



BACKSTAGE AT THE

Valentine Theatre

SPRING 2020

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



125 Years — A Remarkable Achievement

Next December will mark the 125th Anniversary of the Valentine Theatre's grand opening on December 25, 1895. To commemorate this remarkable achievement, we will kick off a year of celebration with a champagne toast at our Gala on April 25 and continue the celebrations throughout the 2020-2021 season. We hope you will join us in paying tribute to this grand old theatre which has survived world wars, economic downturns, and the wrecking ball, to remain the only historic theatre still standing in what was once downtown Toledo's sprawling theater district. Today, the Valentine Theatre is not just surviving but thriving. Attendance tops 67,000 annually and we estimate that more than one million visitors have come through our doors since our grand reopening in 1999. An impressive turnaround indeed when you consider that less than 40 years ago this historic gem faced certain demolition.

Inside this edition of *Backstage* you will find an interview with Rey Boezi whose relationship with the Valentine started nearly 30 years ago! Rey served as consultant and project manager/owner's representative during the Valentine's renovation, and he along with Jim White, Carroll Ashley, Susan Reams, Joe Rideout, John Robinson Block, and so many others played a crucial role in bringing the Valentine back to its former glory. For more about their contributions as well as the full history of the Valentine, please check out WGTE's Toledo Stories, *Encore! The Valentine Theatre Story*, which can be streamed anytime via WGTE's website.



Photograph of the Valentine Theatre stage.
Image from "The Book of Ohio" (1912)

As we look to our next 125 years, we want to thank you for your continued loyalty and patronage. You are the reason for our success, and we are truly humbled by your steadfast support. Thank you for being our Valentine!

Jori Jex

Fueling Arts Education



Thank you to the James F. White, Jr. Family Foundation for being the first to sponsor Fueling Arts Education! Their gift, made in honor and memory of Jim's wife, Sue, helps to cover the transportation costs for thousands of Toledo Public School Students, allowing them to attend Valentine School Days at no cost. Every year more than 10,000 area students attend Valentine School Days, which brings to life beloved and award-winning children's literature through professional productions tied to Ohio Common Core standards. Thank you for helping us keep the arts accessible to every child in Toledo!

A round of applause for our generous sponsors!



The Valentine Theatre's Anniversary Season

Broadway Series

Finding Neverland—Mon, Mar 16 @ 7:30 pm

An American in Paris — Wed, Apr 8 @ 7:30 pm

The Color Purple — Mon, Apr 27 @ 7:30 pm

PROMEDICA **Pick 4 Series**

The Tap Pack — Sun, Feb 23 @ 7 pm

The Choir of Man — Sun, Mar 1 @ 7 pm

KeyBank **Valentine Theatre GALA**



The Broadway Tenors

Saturday, April 25 @ 6:30 pm

Tickets 419-242-2787 / valentinetheatre.com



Jane Friedman Anspach Foundation



SHINDLER NEFF ^{LLP}



Children's Series

The Magic School Bus — Sat, Mar 21 @ 2 pm

THE BLADE

Classic Silver Screen Series

This is Spinal Tap — Fri, Feb 28 @ 7:30 pm

Grease (sing-a-long version) — Fri, Mar 27 @ 7:30 pm

Studio A

Songs for a New World by Cutting Edge Theatre

May 14-15 @8PM / May 16 @2PM

The Monthly by Glass City Improv — last Fri of the month

#GIVINGTUESDAY™NWO

Valentine wins \$5,000!

Giving Tuesday took place on December 3, 2019, and the Valentine Theatre recorded one of its largest single days of giving, raising \$2,380 the day of the fundraiser. Including pledges and additional gifts in the days following Giving Tuesday, we raised just over \$5,000.

Even more good news...on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, the Greater Toledo Community Foundation and The Blade awarded the Valentine Theatre an unrestricted grant in the amount of \$5,000 as one of three winners in their annual Giving Tuesday random drawing. An estimated 118 area nonprofits participated in Giving-Tuesday@NWO in 2019. The other winning organizations were Bittersweet Farms and Good Grief of Northwest Ohio. Our congratulations to them and many thanks to the Greater Toledo Community Foundation and The Blade.



Executive Director Jori Jex with Keith Burwell (L), president, Greater Toledo Community Foundation and Kurt Franck (R), president and general manager, The Blade

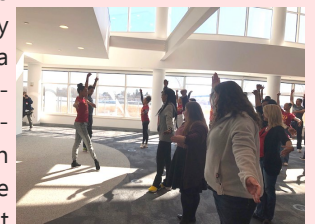


THE BLADE



Bringing Dance to the Community

Toledo was on its toes this Valentine's Day! Dance Theatre of Harlem presented a demonstration class for Owens Corning employees at their headquarters in downtown Toledo. Later, they offered a master class for area dancers on our 5th Floor. Approximately 30 dancers participated in the Master Class. On Saturday, February 15, Dance Theatre of Harlem performed at the Valentine before a sold-out audience. Their performance was made possible by Owens Corning and the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project.



Demo Class at Owens Corning



Celebrating 125 Years of the Valentine

An Interview with Rey Boezi



As part of celebrating the Valentine's 125th Anniversary, we wanted to take a moment and visit with Rey Boezi. Rey served as a part-time consultant for most of the Valentine Theatre's renovation and as a project manager/owner's representative during the final phase. Today Rey is still part of the Valentine, serving on the Facilities Committee, and he and his wife Rosemary are season ticketholders. We asked Rey to share some of his favorite memories from the Valentine's renovation years. For a more in-depth account of the Valentine's history and rebirth, we encourage you to watch *Encore! The Valentine Theatre Story*, which can be streamed anytime on WGTE TV-30 website <https://www.pbs.org/video/encore-the-valentine-theatre-story-qtz940/>.



Before



Before



After



After

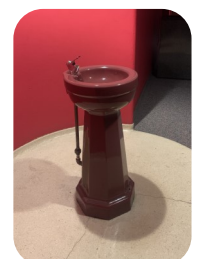
One of Rey's first accomplishments in his role as consultant/owner's representative for the Toledo Cultural Arts Center, Inc. (TCAC) was to secure a tenant for the part of the building that would not be used by the theatre. National Church Residences (NCR), a nonprofit group that provides affordable housing to seniors, was eager to develop housing units in that part of the building which used to be the Willard Hotel. By 1993 NCR had completed 54 senior residences, and the building's former retail space was renovated for use by TCAC as office and rehearsal space and the basement for utilities and storage.

Restoring the Valentine Theatre to its former glory was an enormously complex process that was part restoration, part renovation, and part new construction, involving more than 40 construction firms, dozens of trade unions, state agencies, and a workforce of hundreds. Financial support from the State of Ohio, local corporations, foundations, city, county and federal governments, and thousands of individuals made the renovation possible.

Interestingly, during his years as a project consultant Rey discovered that the Valentine's foundation is built on oak tree trunks which had been pile-driven into the ground back in the 1800s. He actually saw some of these trunks when he was in an excavated part of the basement floor under the theatre. Apparently, once oak trees become water-logged they do not rot, so they make for a very solid support for a foundation.


Many of Rey's favorite memories involve fixing last-minute problems which threatened to derail the theatre's reopening on October 9, 1999. A constant refrain during the renovation when an issue arose was "get it done!" One near disaster involved the Toledo Opera. The Opera had rented a beautifully painted antique canvas set for its premiere of "Tosca." A few days before opening night, the Fire Marshall decided to test the sprinkler system by spraying the water on the asphalt roof above the stage. The pressure was so great that water started trickling down onto the stage. Rey remembers somebody yelling, "the roof is leaking!" After alerting the Fire Marshall, he and the contractors raced into the auditorium to protect the set, but they needn't have worried, as the many layers of lacquer on the antique set made it impervious to water!

One more fun fact — on the second floor, inside the theatre doors stands the Valentine's only remaining water fountain from the 1940s. Rey was keen to get it working, and on the day before the grand reopening a plumber was called in. After some initial difficulty, he was finally able to get it operational. The "Boezi Fountain," as Rey calls it, is still there and it still works!



"Boezi Fountain"

Our heartfelt thanks to Rey for taking the time to talk with us and for all that he and Rosemary have done and continue to do in support of the Valentine!

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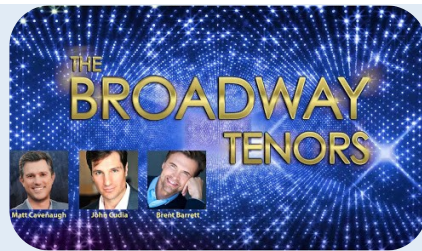
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Valentine Theatre's 21st Annual Gala

Sat April 25, 2020

Pre-Party 6:30 PM / Concert 8:00 PM

"What the Three Tenors were to Opera, The Broadway Tenors are to the Great White Way." — Frances Allen, Beverly Hills Courier

This year's Annual Gala will feature the incomparable voices of three of Broadway's leading men: Brent Barrett (*Chicago, Kiss Me Kate, Annie Get Your Gun*); Matt Cavenaugh (*West Side Story, Grey Gardens, A Catered Affair, Urban Cowboy*); and John Cudia (*Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables*). Enjoy an elegant evening of Broadway songs and standards, signature drinks, delicious appetizers, and more — all to help maintain the beautiful, historic Valentine Theatre.

Festivities start at 6:30 pm with the concert 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$49-\$89 and can be purchased online at valentinetheatre.com or through our Box Office 419-242-2787.

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Valentine  Theatre

**PLAY A ROLE IN HISTORY...
VOLUNTEER AT THE
VALENTINE THEATRE!**

The Valentine Theatre needs volunteers for a variety of positions:

- ♥ Ushers
- ♥ Ticket Takers
- ♥ Concessions
- ♥ Tour Guides

Earn free performance tickets!

To play a role at this exciting venue, please contact Maggie Dowd at mdowd@valentinetheatre.com