



BACKSTAGE AT THE

Valentine Theatre

FALL 2023

OUR MISSION

The Toledo Cultural Arts Center, a non profit organization, produces and provides cultural and performing arts experiences for diverse audiences of all ages, to enhance the quality of the cultural and economic life of the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Northwestern Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

OUR HISTORY

The historic Valentine Theatre opened its doors on Christmas Day in 1895 and is currently a 901-seat facility operated by the Toledo Cultural Arts Center, Inc. Following a 21-year effort by the Board of Trustees and the community, the newly renovated theatre was reopened on October 9, 1999. Since then, more than a million people have attended international, national and regional presentations, weddings and events.

CONTACT US

419-242-2787

ValentineTheatre.com

410 Adams Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604



Passing the Torch Party!

Honoring Jori Jex and Welcoming Abby Glanville

On September 22, more than 150 community leaders, friends, and family attended the Valentine Theatre's Passing of the Torch party, commemorating the retirement of Jori Jex and welcoming her successor, Abby Glanville. During Jori's 13 years as Executive Director, she elevated the Valentine's standing in the community. By welcoming back numerous area arts organizations and area high schools to the theatre's main stage, she ensured the Valentine will always be a home for local artists and an opportunity for young students to learn their craft both on and off stage. Her tenacity and positive spirit helped increase philanthropic giving to the theatre manifold, and her personal passion for arts education for all Toledo-area youth is evident in the many children's programs she helped create, including Valentine School Days, StoryTime, and our Sensory-Friendly Family Series. Although she is stepping down as ED, Jori will remain on staff in an advisory role to help with the transition and development projects.

Stepping in as the new Executive Director is Abby Glanville. Originally from Iowa, Abby initially met Jori in 2018 when she relocated to Toledo for her partner's new faculty position within the Department of Theatre and Film at the University of Toledo. Prior to that, she was Executive Director of Festival Dance and Performing Arts, a nonprofit arts organization and dance academy in residence at the University of Idaho. She is thrilled to be continuing in a similar capacity at the Valentine where she can help ensure Toledo and surrounding communities have access to performing arts programming!



Standing (l-r): David Rectenwald (Valentine Theatre Board Vice Chair), Jori Jex, Abby Glanville, Clare Gorski (Valentine Theatre Board Chair). Photo courtesy of The Blade.



Clockwise: from upper left: Jori & Clare during the champagne toast; Alan Kline, Amy & Bill Wolff, and Rosemary Boezi; Jori & Susan Reams; gift from the Valentine Board by glass artists at Fire Nation. Photos Girl in the Glass City.

A round of applause for our generous sponsors!

The Valentine Theatre's 2023-2024 Season

Broadway Series

Jesus Christ Superstar

Wed, Nov 1, 7:30 pm

Come From Away

Mon, Feb 4, 7 pm

Johnny Cash

The Official Concert Experience

Wed, Feb 21, 7:30 pm

Little Women

Mon, May 13, 7:30 pm

Gretchen A. Zyndorf Relaxed Family Series

♥ *Now Sensory-Friendly* ♥

The Lightning Thief

Sat, Nov 4, 2 pm

Dr. Kaboom! and the Wheel of Science!

Sun, Nov 12, 2 pm

The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales

Sat, Feb 3, 2 pm

Studio A—Glass City Impro 😊

The Monthly —8:30 pm last Friday of the month

♥ *Heart-to-Heart Gala Concert* ♥ **KeyBank** 

Paul Shaffer with Special Guest Motown Legend Thelma Houston

Saturday, March 2, Reception at 6:30 pm / Concert at 8:00 pm

Tickets 419-242-2787 / valentinetheatre.com

Pick 4 Series

Matt Vee & The Killer Vees Celebrate the Music of Neil Diamond ... I Am He Said

Fri, Nov 17, 8 pm

Michael Cavanaugh: A Merry Rockin' Christmas

Sat, Dec 16, 8 pm

Joshua Redman: Where Are We Tour

Sat, Jan 13, 8 pm

The Barricade Boys West End Party

Thurs, Feb 22, 7:30 pm

Ailey II Modern Dance Company

Fri, Mar 8, 8 pm

Storm Large (*adult content / recommended 18 yrs & up*)

Thurs, Apr 11, 7:30 pm

THE BLADE Silver Screen Series

Hocus Pocus — Fri, Oct 13, 7:30 pm

It's a Wonderful Life

Fri, Dec 15, 7:30 pm & Sun, Dec 17, 2 pm

Casablanca

Fri, Jan 12, 7:30 pm

Year-End Gift

Make a TAX-FREE Gift from your IRA

Giving Tuesday—Nov 28th

If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can make an annual tax-free gift to the Valentine Theatre from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), and the amount (up to \$100,000) count toward the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your traditional or Roth IRA. Gifts must be completed before Dec. 31 to be eligible in the current tax year.

Important points to consider:

- You must be at least 70½.
- The gift should come directly to The Valentine Theatre from your IRA account administrator, in the form of a check. Address: Valentine Theatre, 410 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604
- The gift may come from a Traditional or Roth IRA (special exclusions may apply to other types of IRA accounts).

- Although there is no tax deduction, there is NO income tax on the IRA withdrawal.

What are the advantages?

- Benefit The Valentine Theatre in a meaningful way today.
- Meet your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
- Pay no income tax on the amount withdrawn for your gift.
- Give above your deductible charitable limit of 50 percent of adjusted gross income.

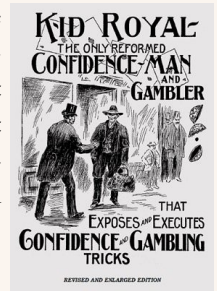
The Valentine's Tax ID number is 34-1385037. Accompanying paperwork should identify your name and address, and whether your gift is intended for a specific program or for general operations. For more information, please contact Kelby Sodeman at (419) 214-4803 or ksodeman@valentinetheatre.com.

Harry Houdini at the Valentine



During his two-week engagement at the Valentine Theatre in 1907, the great illusionist Harry Houdini admitted to a reporter from the Toledo News Bee that he had always been afraid of Toledo and went on to recount this story. Fourteen years earlier, in 1893, Houdini was booked to appear several nights in the Vaudeville Hall of the new Wonderland Building, which was next to the Brown, Eager & Hull's Book Store. Houdini, who was touring for himself for the first time, had been working for J. H. Moore of Detroit, doing sleight of hand and trunk tricks. When he arrived at the Wonderland the evening of his performance, he learned that performers were not being paid by management. Houdini immediately marched into the box office, waited until enough cash came in to pay his salary, and refused to go on stage until they paid him. He quit the following day. Unfortunately, his salary was barely enough to cover food and lodging, and he and his wife were soon stranded in Toledo. After failing to find any work, Houdini, out of desperation, teamed up with the notorious reformed gambler, "Kid Royal," who also was in Toledo, and together they put on sidewalk dime museum. They both stayed until they'd earned enough money for train fare to Grand Rapids, MI, where Houdini had another engagement. In speaking with the reporter, Houdini commented, "fourteen years after I first left this town, broken in heart as well as purse, I returned and — well, I took away a little change and a fair reputation." He went on to say that because of his past experience in Toledo, he really wanted to "jump the contract" when he found out he was booked here. "But how glad I am that I did come, and even more so that I came for a return engagement, made good, and was engaged still another week. It is a compliment that touches me deeply." Houdini performed at the Valentine in December 1906 and again for a 2-week engagement in March 1907. Toledo audiences loved him!

Source: "Houdini Stranded in Toledo Fourteen Years Ago," *Toledo News Bee*, March 10, 1907, p. 4.



Gretchen A. Zyndorf Education Series Valentine School Days



Generously Underwritten by Gretchen A. Zyndorf

Season 11 of Valentine School Days is well underway! On September 25, we welcomed poet and bluegrass fiddler, Ken Waldman & the Wild Ones to our stage. Several hundred middle schoolers were enthralled by his troupe of musicians, artists, and dancers. Ken collaborates with local musicians wherever he performs, and joining him on stage were musicians and dancers from Detroit and Bowling Green. Nearly a thousand students enjoyed "Frindle" on October 11. Generous underwriting from Buckeye Broadband, PNC, Fifth Third, The Andersons, Inc., Charitable Foundation, the Elsie and Harry Baumker Charitable Foundation, and many others, allows us to offer free tickets to economically disadvantaged students from Title 1 schools as well as free tickets and transportation to all Toledo Public School students. Upcoming VSD shows include, "The Lightning Thief," Friday, November 3; "Dr. Kaboom!" Monday, November 13; "Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad," Friday, January 19; "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales," Friday, February 2; and "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," Wednesday, February 28. We anticipate between 9,000—10,000 students will attend Valentine School Days this season—with nearly half receiving free tickets thanks to the generous underwriting of local sponsors. If you would like to know more about VSD, please contact Kelby Sodeman at ksodeman@valentinetheatre.com.

Faces Around the Valentine Meet Officer Karen Martensen

If you have been to a Valentine show in the past 25 years, you will no doubt have seen Karen Martensen greeting you at the front door or in our lobbies. Officer Karen, as we affectionately call her, has been providing security to the Valentine since its grand re-opening in October 1999. Actually, she came down to the Valentine the day before the grand re-opening and met with Rey Boezi, the project administrator. Rey gave her a hard hat and took her on a quick tour of the renovated theatre. Well, almost completely renovated. Officer Karen recounts there was still a lot of work to be done and the grand opening was only 24 hours away! The next day when she and the Toledo Police Honor Guard came back to present the colors for the opening ceremony, she couldn't believe her eyes. The crew must have worked through the night, because the theatre looked beautiful! Now retired from TPD, Officer Karen served on the force for 33 years. Public service runs in her family — her father was a sergeant in the Army AirForce who then went on to serve 30+ years as a Toledo firefighter. For Karen, walking through the Valentine doors always feels like coming home. She considers the staff and volunteers her extended family. She's proud to be part of an organization with such a long history that is beloved by the community. As she says, "Toledo loves the Valentine!" The next time you're here, please say "hello" to Officer Karen, and thank her for her service to the community and the Valentine Theatre!



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Director of Marketing & PR

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Technical Director

ADAM BERGERON
Assistant Technical Director

JOE GOZDOWSKI
Assistant Technical Director

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Danielle Moseley
Manager Special Events & Support Services

Matthew Leuck
Front of House Director & Volunteer Corps Coordinator

Steven Boyd
Events Coordinator

KELBY SODEMAN
DEVELOPMENT & VSD COORDINATOR

JORI JEX
DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH

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Toledo Cultural Arts Center
The Valentine Theatre
410 Adams Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604

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HEART TO HEART GALA CONCERT



Paul Shaffer

Saturday, March 2, 2024
Appetizers & Cash Bar 6:30 /
Concert 8 pm

Enjoy an evening with Paul Shaffer and members of the Toledo Symphony as he shares symphonic renditions of his favorite pop, R&B and jazz tunes. Shaffer, David Letterman's longtime sidekick and musical director, will take you on a fascinating journey with his stories, reminiscences, and anecdotes. Conducted by University of Toledo alum, J. Ernest Green, Paul welcomes special guest vocalist and Motown legend Thelma Houston "Don't Leave Me This Way" to the stage as part of this exciting show.



Thelma Houston