



BACKSTAGE AT THE

Valentine Theatre

SPRING 2022

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



Our 23rd Annual Gala with Vanessa Williams and Seth Rudetsky!

The Valentine celebrated its 23rd Annual Gala in sophisticated style with the incomparable Vanessa Williams and Seth Rudetsky, host of Sirius XM's On Broadway! In an intimate evening, Ms. Williams shared fascinating stories from her storied career on stage, film, and television. In between stories, she and Seth played and sang Broadway hits as well as her most popular songs, "Colors of the Wind" from Disney's "Pocohontas" and "Save the Best for Last." Guests enjoyed a complimentary glass of champagne, wonderful hors d'oeuvres from Georgio's International Café, signature cocktails, and delectable desserts from So Sweet Lebanese and French Pastries. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser help support the Valentine's educational programming and general operations. Many thanks to everyone who made this year's event so successful. Photos by Christine Senack Photography and Ruth Kille.



Donna Owens

Carroll & Dorothy Ashley



Rich & Deb Hogan



Desserts by So Sweet Lebanese & French Pastries



Joel & Clare Gorski

A round of applause for our generous sponsors!



♥ Show Your Love for the Valentine ♥

Donate to our Annual Appeal Today!

You are the heart of our success. As a friend of the Valentine Theatre, you are the reason that the Valentine continues to be at the forefront of performing arts in the Greater Toledo area. Whether you have been a longtime patron or just recently discovered our beautiful theatre, your support and patronage help keep the Valentine going strong.

Paying it forward. When you give to the Valentine Theatre's Annual Appeal, you are giving to the thousands of school children who attend our Valentine School Days each year. You are

supporting the scores of local musicians, dancers, and actors who perform on our stage, the same stage where legends like John Phillip Sousa, Anna Pavlova, and Lionel Barrymore once performed. 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 of live theatre as you do today.

Membership has its perks! As our way of saying thank you, your annual donation entitles you to members-only benefits.

Our Favorite Nurses!

A sincere heartfelt thank-you to our team of volunteer nurses who have helped us out tremendously this season. Before each Broadway show can be loaded in, we are contractually required to ensure that all backstage personnel test negative for COVID-19. For this entire season, these lovely ladies have shown up at 6:00 am or earlier to administer COVID tests to scores of backstage staff and crew. They are prompt, professional, positive, and phenomenally efficient! We couldn't have asked for a better team and are so grateful for their willingness to give their time and talent to help our theatre. Thanks to them every Broadway show has gone on without an issue!



Susan Beasecker Anne Helm Susan McCloud-Coyle Barb Stengle



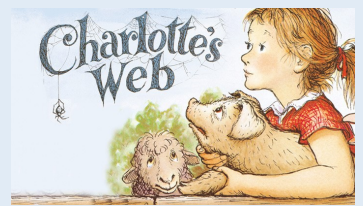
Linens by I Do Chair Covers

*The
Valentine
for
Weddings
&
Events*

▶ PROMEDICA *Renews Pick4 Sponsorship*

ProMedica recently renewed its support for the Valentine Theatre with a generous multi-year sponsorship of our Pick 4 Series that extends through the 24-25 season. We are thrilled to continue this valuable partnership and bring our audiences innovative, high quality entertainment. Our Pick 4 Series typically includes musical groups, dance troupes, parodies, and up-and-coming cutting edge shows. Recent Pick 4 shows have included *Black Violin*, *Dance Theatre of Harlem*, *The British Invasion*, *Potted Potter* and more. Stay tuned for more about our upcoming 22-23 season of Pick 4 shows!

Upcoming Shows



Sunday, May 22 @ 2 pm



Thurs, July 21 @ 7:30 pm

**Tickets (419) 242-2787 /
valentinetheatre.com**

From the History Vault



Valentine H. Ketcham, Sr.
1815-1887

Mr. Ketcham and the Bond Stealers

While researching the Ketcham family, I came across a remarkable story about the family patriarch, Valentine Ketcham, the theatre's namesake. Mr. Ketcham's youngest son, George, built the Valentine Theatre and Building in his father's honor, and a portrait of the two of them hangs in the theatre's historic lobby by the grand staircase.

Valentine H. Ketcham, Sr., came to Toledo in 1836 from Cornwall, New York, and was one of this city's earliest pioneers. He made his fortune in real estate and banking, founding the First National Bank in 1863 and serving as its president until his death in 1887. It was during his presidency at the bank that this story took place.

The circus was in town that day. When they paraded down Summit street, all of the bank clerks rushed to the front of the building to watch. Later they discovered that a tin in the back of the bank containing \$25,000 in city bonds had been stolen. The thieves had pried open the back door while the employees were busy watching the circus parade.


About a month later, Mr. Ketcham received a letter posted from New York City which stated that if he agreed to meet at a certain place at a certain time, he could get his bonds back in exchange for payment of \$5,000. Under no circumstances was he to contact the police or the deal would be off. Mr. Ketcham hurried off to New York. When he arrived he immediately contacted the chief of police. The thieves found out and sent a note saying the deal was off and he might as well go back home to Toledo. Later that same afternoon, however, he received another note from the thieves setting up another rendezvous. This time, Valentine sent a note notifying the police, but again the thieves found out and called the deal off. Mr. Ketcham was considering leaving for home, when the next day he received yet another note. He was told to see a young man whom he would recognize from the description in the note, and to follow him and to keep quiet and not tell anyone what he was doing or where he was going.

This time Mr. Ketcham decided to follow the thieves' orders. He met up with the man and followed him through highways and back alley ways for about an hour and a half. He nearly collapsed from fatigue, but was determined to see the deal through. He ended up in a lavishly furnished suite of rooms on the fifth-floor of a tenement house in the heart of the Tenderloin district known as "Robbers' Roost." True to its name, the place was filled with thieves, robbers, and thugs. Mr. Ketcham was taken to an anteroom where he was met by four or five well-dressed men who despite their chosen profession acted like gentlemen. The men locked the door behind them, and the oldest of them asked Mr. Ketcham if he had the money. "I have," he replied. Relating the story later, Mr. Ketcham told what happened next.

I was afraid they would hear my teeth chatter, but I decided to put on a bold front and see the matter through. I saw that they were bound to have the money, whether I gave it up freely or not; so producing my wallet, I threw the \$5,000 upon the table, at the same time demanding the return of the bonds. The bonds were at once produced from a small safe which stood in one corner of the room. I put up a bluff in an effort to show that I was not a bit frightened by proceeding deliberately to count the bonds. There were only twenty-four — one was missing and I said so. After some skirmishing they produced the missing bond. I was then invited to an inner room, where, on a sideboard, were all sorts of liquors and a splendid luncheon. I was invited to eat and drink, but refused. There were twelve or fifteen men in this room, eating, drinking, and lounging about or playing cards. Upon declining any refreshments, I was escorted to the entrance and told to follow the young man who had served as my escort to the place. I parted from him at the point where I had met him in the afternoon. I made a bee line for the depot, and on the afternoon of the next day the bonds were again back in the First National Bank of Toledo.

The Inter-Ocean newspaper reprinted this story in 1899, nearly a dozen years after Mr. Ketcham's death, when Chicago was experiencing a rash of brazen bond stealing by local gangs. The story is as riveting today as it was then!

"Ways of Bond Gang: Sensational Experience of Mr. Ketcham of First National Bank of Toledo," The Inter Ocean (Chicago, Illinois), 05 Feb 1899, p. 28.

 VALENTINE STAFF

JORI JEX
Executive Director

MATT LENTZ
Director of Marketing & PR

TIM DURHAM
Technical Director

RUTH KILLE
Finance Director

JOSHUA SMITH
Assistant Technical Director

BILL COLTER
Facility Manager

NANCY GOLDE
Special Events Director

AMY SPAULDING-HEURING
Box Office Manager

Danielle Moseley
*Manager, Support Services &
Box Office Assistant Manager*

Matthew Leuck
*House Director & Volunteer
Corps Coordinator*

KELBY SODEMAN
DEVELOPMENT & VSD COORDINATOR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CLARE GORSKI, CHAIR

DAVID RECTENWALD, VICE CHAIR

ALAN KLINE, TREASURER

KRISTEN NICHOLSON, SECRETARY

CARROLL ASHLEY

MICHAEL J. AUST

ED BECZYNSKI

R.L. BERRY

STEPHEN BOWE

MELISSA FREEMAN

DANA LOEB

DONNA OWENS

THOMAS PALMER

JAMES STENGLE

MARC STOCKWELL

JOSEPH SWEENEY

ANNA MALONE TONEY

TRACI WATKINS, M.D.

WILLIAM M. WOLFF

TINA SKELDON WOZNIAK

KATIE YARDER

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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Toledo, OH
Permit No. 660

New Sensory-Friendly Relaxed Series Coming in 2022-2023



The Greater Toledo Community Foundation recently awarded the Valentine Theatre a \$25,000 Community Builder grant to create a new Sensory-Friendly/Relaxed Children's Series. The Series will serve families of children diagnosed with autism or autism spectrum disorder as well as families of young children or anyone seeking a more relaxed theatre-going experience. Our intention is to make the Valentine an even more inclusive space for families in our region, where they can attend live theatrical performances in a relaxed, comfortable space. We will be partnering with Bowling Green State University's Theatre Department and ProMedica's Finnegan Center for Autism in implementing the series.

We plan to offer up to four shows in the Sensory-Friendly/Relaxed Series during the upcoming 2022-2023 season. The performances will run about 45 minutes each and will take place on weekend afternoons between October and May. The performances will differ from typical performances in that house lights will be at 50%, audience members will be encouraged to get up from the seats, dance, move around and vocalize. "Chill out" zones will be available in our lobbies and Founder's room for individuals needing a break, and widgets and headphones will be available for use from our box office. Tickets for the Series will be \$10 for children and \$15 for adults. Look for more information about the Series in our season brochure.