You*, *Learning to Stay*, *4000 Miles*, *Mr. Burns (a post-electric play)*, *Silent Sky*, *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*, *From Up Here*, *Or, Sons of the Prophet*, *Good People*, *44 Plays for 44 Presidents*, *A Thousand Words*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *Moonlight & Magnolias*, *In the Next Room…*, *Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them* and *All About Eve*. Regionally, she’s directed for Madison Rep and Milwaukee Shakespeare. Also: National Tour of *Copenhagen*, and Associate Director on Broadway of *Copenhagen*, *Cabaret*, *The Blue Room* (starring Nicole Kidman) and *The Life*. Jen grew up in the Madison area and holds a degree in Dramatic Literature & Stage History from Harvard College. This one is for Peter, Jamie, Seeger and Arden. Thanks to them, life definitely does not suck.

**Kevin Zimmer** (Technical Director) has worked with Forward Theater since the 2009-2010 season, first as master carpenter and as Technical Director for the past
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Marc-André Hamelin is one of the major pianists of our time. In his Madison debut he will perform works both before and after intermission in a program that features two of the greatest German composers and two great French impressionists. Always inspired by Mozart, I am delighted to open with his Prague symphony. Then comes Strauss’ Burleske with Marc-André performing a virtuosic and delightful musical fare. After intermission comes another favorite of mine, Ravel’s piano concerto with its sultry cabaret-like slow movement that climaxes with a raucous-but-fun last movement. The concert closes with Debussy’s La Mer, his amazing tone poem that conjures up images of the sea both raging and calm, placing ultimate demands on the orchestra and providing an aural thrill for the audience. - John DeMain

APRIL

FRI, APR. 12 | 7:30 PM
SAT, APR. 13 | 8:00 PM
SUN, APR. 14 | 2:30 PM

John DeMain. Conductor
Marc-André Hamelin. Piano
Mozart: Symphony No. 28, Prague
Strauss: Burleske, Marc-André Hamelin, Piano
Ravel: Piano Concerto in G, Marc-André Hamelin, Piano
Debussy: La Mer

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David & Luanne Storley  
Elaine B. Strassburg  
Margaret Sullivan  
Myron & Margaret Talcott  
Danielle Thai  
Ellen Thom  
Bonnie Trudell  
Jill Underly  
Andree Valley  
Betty Volquardsen  
Kate Walker  
Lorette Wambach  
Joseph Warnemuende  
Karen Weatherwax  
Amy Welk  
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Tripp & Nancy Widder  
Julie Wilhelm  
Paul Wilhite  
James & Nancy Youngerman  
Susan Zerwick  
Karen & Doug Zweizig  
Judith Zwirlein

IN HONOR

In honor of Jim DeVita  
Alexandra & William Dove

In honor of Don and Barb Dinsmore  
Donalea Dinsmore

In honor of Chuck Ford  
Carla & Fernando Alvarado

In honor of Kathy Harker  
Pam Ploetz

In honor of Jennifer Uphoff Gray,  
Happy Birthday Mom!  
Jamie Gray

In honor of Dan Pierotti  
Judy Pierotti

In honor of Tim Radelet  
Hurley Burish, S. C.

In honor of Tim Radelet & Jeff Sipek  
Salli Martyniak

In honor of Selma Van Eyck  
Matt & Aleasha Anderson

In honor of the FTC staff  
Dennis and Kathy Dorn

In honor of the wonderful and talented  
staff, cast, and board of Forward Theater  
Pete and Jill Lundberg

IN MEMORY

In memory of Terry Lee Allen  
Lewis Bosworth

In memory of Colleen Burns  
Duncan Carlsmith

In memory of Leigh Couch  
Lesleigh Luttrell

In memory of Jo Fischer  
Les and Susan Hoffman

In memory of Jayne Grant  
Myrna Casebolt

In memory of Jackie Macaulay  
Stewart Macaulay

In memory of Patty Struck  
Larry Bechler
THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS OF FORWARD THEATER VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers help Forward Theater by staffing events, papering the town with posters and postcards, helping with mailings, and other office support. If you’d like more information, please visit our website at ForwardTheater.com or call company manager Celia Klehr at 608-234-5001.

Housing Provided by:
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Janet Zimmerman
Sam D. White

Special Thanks:
Jake Penner
Kelsey Schaid

2018 - 2019 Volunteers:

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Rima Apple
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Lewis Bosworth
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Suzanne Buchko
Joanne Chalhoub
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Carla Di Iorio
Michael Di Iorio
Katrina Fingerson
Dolores Gohdes

Paul Gohdes
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Kathryn Lederhause
Arden Linder
Mary Metz
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Tess Mulrooney
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Lynda Sharpe
Daryl Sherman
Dot Steele
Cheri Teal
Mryna Williamson
Teddy Zehner

Catie O’Donnell-Glogovsky

Forward Theater Company is a member of the Madison Arts Production Center (MAPC), which provides high quality, functional, affordable production space, equipment, and theatrical inventory for Madison area artists and arts organizations. For information on rentals and membership options go to ctmtheater.org.
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What is HAMILTON about?

HAMILTON is the story of America's Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington's right-hand man during the Revolutionary War and was the new nation's first Treasury Secretary. Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B and Broadway, HAMILTON is the story of America then, as told by America now.

When will HAMILTON be here?

HAMILTON will make its Madison debut as part of the 2019/20 Broadway at Overture series in Overture Hall.

How long will HAMILTON be in Madison?

Information regarding dates will be announced the evening of MON, APR 8, 2019.

Where can I learn more about HAMILTON?

hamiltonmusical.com
Facebook: HAMILTONMusical
Instagram: HAMILTONMusical
Twitter: @HAMILTONMusical

RENEWING SUBSCRIBERS:

Are Broadway at Overture RENEWING subscribers guaranteed tickets to HAMILTON?

Yes. Current 2018/19 subscribers who renew their season tickets by the renewal deadline will receive the same number of tickets to HAMILTON as is in their current 2018/19 season ticket order.

For example, if you have two seats in your 2018/19 subscription, you will receive two subscription tickets to all six package events in the 2019/20 Broadway at Overture season, including HAMILTON. You will also have the option of adding tickets to a 7th Broadway at Overture “add-on” show during the renewal process.

Can Broadway at Overture renewing subscribers request additional full-season tickets to their existing season subscription order?

Due to demand, requests for additional full-season tickets will be accepted but not all requests are guaranteed. You may request a maximum of two additional full-season tickets during the renewal period. Additional full-season tickets will be assigned on a first-come, first served basis and processed after renewing season ticket orders are seated. You will be notified during the summer if you will receive additional full-season tickets. Additional full-season tickets may not be seated next to your existing season tickets due to existing subscribers occupying those seats. We will make every effort to locate additional seats as close to your existing seat locations.

Renewing subscribers have until the renewal deadline to place their season ticket order and retain their current seating for the 2019/20 Broadway at Overture season. We recommend placing your order as well as any requests for additional full-season tickets and change requests at the start of the renewal period.
Frequently asked questions

Will 2019/20 Broadway at Overture renewing subscribers be able to order additional single tickets to HAMILTON?
There is no guarantee that additional single tickets will be available to subscribers. We do not know at this time.

When will I be able to add Season Specials to my season order?
Renewing subscribers to the 6-show 2019/20 Broadway at Overture season will have the option of adding tickets to a 7th Broadway at Overture “add-on” show and any other season specials during the renewal process.

Can I request a change to my existing season renewal order?
Yes, but our ability to grant requests is limited due to demand. We will make every effort to accommodate requests. Any stated ticket limits apply to change requests.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS:
Will season subscriptions that include HAMILTON be available for sale to NEW subscribers?
Yes, but availability is very limited. If you are not a current 2018/19 season subscriber, you may submit your 2019/20 Broadway at Overture subscription orders beginning the evening of MON, APR 8, 2019. New orders will be limited to four season tickets per household and will include tickets to all six package events in the 2019/20 season, including HAMILTON. You will also have the option of adding tickets to a 7th Broadway at Overture “add-on” show when you order. Following the season ticket renewal, change request and add-on periods, new subscriptions will be processed. Those who cannot be assigned seats will be contacted by email in the summer of 2019.

GROUP SALES:
Due to demand, group sales are not available for HAMILTON. Group sales will be available for other 2019/20 season events. The best availability for group seating will be for 2019/20 Broadway at Overture add-on shows.

MEMBERS:
Will Overture donors have access to HAMILTON tickets?
At this time, we cannot guarantee tickets will be offered to donors as it will be based upon inventory and the number of current donors. Tickets, if offered, will be limited and are not guaranteed, and will only be available to individual donors beginning at the $1,500+ level. Please note that contributions must be current at the time of any priority sale.

I am not a current donor. Can I make a gift to access the HAMILTON donor presale?
Supporting Overture Center for the Arts allows the fulfillment of its mission to provide access to the arts for all. At this time, we cannot guarantee if new and upgrading donors will be given access to tickets, based upon inventory and the number of current donors. Tickets, if
offered, will be limited and are not guaranteed, and will only be available to individual donors beginning at the $1,500+ level. For more information about membership, please visit our membership page.

General Hamilton ticketing questions:

When single tickets to Hamilton go on sale, how many tickets can be purchased?
The single ticket/general public on sale date for Hamilton is still to be determined. There will be a single ticket limit of four tickets per household.

How much will tickets cost?
Single ticket prices will be determined prior to the public on sale, and will vary by date and availability.

How is it possible that there are tickets on secondary ticket sites and that they are so outrageously priced?
Overture.org is the official online ticket source for Overture Center tickets. We make every effort to sell directly to consumers so that our guests receive the best seats, at the best price, and receive the best customer service. We are dedicated to keeping tickets out of the hands of resellers by investing in technology that thwarts ticketing bots, by employing legal tactics to take down misleading websites that attempt to look official, by identifying and cancelling orders placed by brokers, and our ongoing efforts to educate the public to the dangers of purchasing from brokers and the secondary ticket market. If you purchase tickets from a ticket broker or any third party seller, Overture Center cannot guarantee that your tickets are valid, and you may be denied admission to the performance. We cannot reprint or replace your tickets if they are lost or stolen. We are unable to contact you with information regarding time changes or other pertinent updates regarding the performance. It is quite likely that you are paying excessive broker fees that are often double or triple the face value of the ticket.

Can I get on a waiting list for Hamilton tickets?
There is no waiting list for Hamilton. However, the best way to learn about all Overture Center events and happenings including the release of tickets to in-demand events is by joining our email list and connecting with us on social:
Facebook: overturecenter | Instagram: overturecenter | Twitter: @overturecenter

Will there be a lottery for Hamilton in Madison?
Yes. More details regarding the Hamilton lottery will be provided closer to the engagement.

Will there be discounts for Hamilton in Madison?
No discounts are available for Hamilton.

Will Lin-Manuel Miranda or any other members of the Broadway cast be performing in Madison?
No, this will be an all new cast but it will be produced, with the same talent, attention to detail and high quality as the Chicago & Broadway productions. For casting information visit hamiltonmusical.com.

If I get tickets and want to share my excitement on social media, is there anything I should avoid?
Each ticket has a one-of-a-kind barcode, and when you share your tickets along with your personal information online, your tickets can be compromised. You can still share your excitement online, just make sure to #CoverTheCode by covering the bar code and any other personal information on your ticket.

Are charitable ticket donation requests available for Hamilton?
Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate ticket donation requests for Hamilton.
Discover dining options near your event on FOOTLIGHTS.COM
ONE FUNNY MOTHER
Overture Center for the Arts
Dena Blizzard's hilarious solo comedy show is about the trials and tribulations of motherhood and marriage.

February 1
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(608) 258-4141

ANGEL OF MUSIC
Edgerton Performing Arts Center
Acclaimed Broadway veterans Franc D'Ambrosio and Glory Crampton celebrate the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber from his many beloved musicals.

February 2
Overture Hall
(608) 258-4141

ABBA MANIA
Overture Center for the Arts
If you’re looking to party, reminisce or be entertained by the best music ever, this recreation of a live stage performance by ABBA is for you!

February 2
Edgerton PAC
(608) 561-6093

ROCK OF AGES
Overture Center for the Arts
Nominated for five Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, Rock of Ages captures the iconic era that was the big bad 1980s Hollywood.

February 7
Overture Hall
(608) 258-4141

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**HOW I BECAME A PIRATE**
Children's Theater of Madison
Join Captain Braidbeard and his comical crew of pirates as they enlist young Jeremy Jacobs' help to find the perfect spot to bury their treasure.

**Los Vivancos Present Born to Dance**
Overture Center for the Arts
Six brothers set fire to the stage with tap-dance, humor, martial arts and musical virtuosity in this flamenco fusion show.

**MASTERWORKS II**
Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra
Pianist Ilya Yakushev returns with this jazz inspired program featuring works by Stravinsky, Tcherepnin and Tsfasman.

**GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES**
Madison Theatre Guild
Over the course of 30 years, the lives of Kayleen and Doug intersect at the most bizarre intervals.

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**GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES**
Madison Theatre Guild
Over the course of 30 years, the lives of Kayleen and Doug intersect at the most bizarre intervals.

**February 16 – March 2**
The Playhouse at Overture Center
(608) 258-4141

**February 21**
Overture Hall
(608) 258-4141

**February 22**
Capitol Theater
(608) 258-4141

**February 22 – March 9**
Bartell Theatre
(608) 661-9696
THE KING AND I
Overture Center for the Arts
The story of the unconventional relationship that develops between the King of Siam and Anna Leonowens, a British schoolteacher.

February 26 –
March 3
Overture Hall
(608) 258-4141

LOVESICK
Edgewood College
A sequel written by the playwright of Almost Maine, Lovesick features ten one-act love stories that all take place at the same time and day.

March 1 – 9
Diane Ballweg Theatre
(608) 663-6710

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE:
STANDING AT THE WATER’S EDGE
Overture Center for the Arts
Photojournalist Cristina Mittermeier explores the power of water in three disparate communities.

March 5
Capitol Theater
(608) 258-4141

DUCK SOUP CINEMA: THE WIND
Overture Center for the Arts
This special screening of Lillian Gish's last film of the silent era shows the tragic journey of Letty, a sheltered girl who is forced into life on the prairie.

March 7
Capitol Theater
(608) 258-4141

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THE CHOIR OF MAN  
Overture Center for the Arts  
March 8 – 9  
Capitol Theater  
(608) 258-4141  
This ultimate feel-good “pub show” features folk, rock, opera and Broadway numbers, as well as high-energy dance.

TIBET THROUGH THE RED BOX  
Children’s Theater of Madison  
March 9 – 17  
The Playhouse at Overture Center  
(608) 258-4141  
While in Tibet, Peter's father Vladimir is lost in an avalanche, leaving young Peter back in Prague, struggling to make sense of his father's absence.

ERTH’S PREHISTORIC AQUARIUM ADVENTURE  
Overture Center for the Arts  
March 10  
Capitol Theater  
(608) 258-4141  
Bring your family to explore the mystery of the dinosaurs of the deep, in this immersive theater experience.

CIRQUE MECHANICS: 42 FT  
Overture Center for the Arts  
March 14 – 15  
Capitol Theater  
(608) 258-4141  
Cirque Mechanics dares us to leap into the circus ring and experience the timelessness of this evolving art form.

ASERE! –HAVANA CUBA ALL-STARS  
Overture Center for the Arts  
March 15  
Overture Hall  
(608) 258-4141  
With rhythms and melodies from the cha cha to the rumba, from “Son Cubano” style to the salsa, the All-Stars will showcase a wide variety of Cuban beats.

MASTERWORKS III  
Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra  
March 22  
Capitol Theater  
(608) 258-4141  
THE CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES IN RISE UP, O MEN
Overture Center for the Arts
This musical comedy introduces the men of the church right alongside your favorite ladies from the basement.

March 23
Capitol Theater
(608) 258-4141

LIFE SUCKS
Forward Theater Company
Madison native Aaron Posner’s romp of a play reminds its seven hapless characters—and us—that to feel deeply is the price of a life well-lived.

March 28 – April 14
The Playhouse at Overture Center
(608) 258-4141

MISS SAIGON
Overture Center for the Arts
The story of a young Vietnamese woman named Kim who is orphaned by war and forced to work in a bar run by a notorious character known as the Engineer.

April 2 – 7
Overture Hall
(608) 258-4141

NEXT TO NORMAL
University of Wisconsin- Rock County
This touching musical centers on a suburban family struggling with the effects of their mother’s mental illness.

April 5 – 14
Kirk Denmark Theatre
(608) 758-6565

THE MUSIC OF WORDS
Overture Center for the Arts
Join Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society for an evening of poetry, piano and flute.

April 6
Promenade Hall at Overture Center
(608) 258-4141

AN EVENING WITH BRANFORD MARSALIS QUARTET
Overture Center for the Arts
The Branford Marsalis Quartet is one of the most innovative and forward-thinking jazz ensembles around today!

April 9
Overture Hall
(608) 258-4141

EMERGING VOICES
Madison Ballet
Madison Ballet’s repertory programs present ballet in its purest form—athletic, sensual, and intimate.

April 12 – 13
Bartell Theatre
(608) 258-4141

DUCK SOUP CINEMA: GRANDMA’S BOY
Overture Center for the Arts
A timid man gets a valuable lesson from his grandmother, which helps him summon his courage to capture an infamous criminal and get the girl of his dreams.

April 13
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