

The Theatre District Association of WNY
and M&T Bank
Present

CURTAIN UP! 2008
27th Anniversary Celebration
Friday, September 19, 2008

Buffalo, NY -- The 27th Annual CURTAIN UP!, presented by the Theatre District Association of Western New York and M&T Bank, will be held Friday, September 19, 2008. CURTAIN UP! is the official opening of Buffalo's live theatre season and offers something for everyone with theatrical productions at 14 participating theatres, associated events, a Creative Black-Tie Gala Dinner on stage at Shea's Performing Arts Center, and a free community celebration featuring live entertainment on Main Street in Buffalo's Theatre District.

"Curtain Up! is the Buffalo Niagara community's celebration of the opening of the theatre season. Thousands of people will gather to celebrate the vitality and diversity of theatre in our community. This celebration offers something for everyone from its Creative Black-Tie Dinner to the free street party with plenty of entertainment to suit any taste. The Theatre District Association and its members are pleased to present this event for the community," said Brian Dusenberry, president of the Theatre District Association.

"How exciting that Curtain Up! has been going strong for 27 years! We're so lucky here in Buffalo to have so many amazing professional theatres to experience and what a perfect night to come together and celebrate them all!" said Curtain Up! 2008 Event Chairperson Lisa Ludwig.

CURTAIN UP! 2008 SCHEDULE

ACT I – COCKTAILS/DINNER/ENTERTAINMENT

- 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Cocktail reception in Shea's Grand Lobby, open to the general public, with a cash bar.
- 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Annual Curtain Up! Creative Black-Tie Gala Dinner on Shea's stage including additional seating on the balcony level. **Gala Dinner tickets must be purchased in advance by calling 829-1172.** Theatre district restaurants will also be accepting dinner reservations.

ACT II – CURTAINS RISE! THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

- 8:00 p.m. The evening continues with performances at participating theatres, starting at 8:00 p.m. See schedule of performances below.

ACT III – PARTY!

- 10:00 p.m. Following the performances, a free community celebration offering a variety of unique entertainment will be held from approximately 10:00 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Main Street in Downtown Buffalo's Theatre District. The event includes various outdoor entertainment and post parties. For more information, go to www.curtainupbuffalo.com

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES
All Curtain Up! performances September 19 start at 8:00 p.m.

Alleyway Theatre

RABBIT HOLE

By David Lindsay-Abaire

September 11 - 27 (Pay-What-You-Can Performance September 18)

The **2007 Pulitzer Prize Winner!** Teeming with heartbreak, compassion, wit, honesty and humor; a nuanced and delicately told story of family, loss and hope... widely regarded as one of the best new plays of the last quarter century. Directed by Todd Warfield, featuring Joyce Stilson and Pamela Rose Mangus.

Suitable for adults and teens. Western New York Premiere.

Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 PM, Saturdays at 4 PM and 8 PM.

Tickets: \$25 general admission; \$13 for students.

Tickets available online at www.alleyway.com or at 716-852-2600

Alleyway Theatre, One Curtain Up Alley, Buffalo, NY 14202

ALT Theatre

LIT401: A SCHOOL SHOOTING IN ONE ACT

Written by Drew Derek and Gordon Tashjian

September 11 - - October 4

Through the mystery of theatre, an audience will experience both the inside of a classroom during a shooting and the minds of the shooter and victims. One will be stimulated and moved to public dialogue on this subject and question his/her own naive acceptance of the media's depiction of scenarios. While brilliantly portraying reality, LIT401 is paired with a talkback that includes actors, writers, directors and counselors to encourage communication, societal healing and hope.

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. All performances at 8 pm.

Ticket prices: \$20 general admission; \$15 for students

Box Office: 716 868 - 6847. www.ALTTHEATRE.COM

The Alt Theatre, 255 Great Arrow Ave., Buffalo, NY 14207

Irish Classical Theatre

STAR QUALITY

Directed by Vincent O'Neill

September 12 - October 12, 2008

Noel Coward's wickedly funny comedy takes us behind the scenes of a new West End production, revealing the backstage world of talent and treachery. Josephine Hogan brings her own "star quality" to Christopher Luscombe's brilliant and enchanting adaptation.

Thursday-Saturday 7:30 pm; Saturday 3 pm; Sunday 2 pm

Saturday evenings: Regular \$42 each, Senior \$35 each

Thursday/Friday evenings, Saturday matinee, Sunday matinee: Regular \$37 each, Senior \$32 each

Box Office: (716) 853-4282. www.irishclassicaltheatre.com

Irish Classical Theatre Company at the Andrews Theatre, 625 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203

Kaleidoscope Theatre Productions

SOMETHING TO HIDE

Suspense Thriller by Leslie Sands

September 12 - September 27, 2008

-next page-

Kaleidoscope Theatre Productions (continued)

Adultery! Murder! Blackmail! One unexpected turn follows another, as a seemingly gullible police inspector sets a trap which untangles the twisted web of lies among a writer, his wife, and his mistress, bringing the real murderer to justice.

A mystery/suspense thriller sure to keep you guessing until the very end.

Fridays 7:30 pm; Saturdays 3 pm and 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$10 - \$14

Box Office: (716) 479-1587. Website: www.KaleidoscopeTheatreProductions.com

Performances at The Marie Maday Theatre, Canisius College campus, 2044 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14208

Kavinoky Theatre

MAURITIUS

WNY Premiere by Theresa Rebeck

September 12 - October 12, 2008

Stamp collecting is far more risky than you think. After their mother's death, two estranged half-sisters discover a book of rare stamps that may include the crown jewel for collectors. One sister tries to collect on the windfall, while the other resists for sentimental reasons. In this gripping tale, a seemingly simple sale becomes dangerous when three seedy, high-stakes collectors enter the sisters' world, willing to do anything to claim the rare find as their own.

Ticket range: \$10 - \$32

Box Office: (716) 829-7668. Website: www.kavinokytheatre.com

Kavinoky Theatre, 320 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201

Lancaster Opera House

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

September 12 – September 28, 2008

Show times – Friday & Saturday 7:30 (9/19 8:00 Curtain Up) Sunday 2:30

One of the twelve sons, Joseph is his father's favorite. Able to interpret dreams and the bearer of an amazing coat, his jealous brothers sell him into a life of slavery. It starts him on an amazing life journey full of lessons of dreams, strength and unselfishness. Full of wonderful songs and dance.

Tickets are \$18 and \$16 for seniors/students

Box Office: 716-683-1776 - Monday - Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and one hour before the show.

www.lancopera.org. Lancaster Opera House, 21 Central Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086

MusicalFare Theatre:

BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY

September 10 - October 12, 2008

The regional premiere of a musical celebration of the legendary singer/songwriter Buddy Holly, who shot to stardom in 1957. **Buddy** has been performed all over the world and has been seen by 20 million people since it opened in 1990. Featuring such classic songs as "That'll Be the Day," "Peggy Sue," "La Bamba" and "Chantilly Lace," **Buddy** is a unique mixture of innocence, determination, humor and charm that was Buddy Holly and has been hailed as *The World's Most Successful Rock 'n' Roll Musical!*

Wednesday & Thursday Evenings and Saturday & Sunday Matinees - \$32

Friday & Saturday Evenings - \$36; Students - \$15

For tickets or information: Box Office: (716) 839-8540; www.musicalfare.com

MusicalFare Theatre, 4380 Main Street, Amherst, NY 14226

New Phoenix Theatre in the Park

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD...WITH YOU

Conceived and directed by Phoenix Executive Director Richard Lambert

September 17 – October 11

Starring Loraine O'Donnell as 'The Queen of Blue Eyed Soul.'

In 1999, the year of her death, Dusty is asked to return to the studio one last time, to make everything right. Can she? Loraine O'Donnell sings 15 classic Dusty Springfield songs. A must-see musical event.

Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 8 pm. Thursday's Pay What You Can, free Student (with valid I.D.)

\$20 General Admission, \$15 S/S

Box Office & Admin.: 853-1334. www.newphoenixtheatre.com.

The New Phoenix Theatre On The Park, 95 Johnson Park, Buffalo

Road Less Traveled Productions

A LITTLE BIT OF PARADISE

Directed by Tim White.

September 12 through October 5

Opens its season with an Emanuel Fried New Play Workshop Selection:

the world premiere of Annette Daniels-Taylor play. The play is set in Buffalo's East Side, circa 1924, and the home of prominent black attorney Jacob Bridges and his wife, Louisa, as they navigate a pivotal and tumultuous period in the history of WNY's African-American community. Suspense, intrigue, romance, and nostalgia pervade this lovely slice of life melodrama.

Tickets: \$25 General; \$20 Seniors; \$15 Under 30; \$10 Students; \$5 - Talkback Student Thursdays

Road Less Traveled Theater, Market Arcade Film & Arts Centre, 639 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14201 (physical address; not mailing). For information and reservations, call the Box Office at (716) 629-3069 or go to www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org.

Shea's Smith Theatre

GIRLS NIGHT: THE MUSICAL

September 16 – October 12

A touching and hilarious 'tell-it-like-it-is' look at the lives of a group of female friends, GIRLS NIGHT: THE MUSICAL will have audiences laughing, crying and dancing in the aisles! Follow five friends as they re-live their past, celebrate their present and look to the future on a wild night out. GIRLS NIGHT is bursting with energy and packed with every female anthem you can think of including *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, *I Will Survive* and more!

Performances: Previews 9/16 & 9/17

Tues., Wed., Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.; Fri. at 8 p.m., Sat. at 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices: \$35/Previews; \$45/other performances.

Group (10 or more) discounts available. Call 829-1154.

For tickets, call (716) 852-5000, go to www.ticketmaster.com or to Shea's Ticket Office.

Shea's Smith Theatre, 660 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14202

Studio Arena Theatre

Presents "An Evening with Stephen McKinley Henderson"
September 19 and 20 at 8 p.m.

Studio Arena Theatre will bring to the stage one of its most celebrated Alumni: Buffalo 's own Stephen McKinley Henderson. Star of stage and screen, Mr. Henderson has played many of his roles on the Studio Arena Theatre stage, is a regular on Broadway, and appeared in films television shows such as *Everyday People*, "Law and Order," and *A Raisin in the Sun*. On two evenings, Mr. Henderson will entertain and charm audiences with scenes from some favorite works of the stage and his humorous and passionate conversation. He will share stories from his career and discuss his unique experiences working with the late, great American playwright, August Wilson. In a stirring conversation with Studio Arena Theatre's Artistic Director, Mr. Henderson will talk freely with community members in Buffalo. This promises to be an evening of laughter and insight that will be remembered for years. This is the first in a series of theatre presentations with great artist alum's of Studio Arena past.

All tickets \$20.00 Box Office: NEW NUMBER STARTING AUGUST 15, 2008, (716) 856-8025

www.studioarena.org

Theatre of Youth & O'Connell & Company

Present DIVA by DIVA: A Celebration of Women!

September 19 – September 20, 2008

A fabulous DOWNTOWN DIVA engagement! This DIVA-licious cabaret style production is filled with songs, readings, poetry, humor & quotes by, for & about women. Ticket Prices: \$30/\$27

Performances: Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. (for DIVAS & DAUGHTERS!) & 8 p.m.

Box Office: (716) 884-4400, ext 304. Website: www.theatreofyouth.org

Theatre of Youth, Allendale Theatre, 203 Allen Street, Buffalo, 14201

Ujima Theatre 30th Anniversary Season

IN DE BEGINNIN'

By Oscar Brown, Jr. Directed by Lorna C. Hill

September 19 - November 16, 2008

In De Beginninn? features the Lawd who is a lady, a likable fellow named Adam, a pretty and defiant Eve and the smooth talking Debil backed by an eloquent preacher and soulful choir.

Ticket Prices: \$25/Gen. ; \$20/Seniors; \$15 Students

Performances: Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 6 p.m.

Box Office: (716) 883-0380. www.ujimatheatre.org

Sponsors of Curtain Up! 2008 are: M & T Bank, AllPro, The Buffalo News, Crowley-Webb, 97 Rock, Mix 104.1, and Zenger Printing.

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