

backstage news

from The Paramount Theater

Spring 2020

Paramount Presents:
**CHRISTMAS
WITH ELVIS**
WITH BIG RAY AND THE
KOOL KATS
December 7, 2019

© Rob Garland Photographers



League of Historic
American Theatres

OUTSTANDING HISTORIC THEATRE



215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902 | 434.979.1333 | www.theparamount.net

The Paramount Theater of Charlottesville, Inc. is a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization.

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Mission

The mission of the historic nonprofit Paramount Theater is to educate, enchant, enrich, and enlighten through the power of the arts by providing high-quality programming and accessibility for the artistic, educational, and charitable benefit of our entire community while driving economic vitality for Charlottesville, Albemarle, and the Central Virginia region.

Educate. Enchant. Enrich. Enlighten.

A Word from Executive Director Chris Eure



Hello Paramount Community,

The twinkling lights of the Stage and Marquee are alive and bright this season! We hope you have your calendar marked to join us for more star-studded and diverse events this season at The Paramount.

As the new year began another trip around the sun, we welcomed a new decade. At The Paramount, this means we are preparing to celebrate our sweet 16th year as our community's nonprofit Theater this fall. During these (almost!) 16 years, whether you have joined us for a live event, a broadcast on the Big Screen, an event in support of a local nonprofit, or a free tour of our historic facility, we are thrilled that you have chosen to spend your time with us. And while our 16th year as a nonprofit is a great milestone to celebrate, it feels like a true teenager compared to the 90th birthday of the facility that we will celebrate in November of 2021. It is amazing the years that have ticked by since the Theater opened in 1931, and how fortunate we are as a community to have the lights shining brightly today. While I have only been here a short eight of those years, each year has brought new challenges and new rewards. I truly consider it a privilege to serve as the Executive Director of this iconic landmark, and I stand with you today as a protector and supporter of one of our greatest community treasures.

In just the next few weeks, we will welcome a variety of events to our stage: country star Chris Janson, followed by world-renowned British cellist Steven Isserlis, for exciting live performances. We will welcome back many of our community events that have become important staples: The Virginia Festival of the Book, Tom Tom Festival, Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville for their annual presentation of Wordplay, and so many more. We know that our ability to stay vibrant and accessible allows our community to bring and enjoy relevant, diverse programming on our Stage and Screen. What greater gift is there to give our community, whether you are 2 or 82, than a place to experience how the arts can unify communities?

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our wonderful Board of Directors for bestowing on me the gift of a month-long sabbatical, which I will be taking in March. As you read this I will be lounging on my sofa and eating bon bons! Seriously, when the Board first presented me with this gift of time to recharge, I honestly thought they were a little confused. I love my job—why did they need to make me suffer and step away for a month? It seemed like a punishment. But as usual, the Board was wiser than I, and I am so excited and grateful to have this time to relax a bit and reflect back on the last great eight years and the exciting future with many more years ahead. I leave the Theater confidently and without hesitation in the capable hands of our Staff and Board. (I can hardly imagine my day-to-day without The Paramount; it has become like the 5th child of my family.) However, this sabbatical—if you will—is intended to keep ideas and perspective fresh, new, and exciting. I know that when I return to my office—and emails!—on Monday, March 30, I will be walking back to the office primed for our next adventure. While I am away, the very talented senior members of our Staff will be holding down the fort, and the Theater's operations will continue running seamlessly. While out of the office, I will be making sure to frequent the incredible programming planned for March at the Theater, but on these visits attending as a patron myself! I hope to see you in the audience many times this month; you won't have any trouble spotting me—I'll be the relaxed one in the audience!








We hope to see you again soon (and often!) at Charlottesville's award-winning Outstanding Historic Theater on the Downtown Mall, The Paramount Theater. We will keep the lights on and your seat saved for even more magical events this year!

Yours in Community,

Chris

Chris Eure
Executive Director
The Paramount Theater

2019 RECAP

 237 Days there was at least one event	 7,720 Tubs of popcorn sold	 130 5-star Google reviews	 29 "Paramount at the Movies" titles shown
 42 Silent Auction Items at the Gala	 62% Generated Revenue from Theater operations	 38% Generated Revenue from philanthropic support	 226 Names on our FY19 Annual Leadership Donor Wall



Daily Progress Readers' Choice Awards 2019
BEST LIVE THEATER – Winner • PLACE TO SEE MUSIC – Finalist
Charlottesville Family Favorite Awards 2019
FAVORITE MUSIC VENUE – Winner



Backstage News is a newsletter published bi-annually by The Paramount Theater. Questions, comments, and address changes should be directed to: Backstage News, c/o Marketing Department at The Paramount, 215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, VA, 22902; info@theparamount.net; or 434.979.1922.

"Shake, Rattle, and Roll" with The Paramount's Cast & Crew

World-renowned Elvis impersonator Matt Lewis and Charlottesville's own Big Ray and the Kool Kats had patrons "shake, rattle, and rolling" in their seats on December 7, 2019. While Matt Lewis's performance certainly enraptured the audience, members of The Paramount's Cast & Crew gave him a run for his money! Jay Ferguson and Mike Benzian, members of the Cast & Crew and dedicated Paramount supporters, spent the evening keeping the show going in the Founders Lounge, where they served as Elvis bartenders.

The love, dedication, and engagement required to keep the vitality and vibrancy alive at the Theater has not changed much since 1992 when the Cast & Crew banded together to purchase the Theater and saved it, literally, from the wrecking ball. Since then, Cast & Crew



The mission of the Cast & Crew Committee is to honor those who have shepherded the revitalization of The Paramount Theater with great love, passion, and dedication. Thank you for being a part of our theater community.



members have worked tirelessly to raise funds for the restoration, to support The Paramount in its mission of reopening in 2004, and today as dedicated members of The Paramount community partaking in events and programs.

In its sixth year, currently led by Board Members Jackie Bradley and Barbara Sieg, Cast & Crew engagement continues to expand. "Our work is not complete," Jackie said. "Nothing is guaranteed, other than the belief that to pass this building, and the magic it brings, to the next generation, we must continue our work to preserve the historic structure and engage our community in its ever-changing needs."

We hope Cast & Crew Members, as well as The Paramount community at large, will join us for the diverse and engaging events scheduled this spring at the Theater.

ROXANE GAY SPEAKS ON "THE AGE OF INELASTICITY"

This year's Community MLK Celebration was presented by The Paramount's Community Partner, the University of Virginia Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, in conjunction with the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy; the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost; the Vice Provost for the Arts; the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality; the Maxine Platzer Lynn Women's Center; the School of Data Science; and the Office of the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer. The event's keynote speaker was Roxane Gay, author, professor, and cultural critic who writes essays, novels, short stories, and comics. Gay spoke to a full house at The Paramount on the evening of January 23, during which she read two short essays and held a

question-and-answer session with the audience.

Gay's talk centered on today's rigid political divisions, as she pointed out we are living in "an age of inelasticity," cautioning that "if we're not careful, we'll break." She called for compromise, and suggested that when it comes to having difficult conversations, we should choose to talk with people who seem open to being reached.

However, "things are not getting better," she said, noting how difficult it is to sustain the energy necessary to keep working on issues. But, there have been some positive changes, she added, as people who were once complacent are becoming more engaged, and young



people are getting more involved in creating solutions to major issues.

"If everyone asks, 'What can I do?' we can take small steps that are good in many different ways," Gay said. "We need to become more flexible."

THANK YOU TO OUR PARAMOUNT VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

2019: **Evelyn & Gene Haney**

2018: **Elaine Chapman**

2017: **Helen and Tommy Saul**

2016: **Mary Ann Dawson**

2015: **Bunny Sheppard**

2014: **Linda Lester**

2013: **Debbie Howe**

2019 VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

January 2019: **Marty Lupinetti**

February 2019: **Andy & Debby Foote**

March 2019: **Amy Ma**

April 2019: **Jude Garzolini**

May 2019: **Anita Jacobson**

June 2019: **Peggy Slez**

July 2019: **Dirk Keyser**

August 2019: **Delores Herring**

September 2019: **John Lockney**

October 2019: **Valerie Farrell**

November 2019: **Diann Bailey**

December 2019: **Andrea Ross**

Shooting to Stardom: An Interview with The Kingdom Choir's Founder



A global audience of over 2 billion people watched The Kingdom Choir perform at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. The Choir's rendition of "Stand By Me" went straight to the top of the Billboard charts, and last October they released their first full length album worldwide on Sony Music.

The Kingdom Choir will be taking to The Paramount's stage on Saturday, May 2 at 8:00PM, and we couldn't be more thrilled! Tickets are available at www.theparamount.net/events.

We recently spoke with Karen Gibson, founder and director of The Kingdom Choir, who shared with us the Choir's backstory and what it was like to instantly become a worldwide sensation.

How was The Kingdom Choir founded, and how has it grown and changed over the years?

The Kingdom Choir was born out of a wide church choir. Members of this choir were asked to help out on a radio program that would go into churches to record a service. Eventually this choir became standalone, and then was asked to appear on the national television program. That's when the Choir became an entity.

Because the Choir was already appearing on the radio and TV, some of what we were doing was quite high profile. However, this changed when I went away to America to study in 2008. The Choir stopped for a while, until 2013 when I decided to restart it. By this time, many of the original members had moved on to other things. I decided to recruit, amongst others, members from the youth choirs and school choirs that I had been teaching, so many of the choir members are about half my age. There are still some members who are my peers, so now we have a greater age range amongst the membership.

Artists of a variety of backgrounds make up the Choir. Does that ever make it difficult to create the unified sound you strive toward?

Every choir is made up of a range of individuals who have different backgrounds. However, the culture that is created within the Choir is the thing that finds hearts and minds together. When everyone is on the same page, it's not difficult to create a unified sound.

How was the Choir approached about performing at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle? How did you feel when it became a reality?

There was a young lady who used to sing in the Kingdom Choir about 12 years ago. One day I got a call from her out of the blue, and she said, "I guess you're wondering what I'm calling about. Karen, you are going to get another call, but I can't tell you what it's about. But Karen, it's big!" Well, the other call didn't come for a few days, during which I thought that it wouldn't come at all. It eventually did, and that's when I was asked to perform at the Royal Wedding. It turns out the ex-member of the Choir is friends with a member of Prince Charles' staff, and it was he who wanted a gospel choir for the Royal Wedding.

To be honest, in the run-up to the wedding, I wasn't really sure that it would take place at all! It was all so surreal...

What went through your mind before and after your performance at the Royal Wedding?

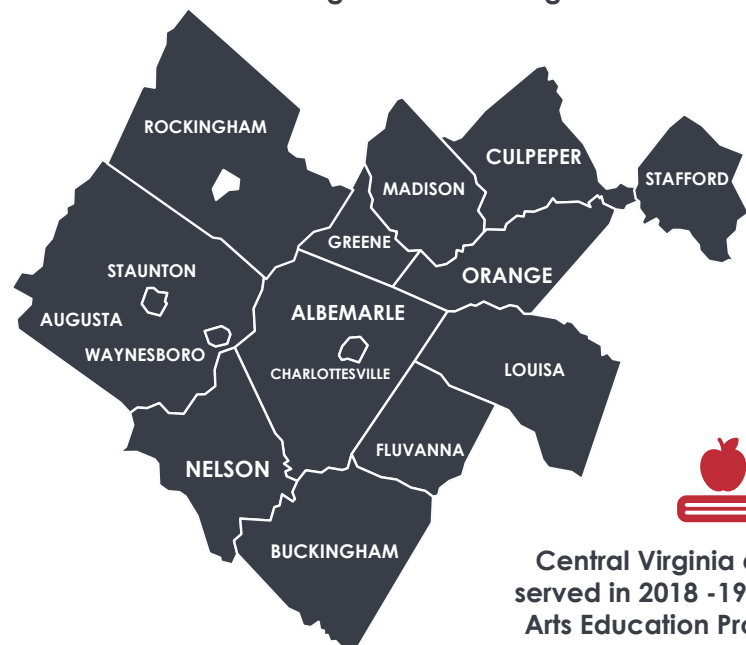
Before the wedding, we were all so excited. We thought that it was going to be a lovely day, there would be a bit of a fuss about the Choir, and then it would all die down. What actually happened was that immediately after the wedding, we were being mobbed in the streets. We had to have bodyguards. It was crazy, and the response was completely unexpected.

What has your instant rise to stardom been like, and how does it feel to have made such an impact on your millions of new fans?

Life has never been the same again, and we are still living out the blessing from that call two years ago. It has been a wonderful privilege to be able to impact people in the way that we have. We feel very privileged to be able to reach people all over the world through our music and our words, and we're so grateful for all that has happened. Sometimes I'm still surprised at how this all came about, and I find myself amazed at how different things are now. It's been an incredible journey. I wouldn't change it for anything.

Arts Education Impact at a Glance

The mission of The Paramount Theater Arts Education Program is to foster appreciation, understanding, and love of the performing arts. The Arts Education Program provides the opportunity for all students to experience live performing arts in the beautifully restored historic Paramount Theater. Since its inception in 2004, the Arts Education Program has served 195,160 students and teachers throughout Central Virginia.



Total number of students and teachers: **18,667**



Total public schools: **60**
Total private schools: **25**



Total public school districts: **15**



Total home schools: **56**



Total number of students receiving additional financial assistance based on need: **4,800**
ALL students & teachers received a subsidized ticket rate of only \$8.50 for every performance.



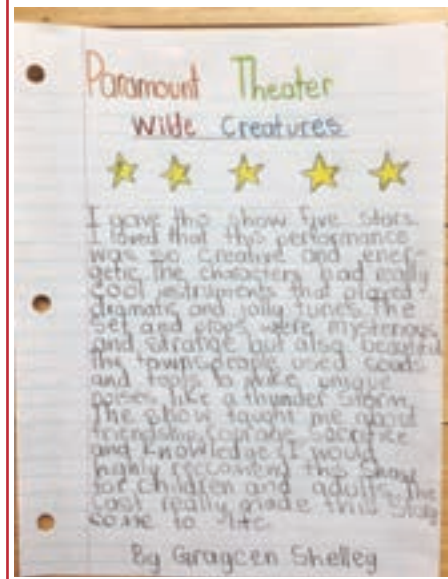
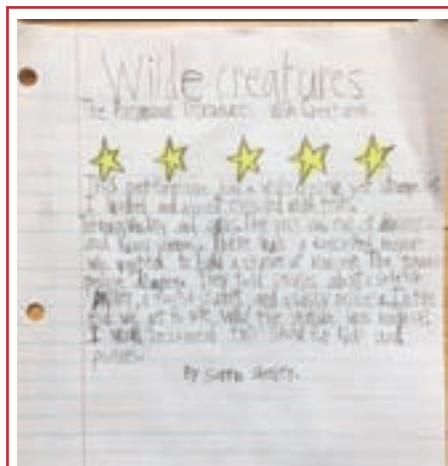
Thank you to our 2019-20 Arts Education Season Sponsor:



Thank you to our Educational Public Performance Sponsors:



Thank you notes from happy students



STILL TO COME! 2019-20 ARTS EDUCATION THE MAGIC CONTINUES THIS SEASON AT THE PARAMOUNT

Miss Nelson Has A Field Day
Dallas Children's Theater
April 20 & 21, 2020

***Llama Llama – Live!**
Bay Area Children's Theatre
April 23 & 24, 2020
Sponsored by Janet and Gray Ferguson

*Public performance is also offered. Please visit www.theparamount.net/events.

Arts Education Program Promotes Stage-to-Classroom Learning

The Paramount's Arts Education Program is more than halfway through its lineup for the 2019-20 season. More than 10,300 local and regional youth and teachers have enjoyed going underwater with *National Geographic Live!* – Coral Kingdoms and Empires of Ice, getting groovy with Secret Agent 23 Skidoo, traversing history with *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and more! The Paramount's Auditorium is one big classroom, offering a fun, dynamic, and interactive place to learn. Teachers not only have the opportunity to connect the themes of our Arts Education programming to their learning standards—sometimes they get to bring a little extra magic to the classroom as well!

In October, GRAMMY-winning hip hop artist, "Secret Agent 23 Skidoo," filled The Paramount's Auditorium with his infectious rhymes and funky beats and had students dancing in their seats. Before he took to the stage, however, Skidoo and his ensemble of vocalists and dancers paid a visit to Walker Upper Elementary School to lead a group of 6th grade music students in a hip hop songwriting workshop. Skidoo shared some of his own material, and then challenged the students to write their own hip hop verses. Students slowly plucked up the courage to share their own raps, and those who were brave enough to take up the mic received enthusiastic support from their peers.

In December, the National Players—America's longest-running touring theatre company—performed *The Diary of Anne Frank*, by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett and adapted by Wendy Kesselman. The play is a stage adaptation of the book *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. Not only did National Players bring the true story of this incredibly insightful girl to the stage, they also brought the story back to the classroom when they conducted workshops with Drama and English classes at Charlottesville High School (CHS), impacting nearly 200 students. The National Players conducted eight workshops covering

"Text in Context" and "Word to Action: Playwriting" in English classes, and "Acting and Improv" in first-year Drama classes.

Cathy von Storch, The Paramount's Education & Outreach Manager, said of the English class workshops: "Students had a chance to get an inside look at the lives of the Players as actors and educators, and engage in sharing their own stories through short writing exercises. They created one-act plays, and did other activities to help draw connections between Anne Frank's world and their own." As for the Drama students, von Storch shared, "They learned some tricks of the trade from the Players, and they even had a chance to impress the Players with their own amazing talents!"

The Paramount has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the teachers who attended these live performances. One teacher wrote of the Skidoo show, "This was an incredible performance! It is definitely one of the most exciting, engaging, and powerful performances I have ever brought students to, and they absolutely loved it!" Another commented, "Students and teachers alike were on their feet dancing to the positive lyrics and the booming beats that filled the historic auditorium."

"Thank you for allowing me to join for the National Players production of *Anne Frank*...wow!" wrote one educator. "Logistics were impressively smooth, students seemed engaged by the performers, and the actors brought me back to a story I know well and dearly love. Thanks for reminding me of the incredible power of the stage to move hearts and minds. I laughed, I cried, and I remembered."

The Paramount Arts Education Program is committed to presenting the finest arts education performances for students in Central Virginia, both on stage and with residences in the classroom. A record-breaking 18,667 students and teachers attended Arts

Education performances last year, and over 195,000 have attended since 2004. With the support of Arts Education Partners, The Paramount Theater is able to offer performances at a reduced cost or free of charge, thus ensuring that these programs are accessible to all students. To learn more about the Arts Education Program, please visit www.theparamount.net/education.



The National Players and Secret Agent 23 Skidoo took time outside of their performances to lead local students in educational workshops.

"My dreams years ago are coming true. 'If I ever have a grandchild, the Theater will be there, ready.' I have a grandchild, and the Theater is ready. [My grandson] ADORED his first live show. He told his mother, 'Mama, there were puppets, singing, and music, and I loved the bathroom, too.' Thank you to your Education Committee...you all are heroes." – Former Paramount Board Member

"I felt like we took a field trip to NYC to a Broadway show! [Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus] was great and we loved it! We love coming to The Paramount so much! Each time it just gets better and better. The quality of the shows you present are wonderful. Visits to The Paramount are one of the highlights of our school year." – 1st Grade Teacher, Albemarle County Public Schools

10th Annual Grand Marquee Gala Supports The Paramount's Endeavors



The evening of Saturday, January 25 saw a flood of cocktail dresses and dancing shoes at “Seas The Paramount.” The 10th Annual Grand Marquee Gala—The Paramount’s largest fundraiser of the year—was an incredible success. We are thrilled to share that over \$111,000 was raised in support of the artistic, educational, and charitable benefit of this community treasure. We are exceedingly grateful for our donors and sponsors whose support made such a huge splash!

From the incredible transformation of not only the Lobby, Ballroom, and Balcony Lounge, but also the Auditorium and Stage, the décor of the evening transported Gala attendees to a magical place of ocean-inspired moments. Harvest Moon Catering provided a palette of delicious flavors with their unique entrées and delightful hors d’oeuvres. Attendees were entertained by caricature artist Daniel Ryman, the Magic Mirror photo booth, and local pianist John Garland. With whiskey tasting and caviar bites, the night was filled with laughter, fun, and exquisite food and drink.

The Stage opened to Gala guests with D.J. Nasty providing a party

atmosphere, complete with a green screen projection of dancing party-goers. As the night evolved, silent disco began to take over the crowd, with playlists from Paramount Programming Director, Matthew Simon.

The silent auction for the evening highlighted more than 40 packages. With desired escapes from Viking River Cruises, Natural Retreats, and more, destination packages were a popular item. The auction also included a guitar signed by Paramount performers, a cooking class at Fleurie, gorgeous one-of-a-kind works of art, a basketball signed by UVA’s 2019 National Championship team coach Tony Bennett, and more!

Our gratitude extends to Rob Garland of Rob Garland Photographers, who captured so many memorable moments throughout the evening. To view the full album of event photographs, please visit: www.theparamount.net/gala.

Endless thanks goes out to the stellar Grand Marquee Gala Committee, led by chairs Laurie and Cary Turner, as well as to every set of hands that helped make the night so special. To those who attended the Gala—we hope you had as much fun as we did!

Please save the date for next year’s Gala, which is slated to take place on Saturday, January 23, 2021, or Saturday, January 30, 2021, pending the UVA Basketball home schedule. Please tune in to our website near the end of summer for more information.

THANK YOU TO THE 2020 GRAND MARQUEE GALA COMMITTEE

- Laurie Turner, Chair
- Sheldon Anderson
- Maia Bannan
- Antoinette Brewster
- Bethan Browning
- Patti Cary
- Pam Edmonds
- Chris Eure
- Clay Eure
- Chris Faulkner
- Sterling Frank
- Maran Garland
- Janna Gies
- Carla Hallman
- Katie Manning Henry
- Meg Holden
- Amanda Jones
- Susan Knight
- Gincy Carrington Plummer
- Laura Quagliaroli
- Mary Buckle Searle
- Sherry Williams
- Lauri Wilson

To learn how you can support The Paramount Theater, visit www.theparamount.net/support-us, or contact Major Gifts Officer Chris Faulkner at 434-293-1009 or chrisfaulkner@theparamount.net.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 SPONSORS & PATRONS

GOLD

- Jackie Bradley and Richard Gilliam
- Pam and Frank Edmonds
- Harvest Moon Catering
- Elizabeth and Joe LeVaca
- Laurie and Cary Turner
- Anonymous

SILVER

- Lynn and Kenny Brown
- Rob Garland Photographers
- Stewart and Mary Buckle Searle
- The AV Company

BRONZE

- Patti Cary and Todd Stansbury
- Janna and David Gies
- Johnnie Walker Whisky
- Katie Manning Henry and Chris Henry
- Amanda and Glad Jones
- Kris Kasselmann and Bob Emmett
- Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital
- Elsie and Mac Thompson
- UVA Arts

PATRON

- Antoinette and Ben Brewster | Gordon and Marjorie Burris
- Judy Campbell and Michael Henke | Chris and Brad Eure
- Sterling and Gerry Frank | Mark Giles and Lisa Hogan
- Pat and Sharon Hogan | Mary and Byrd Leavell
- Michael Mallory and Veronica Harsh | Rock Paper Scissors
- Karen L. Skidmore | Will Trinkle and Juan Manuel Granados
- Paige and Phillip Zelikow



The Auditorium was transformed to an underwater paradise



Sharing the work of caricature artist Daniel Ryman



Magic Mirror photo booth at the Gala



A magnificent centerpiece created by Tourterelle



Patrons enjoy festivities in the Founders Lounge



Paramount Marquee



Green screen fun on the Stage



Guests rock out with silent disco



Red Carpet welcome!

Katie Henry of The Manning Family Foundation Takes a Seat

The Manning Family Foundation, a generous, long-standing Producer Club sponsor of The Paramount Theater, supports health research and innovation which leads to the development of more effective treatments, and ultimately cures, for the world's most disruptive diseases. The Foundation encourages a spirit of entrepreneurialism to help achieve that end. In addition, the Manning Family Foundation supports groups in Charlottesville that share in the vision of a thriving community, one in which culture can flourish and families can prosper.

One of the many ways the Manning Family Foundation supports flourishing community is through their dedicated support of The Paramount, which is now in their 7th consecutive year of sponsorship. We recently sat down with Katie Manning Henry, Board Member for The Paramount and Executive Director with the Manning Family Foundation, to ask a few questions regarding The Paramount's impact on our community, specifically our youngest patrons.

The Manning Family Foundation, Stony Point Design, and Dairy Market have been dedicated supporters of The Paramount for many years. Katie, can you share with us a bit about why you generously continue to philanthropically support the Theater along with giving your time and energy through Board service?

The Manning Family Foundation resonates with, and supports, the mission of The Paramount Theater to give philanthropic support for exposure to the arts and theater to low income youth in our community. At the Foundation, we believe it is extremely important to support this exposure to the arts as it helps broaden world views of our next generation. The arts, in its many forms, gives exposure to an immense amount of creativity and can inspire young minds beyond the day-to-day.

As a parent to a young and growing family,

the programming offered for our community's youth at The Paramount is incredible. This dedication to diverse programming, for even the youngest audience, spoke to me. Our daughter Alice, at 16 months, attended a live performance of *The Nutcracker*; the whole time, her jaw was on the floor. Something about the Theater spoke directly to her. Whether it was Peppa Pig running off of the stage, or Peter Rabbit being followed by the fox, Alice was engaged with the magic happening. Picture, as a young child's imagination soars, this magic that the arts provide can transform their world, giving them ample content to talk about for weeks after.

In what ways do you see the Theater as an important asset for our community?

The Manning Family Foundation supports the impact of the arts The Paramount extends to the youth in our community, specifically to low income children whose horizons can be broadened through arts exposure.

The inspiration for the Dairy Market began as a way to enrich our community, to have a gathering space where people can come together for a fun experience. In a different way, The Paramount does this for our community. You have people coming together to have a shared experience, to see something they love, or to bring their imagination to life. Anything that supports Charlottesville as being a wonderful place to live is important for our community, and we believe that The Paramount does this very well. When you walk in the doors of the Theater, you feel transformed; it feels like you could be walking into a Theater in the 1930s. It is not just the shows, but the Theater itself that speaks to our community. Along with Monticello and the downtown mall, The Paramount is a pillar of bringing people, specifically tourists, to our community, along with bringing anyone in Charlottesville together.



What is your favorite memory at The Paramount?

Without a question, that is easy: Diana Ross! Her level of showmanship was so magnetic and charismatic. To see her in person, and to hear her perform the songs I have heard my whole life, it brought it full-circle for me on the stage. The performance was a family experience; my parents were also in attendance. We talk about the idea that as a performer she transcends generations. It was such a great night at The Paramount. We are grateful that there are members of our community who enable events like this to happen; we are honored to be a part of it all, too.

Paramount for the Holidays

HOLIDAY EVENING CANDLELIGHT TOURS OF THE HISTORIC THEATER

The Paramount's inaugural Holiday Evening Candlelight Tours took place over the course of five evenings in November and December 2019. Candles and lanterns lit curious faces as families and friends explored The Paramount in all its holiday splendor. Live music from St. Anne's-Belfield Quartet and The Quarter Notes of Charlottesville High School, along with festive drinks and cookies during the post tour reception in the Ballroom, enhanced the holly

jolly feeling. Patrons shared a few of their favorite parts of the tour, which included the décor and getting to go "behind the scenes." One patron praised the tour guides and declared, "It was a spectacular evening!" Another shared that her grandchildren later asked for a dessert bar "just like The Paramount's." We can't thank enough our Theater Volunteers, Board, and Staff who worked so hard to create a little extra magic for patrons this holiday season.



3RD ANNUAL BREW & BUDDY RUN

Nearly two hundred elves descended upon The Paramount on December 8, 2019, for the 3rd Annual Brew & Buddy Run. Participants, decked out in their most creative holiday finery—from Rudolph onesies to light-up sweaters—ran a two-mile loop with stops at Three Notch'd and Champion for a free pour at each brewery. The runners also received a 2019 Brew & Buddy souvenir cup and had the chance to participate in a costume contest on The Paramount's Stage. The festive evening concluded with a presentation of *Elf* on the Big Screen.

Photography by Rob Garland Photographers

BACK TO SCHOOL (OF ROCK)

The Paramount screened the Jack Black classic *School of Rock* in early January, to the enjoyment of both the young and young-at-heart. Seven residents of Morningside of Charlottesville's Bridge to Rediscovery attended the film and had a "wonderful time," according to Caregiver Patsy Asuncion.

"Some of the residents had never been to The Paramount," Patsy wrote in an email of thanks. "It was quite a sight for them!" Patsy shared that her husband, a Bridge resident, also attended the screening, and she was thrilled they had the opportunity to go on a "date."

"Music and comedy are good health tools for anyone, but especially for our residents," Patsy added. "You provided a community adventure that was perfect in many ways!"

It's because of people like Patsy and the residents of Bridge to Rediscovery that The Paramount is so grateful to those who support the Mary P. Reese Community Access Fund, which provides complimentary or discounted tickets to community nonprofits. To learn how to contribute, please visit www.theparamount.net/support-us.



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There is always something exciting happening at The Paramount! Stay connected online to receive up-to-date information on new shows, movies, and other events coming soon to YOUR community's Theater.

Did You Know? The Paramount is an Internationally Award-winning Theater!

On your next trip to The Paramount, be sure to visit our LHAT Statue in The Mamie Atkinson Jessup and Claude A. Jessup Memorial Lobby!

The Paramount Theater was awarded the prestigious Outstanding Historic Theatre Award by the League of Historic American Theatres. This coveted award recognizes a theater that demonstrates excellence through its community impact, quality of program and services, and quality of the restoration of its historic structure. To read more about this award, please visit our blog at: theparamount.net/LHAT



League of Historic
American Theatres

OUTSTANDING HISTORIC THEATRE

"Our tour was fabulous through the candlelit halls, up and down, ALL around. In the quiet and beauty and knowledge, these men and women flawlessly created true Holiday Spirit for our hearts. The unexpected dessert bar and [specialty drinks] truly set the stage for gratitude to all who labor at our beloved Paramount on Virginians' behalf." – Holiday Evening Candlelight Tour Patron

Securing The Paramount For Generations to Come!

The Paramount Theater opened in 1931 as a grand movie palace, where the community gathered together to experience entertainment on the Big Screen. While the Theater thrived for decades, unfortunately it was unable to sustain through the test of time and economic hardships. Sadly, the doors closed for good in 1974. The Paramount sat vacant and decaying for nearly twenty years until in 1992 when citizens banded together and purchased the building. It was an \$18-million-dollar community investment that made it possible to reopen this Charlottesville treasure in 2004. The shutting of the Theater's doors in the 1970s was all too real, but now it is almost impossible to imagine the Downtown Mall, and our community at large, without this grand gathering place.

As we approach the Theater's 90th birthday, it is our turn to pay it forward so the lights will never again dim. It is up to us to ensure the lights on the Marquee and Blade will always shine brightly at the center of Downtown Charlottesville for future generations to come.

It is with incredible excitement the Paramount Board and Staff share the wonderful news that an endowment has been started for The Paramount Theater. Led originally by Endowment

Committee Chair Lou Jordan, the endowment quietly amassed contributions from engaged Paramount supporters. With the passing of the torch this fall from Mrs. Jordan to Paramount Board Member Mr. Gary Taylor and Paramount Board Chair Mr. David Gies, the story endures. Under their leadership, the endowment continues to grow. Many consider a gift to the future of The Paramount as a meaningful way to make a significant and lasting impact on the Theater they love.

This past fall, the Theater's Board of Directors created a fund within The Paramount's endowment to honor the legacy of longtime Board Member and Arts Education Committee Chair, Penny Bosworth, for her exemplary devotion to The Arts Education Program. The gifts made in honor of Penny in endowed funds will provide, in perpetuity, high quality Arts Education performances while maintaining affordable ticket prices and, in addition, will increase the number of scholarships for the thousands of students across the region who could otherwise not attend.

We need your help to carry the torch onward. To learn more about The Paramount's endowment, or to begin the process of making a gift to the fund, please contact Chris Eure, Executive



"We believe in the educational and entertainment mission of Charlottesville's treasure, The Paramount Theater, and want to insure that it will be here for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A planned gift is an easy way to do that." - David and Janna Gies

Director of The Paramount Theater, at chriseure@theparamount.net.

Founders Lounge Reveal Party

This past November, on The Paramount's 88th birthday, the beloved Suzanne Jessup Brooks Founders Lounge received a gorgeous, show-stopping refresh thanks to the creative eye and inspiration of the local design team at U-Fab Interiors of Charlottesville. On Monday, November 25, The Paramount Theater hosted a reveal party, a ribbon-cutting ceremony of sorts, for Star Circle Members to witness the transformation of the new space. Enthusiastic Paramount supporters were able to revel in the atmosphere with the new beautiful lush banquet sofas, chairs, and cocktail tables. Guests were treated to an evening of drinks and delightful

food provided by Harvest Moon Catering. Board of Directors Chair David Gies welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for their continued support of the mission at The Paramount Theater.

"We're really proud of the space and had so much fun working with The Paramount. The project worked out great," said Designer and Manager Wendi Jackson.

An added benefit, the updated Lounge is providing the community with an additional room in the Theater available for intimate rental events. "In addition to our Auditorium, which hosts many great events and can seat more than 1,000 of your new best friends, not everyone realizes that we have more spaces available for community use," said Maran Garland, Director of Marketing at The Paramount Theater. "Not only do we have our Ballroom and Lounges, we also have a small dining room overlooking our famous Marquee and vertical blade sign that families or businesses can rent for special memories."

To visit our redesigned Founders Lounge, or to learn more about becoming a Star Circle Member at The Paramount, please contact Chris Faulkner, Major Gifts Officer, at 434.293.1009 or chrisfaulkner@theparamount.net.

Thank you to Charlottesville Wine and Country Living for the content of this article.



Host Your Party At The Paramount!

Weddings, holiday parties, special events, upscale business meetings, birthday parties, and more! From our performance hall to our ballroom, elegant lounges, meeting rooms, and our new premier space Stage Left, we are sure to have an area that will suit your needs.

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Paramount Theater History at a Glance

1931	1974	1992	2002	2004	2015	2017	2019
Theater Opened	Theater Closed	Theater Purchased and Saved, Became a Non-Profit	Restoration Began	Theater Reopened	Blade Sign Installed	LHAT Award Bestowed & Stage Left Purchased	New Carpet Installed

15 YEARS AT THE PARAMOUNT: THANK YOU, GARY GREEN!

The Paramount Theater Board, Staff, and Volunteers bid a fond, yet bittersweet, "happy retirement" to Gary Green, our Audio & Systems Manager at The Paramount. Gary will be retiring in March 2020 to follow his profound love of music. Gary has been The Paramount's magician behind the curtain, running our award-winning audio since the Theater reopened in 2004. While we will all dearly miss the best sound engineer in Central Virginia, we are grateful for the 15 years of service he lovingly spent at the Theater. We look forward to seeing where Gary's award-winning harmonica-playing will take him, and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors! Gary, your impact will not be forgotten—we look forward to welcoming you back to your next event with open arms.



Don't Miss Our Magical Line-Up This Spring!



FRIDAY, MARCH 20 AT 8:00PM
**PARAMOUNT PRESENTS
CHRIS JANSON – REAL
FRIENDS TOUR**

\$39.75, \$44.75, \$49.75, \$89.75 GOLD CIRCLE

Who is Chris Janson? He's a "live legacy in the making" (*Rolling Stone*). Breakout country star Janson is a platinum-selling recording artist, high-octane entertainer, multi-instrumentalist, and award-winning singer/songwriter. In the four years since the release of his debut album, the three-time CMA nominee has collected prestigious accolades that place him amongst country music greats, including two No. 1 singles. He most recently took home the trophy for ACM Video of the Year for his Gold-certified, inspiring hit song "Drunk Girl," which also earned the Song of the Year title at the 2018 MusicRow Awards. His chart-topping, double-Platinum smash "Buy Me A Boat" was named the iHeartRadio Music Awards Country Song of the Year and declared one of the "Ten Songs I Wish I'd Written" by NSAI. Now it's onto new music for Janson: "Good Vibes," the flagship single from his forthcoming album due this fall, is approaching Top 20 at country radio. In addition to his own successes, the talented songwriter has lent his pen to many industry peers. Tim McGraw ("Truck Yeah," "How I'll Always Be"), LOCASH ("I Love This Life"), and the legendary Hank Williams Jr. ("God Fearin' Man," "Those Days Are Gone") are among those who have taken his songs to great heights.

Sponsored By:
Pam and Frank Edmonds



SUNDAY, MARCH 22 AT 7:30PM
**PARAMOUNT PRESENTS:
STEVEN ISSERLIS**
\$16.75 STUDENT, \$29.75

Acclaimed worldwide for his profound musicianship and technical mastery, British cellist Steven Isserlis enjoys a uniquely varied and distinguished career as a soloist, chamber musician, educator, author, and broadcaster.

As a concerto soloist he appears with many of the world's leading orchestras and conductors, including the Berlin Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra Washington, London Philharmonic, and Zurich Tonhalle orchestras. He gives recitals every season in major musical centers, and plays with many of the world's foremost chamber orchestras, including the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and the Australian, Mahler, Norwegian, Scottish, Zurich, and St Paul Chamber Orchestras, as well as period-instrument ensembles such as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Unusually, he also directs chamber orchestras from the cello.

Presented By:



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SUNDAY, MARCH 29 AT 2:00PM
**PARAMOUNT AT THE
MOVIES PRESENTS:
IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT
[NR]**
\$5.00 YOUTH (12 & UNDER), \$7.00 ADULT

When a wealthy industrialist is found murdered in a small Mississippi town and an African-American man is picked up at the train station with a wallet full of cash, local Police Chief Bill Gillespie immediately assumes he has caught his culprit. He's soon embarrassed to learn that the man he has arrested is Detective Virgil Tibbs, an experienced police officer from Philadelphia who is passing through town and is keen to leave the prejudiced community as soon as possible.

But when Tibbs' superior officer orders him to assist on the case, and the victim's widow demands that he lead the investigation, the unlikely pair are forced to work together to unravel the mystery, leading them on a line of inquiry that will challenge both of their preconceptions.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 24 AT 6:00PM
**PARAMOUNT PRESENTS:
LLAMA LLAMA - LIVE!**
\$10.75 YOUTH, \$14.75 ADULT

Bedtime has never been so exciting! It's the end of the day for the Llama family. After a long day of adventures at the school and the store, Baby Llama can't wait to put on his red pajamas. He and his friends the toys are ready to sing and dance their way to sleep...except...they need a bedtime story and a kiss goodnight and a drink of water. But, where's Mama? This hilarious new musical based on the bestselling books by Anna Dewdney will warm every Llama and Llama Mama's heart.

Sponsored By:
Janet and Gray Ferguson



Discover More Online!

We are constantly adding events to The Paramount Theater's schedule. Remember to check back often or sign up to receive the most up-to-date listing of movies, broadcasts, live performances, live theater, events by local nonprofits, and so much more!
www.theparamount.net



SATURDAY, MAY 2 AT 8:00PM
**PARAMOUNT PRESENTS:
THE KINGDOM CHOIR - LIVE
ON STAGE!**
\$24.75 STUDENT, \$29.75, \$39.75, \$44.75

AS SEEN AT THE ROYAL WEDDING!

A global audience of over 2 billion people watched The Kingdom Choir perform "Stand By Me" at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle!

Following their show-stopping performance of "Stand By Me" at the Royal Wedding in May of 2018, London's The Kingdom Choir will bring their infectious joy and inspiration across the Atlantic for a major North American tour. Founded in 1994 by award-winning conductor Karen Gibson, the Choir draws from various Christian traditions and is dedicated to creating a sound that reflects the community they share through their warm energy and enthusiastic performances. The Choir's rendition of "Stand By Me" went straight to the top of the *Billboard* charts, and last October they released their first full length album worldwide on Sony Music. Their success at the Royal Wedding has already seen them on several UK and American television appearances including ABC's *Good Morning America* and CBS *This Morning*.

Sponsored By:
Anonymous



FRIDAY, MAY 8 AT 7:00PM
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE –
KEVIN HAND, THE SEARCH FOR
LIFE BEYOND EARTH
LIVE ON STAGE!**
\$19.75 STUDENT, \$24.75 SENIOR, \$29.75 ADULT

Astrobiologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer Kevin Hand searches for life beyond Earth. He is currently helping plan a NASA mission to Jupiter's moon Europa to investigate evidence of a vast subsurface ocean—a body of water which could sustain primitive forms of life on this alien world nearly 600 million miles from our planet.

Based at Pasadena's world-famous Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Hand designs instruments for the probe that will travel to Europa. To gain perspective on the conditions these instruments will have to endure, and to see how microbes eke out a living in our world's harshest climes, Hand has traveled to the most forbidding environments on Earth. He has conducted studies on the glaciers of Mount Kilimanjaro, the valleys of Antarctica, and the depths of our oceans.

Sponsored By:



Jennifer and Jay
Ferguson



Lisa M. Draine



Upcoming Events

MARCH

Paramount Broadcast: **Met Live in HD: The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess – Encore Broadcast!** **March 6**
Charlottesville Ballet Presents: **Snow White** **March 14**
Paramount at the Movies Presents: **Shrek** [PG] **March 15**
Paramount Broadcast: **Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show in HD** **March 15**
ACAC Presents: **Jimmy "Magic Man" Miller's Bracket Blast** **March 16**
Paramount Presents Live: **Chris Janson – Real Friends Tour** **March 20**
2020 Virginia Festival of the Book Presents: **Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges: Poetry, Music, and International Exchange** **March 21**
2020 Virginia Festival of the Book Presents: **Dark Waters Screening with Special Guest Robert Bilott** **March 21**
Paramount Presents Live: **Steven Isserlis** **March 22**
Paramount Broadcast: **The Royal Ballet in HD – The Sleeping Beauty** **March 26**
Paramount at the Movies Presents: **When Harry Met Sally** [R] **March 27**
Paramount Broadcast: **Met Live in HD: Der Fliegende Holländer** **March 28**
Paramount at the Movies Presents: **In the Heat of the Night** [NR] **March 29**
Paramount Broadcast: **National Theatre Live in HD – Cyrano de Bergerac** **March 29**
Paramount Broadcast: **In Search of Haydn in HD** **March 31**

APRIL

Literacy Volunteers Presents: **Wordplay** **April 1**
Tour The Paramount Theater **April 7 & 18**

Paramount Broadcast: **Exhibition on Screen – Easter In Art** **April 8**
New Dominion Bookshop Presents: **Diane Rehm: When My Time Comes – With John Grisham** **April 9**
Paramount Broadcast: **Met Live in HD: Tosca** **April 11**
Upfront, Inc. and Tom Tom Present: **Paula Poundstone** **April 18**
Starr Hill Presents: **Lake Street Dive – Lounge Around Sounds Tour** **April 21**
Sentara Martha Jefferson Cancer Care Center Presents: **Women, Wine & Wellness** **April 22**
Paramount Presents Live: **Llama Llama – Live!** **April 24**
Paramount at the Movies Presents: **The Neverending Story** [PG] **April 26**
Paramount Broadcast: **National Theatre Live in HD – All My Sons** **April 26**
Outback Presents: **Nate Bargatze – Good Problem To Have Tour** **April 30**

MAY

Paramount Presents: **The Kingdom Choir – Live On Stage!** **May 2**
Paramount Presents: **National Geographic Live – Kevin Hand, The Search For Life Beyond Earth** **May 8**
Paramount Broadcast: **Met Live in HD: Maria Stuarda** **May 9**
Tour The Paramount Theater **May 16 & 19**
Paramount Broadcast: **The Royal Ballet in HD – Swan Lake** **May 21**
Paramount at the Movies Presents: **All Quiet on the Western Front** [NR] **May 24**
The Charlottesville Symphony Presents: **Pops at The Paramount – The Star Wars Concert** **May 30**
Paramount at the Movies Presents: **Best in Show** [PG-13] **May 31**

Be the first to know! New events are added regularly. See the full line-up and register to receive Paramount emails at www.theparamount.net.



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JOIN THE PARAMOUNT KIDS CLUB TODAY!

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