



BACKSTAGE AT THE

Valentine Theatre

SPRING 2017

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 Valentine Theatre is a 122-year-old 901-seat facility operated by the Toledo Cultural Arts Center, Inc. After a 21-year effort by the Board of Trustees and the community, the \$28 million renovation was unveiled on October 9, 1999. Since the Gala re-opening, more than 900,000 people have attended 1,200 international, national and area presentations, weddings and events.

CONTRIBUTORS

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DAN HEBERLING
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Valentine Velvet Vocal Series Perfect for Date Night



Reeves Feb. 28

The Valentine's incomparable Velvet Vocal Series is a musical high note of our season. As we go to press, we look forward to welcoming back the glorious Dianne Reeves for an intimate evening of bossa nova classics, jazz solos, and beautiful ballads. The five-time Grammy Award-winner is currently on national tour.

Save the date Friday, April 21, for a Valentine Solo Premiere with Oscar-winning vocalist Maureen McGovern. Celebrated as "The Stradivarius Voice," expect an evening of hits from the '70s, '80s, '90s, and today, including "The Morning After."



McGovern Apr. 21

Velvet Vocal Series is sponsored by the Jane Friedman Anspach Family Foundation.

NEW SPONSORS !

The Valentine is proud to welcome Marathon Classic and the Stranahan Foundation as sponsors of its Valentine School Days. Their support has made it possible for us to expand this educational outreach program by almost 40%.

Valentine School Days is the only local educational arts program which offers theatrical productions based on award-winning children's literature that integrates Common Core Education Standards. Some of this year's productions include the National Theatre of the Deaf's *It's In the Bag!*, *Peter Rabbit*, *Anne of Green Gables*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

The Stranahan Foundation



Cameras are Rolling for Encore!



Many, many thanks to our presenting sponsor, KeyBank, and to all of you who contributed to the *Encore!* campaign. Your generosity and enthusiasm helped us raise the funds needed to produce a new WGTE Toledo Story celebrating the history of the Valentine Theatre. Former Board President Tedd Long and the Valentine's own Dan Heberling have finished the script and production is already underway.

To show our sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make this project a reality, we will be hosting an exclusive premiere of *Encore!* here at the Valentine Theatre in Fall 2017. Please look for your invitation as the date draws closer.

We would love to see your name in lights! You can still play a starring role in *Encore!* Make a donation of \$125 or more by April 1 for your name to be in the closing credits. Visit our website to donate online or call us at 419-214-4806 for more information.



A round of applause for our generous sponsors!



What's Playing at the Valentine?

The Valentine Theatre's 18th Anniversary Season continues with something for everyone. Don't miss the final feature of our Velvet Vocal Series, Academy Award-winner Maureen McGovern on Friday, April 21. Jack Hanna's *Into the Wild LIVE!* is a treat for the entire family. Enjoy a "WILD" night as Jungle Jack of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium introduces audiences to a variety of animals on stage! In April, local favorite Paul Causman stars in Studio A's *An Iliad* and rounding out the season is perennial favorite *The Fantasticks*, the world's longest-running musical. Our Saturday afternoon Children's Series will feature *The Rainbow Fish* and *The Monster Who Ate My Peas*. *The Phantom's Leading Ladies* closes the Broadway Series and brings together three stunning vocalists for an unforgettable night of music, singing everything from the Beatles to Broadway.

We hope you will join us for these and all of the amazing productions coming to the Valentine Theatre stage!

February 2017 — May 2017

<p>Broadway Series</p> <p>The Phantom's Leading Ladies Thurs, Apr 6, 7:30 pm</p> <p>Velvet Vocals Series</p> <p>Dianne Reeves - Tues, Feb 28, 7:30 pm Maureen McGovern—Fri, Apr 21, 8 pm</p> <p>Pick 4 Series</p> <p>Jack Hanna — Sat, Apr 8, 7 pm</p>	<p>Children's Series Saturdays at 2:00 pm</p> <p>The Rainbow Fish — Mar 4 The Monster Who Ate My Peas - Apr 23</p> <p>Studio A (Locally produced)</p> <p>An Iliad Starring Paul Causman Apr 7 - 9 (Fri—Sat 8 pm / Sun 2 pm)</p> <p>The Fantasticks—May 12-14 & 19-21 (Fri & Sat 8 pm / Sun 2 pm)</p>	<p>\$5 Silver Screen Series Fridays at 7:30 pm</p> <p>A League of Their Own—Mar 3 The Quiet Man—Mar 10</p>
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♥ Show Your Love Become a Member ♥

You are the heart of our success. As friends of the Valentine Theatre, you play an integral role in ensuring that we continue to be at the forefront of performing arts venues in the Greater Toledo area. Whether you have been a longtime patron or a newbie, your support and patronage keep this amazing, historic venue alive.

Paying it forward. When you give to the Valentine Theatre, you are giving to the thousands of wide-eyed children who attend our Valentine School Days each year; you are giving to the local musicians, dancers, and actors who find themselves on the same stage as such legendary performers as John Phillip Sousa, Anna Pavlova, and

Lionel Barrymore. When you give, you become part of the Valentine's legacy and have a direct influence in making sure future generations experience the same thrill as you do today.

Membership has its perks! We truly value your commitment to the Valentine, and with your annual donation you are eligible for members-only benefits. These perks are our way of saying "thank you" throughout the season! Information about becoming a member or renewing your membership is included in this mailing. For questions, please contact Laurie Mix at 419-214-4803.

These programs and more are made possible by your Membership





Spotlight on Studio A *by Laurie Mix*



A conversation with Elizabeth Cottle and Jeremy Allen

A small, red awning stands above a doorway on Adams Street. No bright lights, no marquees. Yet through this non-descript entrance you will find Toledo’s most exciting theatre experience — the Valentine’s Studio A Theatre. A black-box performance space, Studio A is ideal for staged readings, intimate musical performances, and workshops.

Studio A



Elizabeth Cottle

Two talented Valentine staffers who are at the heart of Studio A’s success are Elizabeth Cottle, Manager of Support Services, and Jeremy Allen, Assistant Technical Director of the Valentine Theatre and Studio A’s Technical Director. Recently, the duo produced Stephen Dolginoff’s new musical, *Monster Makers*. Elizabeth served as director, marking her fourth turn at the helm of a Studio A production. During the day, Elizabeth handles myriad tasks at the Valentine, from coordinating volunteer schedules to writing and editing grant requests. Because her daily duties are practical in nature, she finds her work in Studio A to be a revitalizing creative outlet: “Much of my day job deals with . . . paper processing and organizing the front-of-house. Studio A gives me a creative outlet to focus my passion for theatre,” she explains. That’s not to say that directing frees her from practical matters. For any given production, she must manage the rehearsal schedule, making sure that lines of communication are open between herself and the creative/technical team, taking note of issues that arise during rehearsals, and researching various aspects of the play itself — tasks which are crucial to the development of a stage production. Speaking about her experience with *Monster Makers*, Elizabeth notes:

Monster Makers was a brand new musical that had been fully staged only once before we presented it in Studio A, so it . . . encouraged more extensive research from the actors and dramaturg as the subjects were historical figures in the entertainment industry and they didn’t have preconceived ideas of how this show was performed before. The show also spanned three different eras, three different locales, and reflected three different film stylings, so mannerisms, dialects, social and political interactions between sexes, classes, and respective film industry hierarchy became very important to distinguish.

As Studio A’s Technical Director, Jeremy Allen is responsible for the technical aspects of the studio’s operation, including but not limited to: rigging lights, designing sound, building sets, and sound-and-light-board operation. While Valentine main stage performances make up the bulk of his duties, he manages to make time to ensure that Studio A shows are as technologically sound as those in the historic theatre. Having intimate experience with both the studio and the historic Valentine stage, Jeremy can easily pinpoint what sets the Studio apart from its larger companion theatre. “Of all the theatres I’ve experienced in the area, Studio A provides the most intimate exchange between actor and audience. In some instances . . . blocking allows audience members to be so close to the action that they can literally reach out and touch an actor.” For Jeremy, this aspect of the studio is part of its magic, because this proximity allows for an “electrical connection” between actor and audience that cannot be replicated in a more traditional proscenium space like the Valentine’s main stage.



Jeremy Allen

Recently, Jeremy’s love for the studio turned into a literal labor of love when he was tasked with revitalizing and expanding the performance space. Thanks to funding from local business ORT Tool and Die and materials donated by Lowe’s Home Improvement, he was able to create a true black-box space with a permanent stage and back wall that could be transformed to suit any type of production or event. “When I first started working in the space, we were building full-on sets for every production. With nothing to tie into structurally, it was very hard to make a traditional box set work.” This difficulty led to Jeremy spearheading the Studio A renovation and, as a result, the space can now adapt to various creative needs. The studio’s new-found flexibility allows designers and directors greater freedom in staging a show, free from the constraints common to more traditional performance spaces. Jeremy’s work in the studio was unveiled at the premiere of *Monster Makers* this past September.



Up next in Studio A is *An Iliad Starring Paul Causman*. This one-man show is a modern interpretation of Homer’s *The Iliad* written by Lisa Peterson and Denis O’Hare. Toledo theatre veteran Paul Causman gives a powerhouse performance that’s not to be missed. Performances are April 7-9. Closing out the season is enduring fan favorite *The Fantasticks*, the world’s longest running musical, May 12-14 and 19-21. Please contact the Valentine Theatre Box Office at 419-242-2787 for ticket information.

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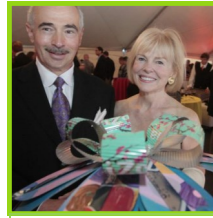
 ValentineTheatre.com



The Valentine Theatre
410 Adams Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604

In the Limelight – Mark & Gretchen Zyndorf

Our donors are vital to the mission and success of the Valentine Theatre. Here is one of their stories.



Mark & Gretchen

“It’s important for the Arts to be a vibrant part of the community.”

Mark Zyndorf and his wife, Gretchen, share a passion for the Arts and, especially the Arts here in Toledo. Whether it’s at a Toledo Symphony concert, an Opera gala, a lecture at the Toledo Museum of Art, or a Broadway show at the Valentine, you will find the Zyndorfs enthusiastically supporting Toledo’s art scene.

As a successful business owner and entrepreneur, Mark has served on several local boards throughout the community, including the Port Authority, Toledo Community Foundation, and the Regional Growth Partnership. It was through his service on the board of Riverside Hospital (now St. Anne’s) that he met Carroll Ashley. At the time, Carroll was working tirelessly with John Robinson Block of The Blade and dozens of community leaders to restore the Valentine Theatre to its former glory. Carroll invited Mark to join the theatre’s fledgling board, and he has never looked back!

Even better, Mark invited Gretchen to share her time and many talents with the Valentine, too. Gretchen has chaired several of our Galas over the years and continues to be an integral part of Valentine fundraisers. One of Gretchen’s favorite memories is from the 2009 Gala *Marvin Hamlisch—From Broadway to Hollywood*. She and Mark hosted a pre-gala party at their home, and Marvin graciously surprised them with an impromptu piano concert for their guests. As Gretchen says, “you meet the most amazing people through the Valentine!”

Giving back is more than second nature to Mark and Gretchen; it also reflects their belief that vibrant communities need consistent nurturing. For them, Toledo is second to none in offering world-class opportunities in the Arts. As home to many local arts groups in northwest Ohio, the Valentine Theatre is the heart of the Arts. And, it’s where their hearts are, too. Recently, Mark and Gretchen established an estate gift for the Valentine Theatre at the Toledo Community Foundation as a way to express their gratitude and commitment to the theatre. The Valentine is fortunate to have such dedicated patrons like Mark and Gretchen. We are deeply grateful for their support and enthusiasm.

Dance Theatre of Harlem Master Class

The acclaimed Dance Theatre of Harlem kicked off its 2017 tour on January 18, performing before an enthusiastic sold-out crowd at the Valentine. In keeping with the dance troupe’s mission to be artistically excellent, educationally active, and socially aware, they offered a 90-minute master class on the Valentine stage just hours before the curtain rose on their own show. Ballet Master Keith Saunders taught 25 aspiring young dancers from across the region, including many students from Ballet Theatre of Toledo, Toledo Ballet, and Toledo School for the Arts. According to Mr. Saunders, Dance Theatre of Harlem offers master classes in nearly every city on their tour, and the students who attend range from novice to advanced. He was impressed with the superb training and focus of the students who attended his Master class here at the Valentine. Next up for Dance Theatre of Harlem is an extensive cross-country tour with stops in Washington, Arizona, California, Indiana, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the company will collaborate with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre during a two-week residency. Master classes like this exemplify the Valentine’s steadfast commitment to educational arts outreach to the youth in our community.

If you would like to know more about upcoming master classes or corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jori Jex at jjex@valentinetheatre.com.



Ballet Master Keith Saunders

