Buffalo’s Theatre District Association presents 35th Annual Curtain Up!

Buffalo, N.Y. – June 20, 2016 – The Theatre District Association will present Curtain Up! 2016 on Friday September 16, 2016 in Buffalo’s historic Theatre District. This will be the 35th annual celebration of the opening of Buffalo’s professional theatre season presented by the Theatre District Association of Western New York and M&T Bank.

Curtain Up! 2016 offers a diverse line up of 15 professional theatrical productions including award-winning comedies, musicals and dramas. Cocktails and a creative black-tie gala dinner will be held on the majestic main stage of Shea’s Buffalo Theatre. When the theatres let out at 10 PM, the Theatre District comes alive on Main Street with food trucks, cash bar and free outdoor entertainment.

“The Theatre District Association of WNY is proud to present the 35th Annual Curtain Up! event in partnership with M&T Bank. This event continues to grow year after year because of the strength and creativity of our theatre community, but more importantly, because of the passion and dedication of our Patrons. We’re excited about what’s in store for this year’s event and hope you will come on down and support the opening of Buffalo’s Theatre Season,” says Tony Conte, President of the TDA.

For information, or to purchase tickets for the Gala Dinner:
Tickets: $85 per person or $160/couple (through September 2, 2016)
Social Media: Connect with Curtain Up! on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter: @CurtainUpBflo
Curtain Up! 2016 Schedule:

Act I – Cocktails & Dinner – 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Join fellow theatre goers on the majestic main stage of Shea’s Performing Arts Center for a creative black-tie Gala Dinner courtesy of Rich’s Catering
A cash bar cocktail party begins at 5:00 PM.
Dinner is served at 6:15 PM.
Seating is limited – call (716) 829-1180 for priority reservations
Or dine at one of the fine restaurants in the Theatre District (reservations recommended)

Act II – Curtains Rise on 2016/17 Season Theatre Performances – 8:00 PM
Support your favorite theatre!
Make reservations for one of Curtain Up!’s 15 professional theatre performances.
Curtains rise promptly at 8:00 PM.
Seating is limited.

Act III – Street Party – 10:00 PM (FREE TO ATTEND)
Following theatre performances, the Theatre District will come alive with free outdoor entertainment.
Join actors, directors, singers, dancers and other theatre professionals as they enjoy a wide range of live musical acts, food trucks and surprise entertainment!

Line-up Of Theatrical Performances - 15 Curtain Up! shows by 18 theatres

**ALL PERFORMANCES ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH START AT 8:00 PM**

Alleyway Theatre
1 Curtain Up Alley, Buffalo, NY 14202
716-852-2600 ext. 0
alleyway.com

DEAR LYDIA,

by Larry Gray

Description: Playwright Larry Gray returns with his ninth new play to premiere at Alleyway over the past twenty-five years. This time, tables are turned when an advice columnist is on the receiving end of a daughter’s insistence. However, the road from sportswriter to advice columnist to recluse may be irreversible. Winner of the 2015 Maxim Mazumdar New Play Competition, directed by Neal Radice.

Dates: September 15 – October 8, 2016: Thu/Fri/Sat 7:30 PM
Admission Price: $25

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AMERICAN IDIOT: THE MUSICAL
Book by Billy Joe Armstrong/Michael Mayer
Description: A gritty punk-rock musical telling the story of individuals dealing with a 21st Century America and their coming of age.
Dates: September 9 – October 2, 2016
Admission Prices: $20 General; $18 Student & Military

Brazen-Faced Varlets
Rust Belt Books, 415 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14213
716-771-6277
varlets.org

6 x 8
by the Brazen-Faced Varlets
Description: This world premiere production is a collaboratively written piece about women’s experiences in the US prison system.
Dates: September 16 – 25, 2016: Sundays at 2 pm, 8 pm other days
Admission Prices: $15 General; $12 students & seniors

Buffalo United Artists
Main Street Cabaret at Alleyway Theatre, 1 Curtain Up Alley, Buffalo, NY 14202
716-886-9239
buffalobua.org

THE SUBMISSION
by Jeff Talbot
produced in collaboration with UJIMA COMPANY
Description: A fierce, intelligent comic-drama about race and gender.
Dates: September 16 – October 2, 2016: Fri / Sat 8:00 pm; Sun 6:00 pm
Admission Prices: $15-25

The Kavinoky Theatre
320 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201
716-829-7668
kavinokytheatre.com

DON’T TALK TO THE ACTORS
by Tom Dudzik
Description: Fledgling playwright Jerry Przepniak and his fiancée are a couple of Buffalo greenhorns suddenly swept up in the whirlwind of New York’s theatre scene when Jerry’s play is optioned for the big money, ego-driven world of Broadway. Best laid plans go awry when the cast and crew resort to manipulation, diva-like behavior, and chaotic abandon to get what they want. What should be a young playwright’s dream quickly turns into a fiasco that theatrical nightmares are made of.
Dates: September 9 – October 2, 2016: Thurs / Fri 7:30 pm; Sat 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; Sun 2:00 pm
Admission Prices: $15-$42

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GYPSY
by Jule Styne, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and a book by Arthur Laurents
Description: Experience Gypsy Rose Lee, Mamma Rose and GYPSY like never before! Musicalfare re-invents this classic musical for their intimate space.
Dates: September 7 – October 9, 2016: Wed / Thurs 7:00 pm; Fri 8:00 pm; Sat 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm; Sun 2:00 pm
Admission Prices: $45 General; $15 Student

Lancaster Opera House
21 Central Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086
716-683-1776
lancopera.org

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM
by Stephen Sondheim/Burt Shevelove & Larry Gelbart
Description: A nonstop laugh-fest musical in which Pseudolus, a crafty slave, struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan named Philia, for his young master, Hero, in exchange for his freedom. Chaos ensues, with hair-brained schemes, mistaken identities, and farcical plot twists.
Dates: September 9 – 25, 2016: Thurs / Fri / Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 2:30 pm
Admission Prices: $28-$30

Paul Robeson Theatre at the African American Cultural Center
350 Masten Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209
716-884-2013 x103
aaccbuffalo.org

JITNEY
by August Wilson
Description: Set in 1970 in the Hill District of Pittsburgh that is served by a makeshift taxi company, JITNEY is a beautiful addition to the author’s decade by decade cycle of plays about the black American experience in the twentieth century.
Dates: September 30 – October 23, 2016
Admission Prices: $25 General; $22 Students & Seniors

Red Thread Theatre
Jim Bush Photography Studio, 44 17th Street, Buffalo, NY 14213
716-331-2469
redthreadtheatre.info

LOUISIANA BACCHAE
by Robert Waterhouse
based on the tragedy by Euripides
Description: Fusing the mysteries and power of the original text with the gender and racial politics of the American south, and speaking directly to current anxieties about sexuality and immigration, LOUISIANA BACCHAE brings ancient Greek theatre face to face with contemporary America. Features live music & dance.
Dates: September 16 – October 1, 2016: Thurs / Fri / Sat 8:00 pm
Admission Prices: $10-$25

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URINETOWN
*Music by Mark Hollmann, lyrics by Hollmann and Greg Kotis, and book by Kotis*

**Description:** Tony Award-winning musical satire of capitalism, greed and social irresponsibility during a water shortage.

**Dates:** September 16, 2016 at 8:00 pm

**Admission Prices:** $20-$30

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SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH
*By Tennessee Williams*

**Description:** Tennessee Williams’ wrenching yet mordantly funny meditation on lost innocence and corruption reveals the dark consequences of the American search for perennial youth and fame. This steamy and haunting portrait of a fading movie star and the desperate silver-screen wannabe Chance Wayne evokes an era of repressive social strictures where love, sexual passion and redemption are thwarted. Williams’ theatrical language is thrilling, mesmerizing and quite beautiful! Directed by ICTC Producing Director Fortunato Pezzimenti.

**Dates:** September 16 – October 9, 2016: Thurs / Fri / Sat 7:30PM; Sat. 3PM; Sun. 2PM

**Admission Price:** $4

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LIPS TOGETHER, TEETH APART
*by Terrance McNally*

**Description:** Terrance McNally’s award-winning comedy about two straight couples spending July 4th weekend in a gay community on Fire Island. NPT’s production stars Candice Kogut, Richard Lambert, Kelli Bocock-Natale and Eric Rawski. Directed by Greg Natale.

**Dates:** September 16 – October 8, 2016: Thurs / Fri / Sat 8:00 pm

**Admission Prices:** $30 General; $20 Students & Seniors; All Thursdays: Pay What You Can
DINNER WITH FRIENDS
by Donald Margulies

Description: When Gabe and Karen set up friends Beth and Tom one summer on the Vineyard, these two couples became as close as family. But after years of shared meals, shared vacations, and shared lives, one couple’s surprising break-up shatters the peace of all four lives. In his Pulitzer Prize-winning play, Margulies revels in witty, poignant strokes the shared anxieties that accompany life’s biggest choices and most turbulent changes. At turns buoyant and heartbreaking, revelatory and reflective, this “rueful comedy” speaks to our complex appetite for love, appreciation, and friendship.

Dates: September 9 – October 2, 2016: Thurs / Fri / Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 2:00 pm
Admission Prices: $35 General; Student Thurs $5; Student Fri / Sat / Sun $20

Shea’s 710 Theatre
710 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202
1-800-745-3000
sheas.org/710main

WONDER OF THE WORLD
by David Lindsay-Abaire
Produced by Buffalo Laboratory Theatre

Description: Nothing will prepare you for the dirty little secret Cass discovers in her husband’s sweater drawer. It is so shocking that our heroine has no choice but to flee to the honeymoon capital of the world in a frantic search for the life she thinks she missed out on. It’s a wild ride over Niagara Falls in a barrel of laughs as Cass embarks on a journey of self-discovery that has her crossing paths with a blithely suicidal alcoholic, a lonely tour-boat captain, a pair of bickering private detectives and a strange caper involving a gargantuan jar of peanut butter, all of which pushes her perilously close to the water’s edge.

Dates: September 15 – October 2, 2016: Thurs 7:30 pm / Fri & Sat 8:00 pm / Sun 2:00 pm
Admission Prices: $36.50

Shea’s Smith Theatre
660 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202
1-800-745-3000
sheas.org

GENTLEMEN PREFER DIVAS
by Mary Kate O’Connell
Produced by O’Connell & Company Productions, Inc.

Description: DIVA by DIVA meets GENTLEMEN’S GENTLEMEN in an All-Star cabaret!

Dates: September 16 – 18, 2016: Fri 8:00 pm / Sat 8:00 pm / Sun 2:00 pm
Admission Price: $25

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