

BACKSTAGE NEWS

ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS
MAR 10, 2023



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THE PARAMOUNT THEATER

215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902
434.979.1922 | theparamount.net

SPRING 2023

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EDUCATE. ENCHANT. ENRICH. ENLIGHTEN.

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.

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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

A Word from Executive Director Julie Montross



Hello from all of us at The Paramount Theater!

It's finally here – spring! Although, we have been enjoying spring-like weather for weeks! But another winter is, indeed, under our belt, sunshine and warmth is in our future. As I write this message, I can already see that the world is in bloom and it fills me with familiar excitement. I love this time of year.

Like spring itself, there is so much to look forward to here at The Paramount. As you'll see in our current playbill (pick up a copy at the Theater the next time you're here, if you haven't already!) and in this issue of *Backstage News*, we have fantastic performances and events ahead of us – classic films, broadcasts from **National Theatre Live** and **Met Opera**, special screenings from **Exhibition on Screen**, and local groups and organizations like **Jefferson Area Board for Aging**, **Charlottesville Ballet**, and **DMR Adventures** will make our space their own for their special events and performances. The great **Natalie Merchant** will perform on April 19, just days after releasing her latest album (which I can't wait to hear!). Rising country star and Floyd native **Morgan Wade** will have us dancing in our boots on May 7. **Audra McDonald**, a personal long-time favorite of mine, will DELIGHT the audience with her incredible talent and world-class voice on May 17. I could go on and on (and I will anytime we bump into each other at the Theater).

There are a few other pieces in this newsletter that I know you'll enjoy reading about, too: a spotlight on our hardworking marquee team, insight and feedback from our Arts Education partners, a great catchup with our house photographer Rob Garland, and a shoutout to our 2022 Volunteer of the Year, Bob Fulton! What I love about *Backstage News* is that it gives us the chance to share some of the stories that are happening in The Paramount's orbit of people in our community, and this issue is certainly no exception.

On behalf of all of us here at the Theater — the dedicated staff, passionate volunteers, deeply committed Board — thank you for reading and thank you for your ongoing support. You are so important to us and we look forward to welcoming you to the Theater this season. It's going to be a good one, that's for sure!

With warm regards and appreciation,

Julie A. Montross

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Remembering CARY TURNER

On December 3, 2022, The Paramount Theater community received the devastating news that Board of Directors member Cary Turner had passed away.

“Cary was an incredible person, generous in every way, and contributed significantly to the Theater with his guidance, perspective, and personality. We were lucky to have him for as long as we did and we are all heartbroken that we could not have him longer.”

**Julie Montross, Executive Director,
The Paramount Theater.**

“

“Cary Turner was a caring, gentle man who not only gave generously to his family and friends, but also to organizations he believed were a benefit to the community.

We at The Paramount Theater are grateful to have received his wisdom, his friendship, and his support.”

**David Gies, Immediate Past Chair of the
Paramount Board of Directors.**

Cary graduated in 1979 from The University of Virginia with a B.S. in Commerce from the McIntire School of Commerce. As a student, he demonstrated a keen intellect and had a gregarious way with people. “We met playing intramural sports together and became friends, and then we became best friends,” says his wife, Laurie Turner. They married in June of 1980, then relocated to New York City where Cary had a position with a big accounting firm. “After eight years of working in the city, we moved to Plano, Texas, as Cary left public accounting and began his career in retailing.”

Now raising three daughters, Cary and Laurie found plenty of room to spread their wings. The girls enjoyed school and benefited from no shortage of extracurricular interests to explore, including swimming and dance. “Community always meant so much to us, sharing our loves and interests with each other and our groups always mattered. We sought opportunities that aligned well with our family and allowed us the fulfillment of contributing to organizations that inspired us, including the girls’ schools, Texas Ballet Theater, and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth. It was especially wonderful because we were able to work side-by-side and be together in a special way,” said Laurie.

The Dallas-Ft. Worth area in Texas was home for nearly 30 years. Cary relished his role as the “ultimate girl dad.” Professionally, Cary’s career continued to ascend, serving in several executive positions at JCPenney, then Pier One Imports where he ultimately became Chief Financial Officer. As retirement neared, Cary and Laurie easily

Rest in peace, Cary, and thank you for sharing your life with all of us. You will be missed, and you will always be remembered.

agreed that Charlottesville would be the ideal next stop. Laurie explained, "We both graduated from UVA, two of our daughters also graduated from UVA, there's much to do here and the arts are plentiful. We always loved to visit and were ready to make it our home again. We happily moved here fulltime in 2016."

"We were immediately drawn to The Paramount Theater and were excited to join the Board together. It made so much sense and it was a great fit. From the people we got to know — the staff, the volunteers, the Board — and the events at the Theater, to bringing our own backgrounds to support and lift The Paramount's mission, our work on the Board kept us busy and engaged." As a Board member, Cary's professional experience and personal interests tied together so well that he quickly found focused roles as a member of the Executive Committee and as Treasurer.

"Cary's dedication to The Paramount Theater was especially impactful in his leadership as Board Treasurer in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. He brought wisdom and resolve to that role and was invaluable in navigating the unprecedented financial challenges during that period," said Taylor Cashwell, Director of Finance, The Paramount Theater. "He contributed thoughtful ideas for how to respond and was a real sounding board for our staff and Board."

"When I came to The Paramount last summer, I was so impressed by the strength of the organization, and, in addition to this community's collective support and contribution to our historic landmark, there are several names that can be singled out as reasons why The Paramount persevered through the pandemic — and Cary Turner is absolutely one of them," added Julie Montross. "What he gave to the Theater at the time, and what I quickly picked up on in our very first meeting, was a calm confidence and poise that was reassuring, rooted in authenticity, and driven by passion. And I have to add that Cary had a certain spark about him, too — and I know there are lots and lots of people, people he would have just met or people he'd known throughout his entire life, who can say the same."

Community and family meant so much to Cary, and The Paramount community joins his wife Laurie and their children, grandchildren, extended circles of dear friends, colleagues, and fellow arts lovers in mourning his passing. ■



WORDS

Our historic marquee is a labor of love and letters

Let's start with a little bit of history.

The modern marquee, as we know it in America, doesn't go back as far as we might first imagine — just the 1920's. Yes, there are lines to draw to the French word *marquise*, but these lines don't really capture what we think of today when we think of marquees. (*Marquise* most commonly refers to a canopy in front of a building or covering a tent, and, *oui*, there are exceptions.) The rise in marquees in America is closely tied to the meteoric rise in cinemas and car culture during the 20th century — which makes sense. Better to know what's happening inside a building when it's easier to read as you drive by in your car, right? Or in our case, walk by.

Foot traffic dominates our Downtown Mall, and rightly so — it's one reason why it was converted to a pedestrian area in the first place. A place to walk, shop, eat, drink, visit, stroll, sit — choose your reason to visit, it's all of ours to use.

As a result, our treasured marquee sees lots of adoring eyes, day in and day out, and with so many events happening at The Paramount, the marquee is always changing, always sharing what's coming up at the Theater.

Letters and numbers go up, letters and numbers come down. There are often colons and exclamation points, too, and the occasional question mark. The marquee doesn't write itself, either. Each character is placed individually, on each of the three sides, by a person holding a giant pole they wouldn't be holding for any other reason, always with an eye on spelling and grammar and proper spacing, and more often than preferable, it's raining or snowing or windy or the mid-summer sun is set to blazing.

It's easy to overhear the public's appreciative reaction to the marquee. The phrases are boundless. "Wow, so-and-so is coming!" "I haven't seen that movie in a theater in soooo long." "That's an opera now? Oh, that's interestingggg." But there are only a handful of people in Charlottesville — three in fact — who know what it's like to earn that appreciation.

"There are times when getting the letters on the marquee is the last thing any one of us wants to do," explains Eve Stavropoulos, The Paramount's Box Office Manager. "But it can't be outdated or — even worse — empty. We all know, and agree, that keeping up with the marquee is our responsibility, and there's a unique pride that we all share in doing so. And I'll tell you — few things are more satisfying than being done with changing the marquee."

"There's definitely a very physical element to it," adds Box Office & Education Outreach Assistant Cat Ratliff. "The wind can blow letters across the mall that are already on the ground. The wind can also take hold of my arms in the midst of changing letters, moving the top of the pole several feet while the part I'm holding might only move inches. It's given me a strong core, that's for sure."

"It's not just physical though," adds Eve. "There's mapping out the characters in advance, setting everything up in order, knowing where to start so the spacing looks right — it's brainwork, for sure. And lots of people like to stop and ask us about what we're doing when they see us in action, which we don't mind at all and often enjoy, but it does add another muscle to flex. It's a special kind of multitasking."

"I like that it gets me outside and into the life of the Mall," says Box Office Assistant Mike Krueger. "Kids like to stop and watch us work, sometimes getting impromptu letter lessons from their parents. Passersby always ask if the letters stick with magnets. It's not magnets."

SMITHS



Left to Right: Cat Ratliff, Mike Krueger, Eve Stavropoulos

Check out the grabbers used to put up the letters! ▶



"Functionally, the marquee is very effective," Eve says. "You can see it from a distance, the message is clear and to the point, it's a visual that registers in such a particular way that it makes that message all the more memorable. It does a great job at doing its job. And there's something extra about it, too. It's charming. It feels nostalgic. It's manual. It reminds us of an earlier time and gives us a measure for where we were in earlier times."

And that charm is not without its threats. Letter suppliers are going out of business. Inventory is being bought up, raising prices in the process. Marquees like ours are converting to digital formats.

"We're very careful with our letters," explains Cat. "Especially in the winter. The colder weather makes the letters more brittle, they could break much more easily. Not that we are frivolous with them, we just know that it's not going to be so easy to replace them if something happens."

"Our marquee distinguishes us," says Mike. "It's part of our outfit as a historical theater and we wouldn't be the same without it."

So, if you don't already, the next time you look up at The Paramount's marquee, don't forget to appreciate this with your view: there's a lot of hard work that goes into what you read, and the messages mean more than the sum of their parts. ■



Box Office Associate, Mike Krueger

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

OUR PLANET LIVE IN CONCERT



Sunday, April 16
7:30PM
\$29.75 | \$39.75 | \$49.75 | \$69.75

The landmark Emmy Award®-winning Netflix series that took the world by storm is now a live concert event! It combines breathtaking HD cinematography with all-new orchestrations by Oscar-winning composer Steven Price performed by a live onstage orchestra. A journey of discovery across our planet featuring narration by legendary broadcaster David Attenborough, this mesmerizing concert is a spectacular celebration of the planet we call home — welcoming audiences to be fully immersed into the wonders of earth's wildlife and their habitats. A donation will be made to World Wildlife Fund for each concert.

Academy Award®-winning composer Steven Price states, "Using a combination of the most memorable sequences from the Netflix series exclusively designed for this show, the incredible musicians plan to take you on a journey that celebrates the wonders of our planet — the one home we all share — whilst showing the urgent need to treasure and protect it."

EVENT SPONSORS:
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PIANO BATTLE ANDREAS KERN v. PAUL CIBIS



Thursday, April 20
7:30PM
\$14.75 | \$24.75 | \$29.75

The brainchild of internationally accomplished pianists Andreas Kern and Paul Cibis, the PIANO BATTLE sees the duo go head-to-head on stage, charming and enchanting the audience with a variety of classical pieces. The two artists, with distinctly different performance styles, take turns to perform pieces by composers such as Chopin, Liszt, and Debussy. They will even improvise based on the tunes you request.

Paul Cibis
Educated in Hanover, Berlin, and London, Paul Cibis has performed on five continents and established an international presence.

Andreas Kern
Born in South Africa, Andreas Kern studied piano in Cologne and Berlin with Günter Ludwig and Pascal Devoyon. As a soloist and chamber musician, he has extensive experience in Europe, Canada, Hong Kong, China, Japan, India, and South Africa.

EVENT SPONSORS:
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THE WALLFLOWERS



Sunday, April 30
8:00PM
\$34.75 | \$39.75 | \$44.75 | \$64.75

Rock 'n' roll is often hard to define, or even to find, in these fractured musical times. But to paraphrase an old saying, you know it when you hear it.

And you always hear it with the Wallflowers. For the past 30 years, the Jakob Dylan-led act has stood as one of rock's most dynamic and purposeful bands — a unit dedicated to and continually honing a sound that meshes timeless songwriting and storytelling with a hard-hitting and decidedly modern musical attack. That signature style has been present through the decades, baked into the grooves of smash hits like 1996's *Bringing Down the Horse* as well as more recent and exploratory fare like 2012's *Glad All Over*.

While it's been nine long years since we've heard from the group with whom he first made his mark, the Wallflowers are silent no more. And Dylan always knew they'd return. "The Wallflowers is much of my life's work," he says simply.

EVENT SPONSORS:
Julie & Geoff Montross

MORGAN WADE



Sunday, May 7
8:00PM
\$34.75 | \$39.75 | \$49.75
\$130 VIP | \$140 VIP

Morgan Wade didn't write to be a sensation, for critical acclaim, or massive concert tours. She wrote to speak her truth, to save her own life — and perhaps throw a rope to others struggling with the weight of a world moving too fast, loves where you fall too hard, and nights that, good or bad, seem to go on forever.

2021 saw *Reckless*, her *Thirty Tigers*/ now Sony Music Nashville debut, and lead single "Wilder Days" topping critical lists from *Rolling Stone*, *TIME*, *Stereogum*, *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *FADER*, *Tennessean*, *Whiskey Riff*, *Billboard*, and *The Boot and Taste of Country* who both proclaimed, "a once-in-a-decade debut." With a voice that is raw hurt, deep knowing, and somehow innocence retained, Wade wrote or co-wrote a song cycle about the reality facing teens and 20-somethings that embraced raw desire, the reality of getting high and getting sober, and the realm of crawling through the wreckage with a tough vulnerability that is as singular as the young woman from Floyd, Virginia.

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN™ TOKYO STORIES



Wednesday, May 24
7:00PM
\$11.00 Student | \$13.00 Senior
\$15.00 Adult

A thrilling encounter with one of the world's great art capitals.

Based on a major exhibition at the Ashmolean in Oxford, *Tokyo Stories* spans 400 years of incredibly dynamic art — ranging from the delicate woodblock prints of Hokusai and Hiroshige to Pop Art posters, contemporary photography, Manga, film, and brand-new artworks that were created on the streets. The exhibition was a smash-hit five-star success and brought a younger and more diverse audience to the museum. The film uses the exhibition as a launchpad to travel to Tokyo itself, and explore the art and artists of the city more fully. A beautifully illustrated and richly detailed film, looking at a city that has undergone constant destruction and renewal over its 400-year history, resulting in one of the most vibrant and interesting cities on the planet.

"Tokyo has a powerful engine that just doesn't stop. There is an energy, a particular floating power in Tokyo. Whatever happens, this city gets rebuilt again and continues to move forwards." - Machida Kumi, artist

MET LIVE IN HD: DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE



Saturday, June 3
12:55PM
\$18.00 Student | \$23.00 Senior
\$25.00 Adult

One of opera's most beloved works receives its first new Met staging in 19 years—a daring vision by renowned English director Simon McBurney that *The Wall Street Journal* declared "the best production I've ever witnessed of Mozart's opera." Nathalie Stutzmann conducts the Met Orchestra, with the pit raised to make the musicians visible to the audience and allow interaction with the cast.

In his Met-debut staging, McBurney lets loose a volley of theatrical flourishes, incorporating projections, sound effects, and acrobatics to match the spectacle and drama of Mozart's fable. The brilliant cast includes soprano Erin Morley as Pamina, tenor Lawrence Brownlee as Tamino, baritone Thomas Oliemans in his Met debut as Papageno, soprano Kathryn Lewek as the Queen of the Night, and bass Stephen Milling as Sarastro.

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A Special Frame of Mind

There's always magic for house photographer

ROB GARLAND to capture at The Paramount

How did you initially get into photography?

I always wanted to try it out, so I bought a film camera in college and never looked back. I loved it. I started taking photographs for the college newspaper at Radford University and quickly started photographing sports, concerts, entertainment. I really enjoyed the intensity. I photographed shows at the Roanoke Civic Center and throughout southwest Virginia. I took a class to learn about developing prints in the darkroom.

Are you on Team Nikon or Team Canon?

Neither. I've shot with four brands over the years — SONY, Nikon, Canon, and Fuji. I currently shoot with SONY Alpha One cameras. I made the switch to SONY a few years ago and have been very impressed! I would not trade the Alpha One cameras for anything right now.

How long have you been a professional photographer?

25 years.

How long have you been taking photos at The Paramount?

Since 2006. Almost every time I set foot in the Theater, I think about how we are blessed to have a venue like this in our city. I love looking up at the ornate décor. Most venues are not works of art like The Paramount.

Of the performances you've captured, which one(s) will you remember the most?

This is so hard for me to answer. Regardless of your political preferences, anytime one has the opportunity to photograph a President of the United States or a worldwide figure, it's a fun day. I consider that a privilege. Documenting Bill Clinton at The

Paramount was exciting. The Dalai Lama was also very special.

As for performances, it's the icons of music and performance. Bo Diddly. Doc Watson. B.B. King. Norah Jones. Booker T. Herbie Hancock. Wynton Marsalis. Diana Ross. David Crosby. George Carlin. Dr. John. You see why this is hard to answer? I really can't just choose one.

Do you have a favorite photo or photos that you've taken at The Paramount?

Another hard one to answer! I can't choose. I wish I could! The backstage moments are always interesting, if they're allowed.

What tips can you share about capturing things that are moving?

Utilizing space in a frame. Giving the subject space without intersecting another element is always something I strive to do. Fast shutter speeds. A high ISO or a wide aperture to freeze action. If you want to go abstract, try a slow shutter speed.

You're an educator, too. What do you like about teaching photography?

I've taught photography in a formal school setting for years, and given lectures, too. I've taught a few professional photographers in the area and it has been great to watch them grow and develop their approach.

Any advice for someone who is trying to develop their own photography business?

Getting your photographs in front of people is a

good start. Social media helps but photos here don't have a long life. Try entering contests or getting published to get your name out there — that'll show people that you're passionate — but don't worry about winning or losing. It's worth a shot. ■

Check out these photos Rob has taken at the Theater!



Above: Tony Bennett - December 12, 2016
Below: Diana Ross - February 5, 2015



Andra McDonald

EMMY-, GRAMMY- AND SIX-TIME TONY AWARD-WINNER

Andra McDonald is unparalleled in the breadth and versatility of her artistry as both a singer and an actor. The winner of a record-breaking six Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards and an Emmy, in 2015 she was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people and received a National Medal of Arts — America's highest honor for achievement in the field — from President Barack Obama. In addition to her Tony-winning performances in *Carousel*, *Master Class*, *Ragtime*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* — the role that also served as the vehicle for her Olivier Award-nominated 2017 debut in London's West End — she has appeared on Broadway in *The Secret Garden*; *Marie Christine* (Tony nomination); *Henry IV*; *110 in the Shade* (Tony nomination); *Shuffle Along*, or, *The Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed*; *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Tony nomination); and *Ohio State Murders*.

On television, she was seen by millions as the Mother Abbess in NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!* and played Dr. Naomi Bennett on ABC's *Private Practice*. She won an Emmy Award for her role as host of PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center* and has received nominations for *Wit*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*. Having first appeared on CBS's *The Good Wife*, she plays Liz Reddick in *The Good Fight* on Paramount+ and Dorothy Scott in Julian Fellowes's historical drama *The Gilded Age* on HBO and HBO Max. On film, she has appeared in *Seven Servants*, *The Object of My Affection*, *Cradle Will Rock*, *It Runs in the Family*, *The Best Thief in the World*, *She Got Problems*, *Rampart*, *Ricki and the Flash*, Disney's live-action *Beauty and the Beast*, the movie-musical *Hello Again*, and MGM's Aretha Franklin biopic, *Respect*.

A Juilliard-trained soprano, her opera credits include *La voix humaine* and *Send* at Houston Grand Opera, and *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* at Los Angeles Opera, where the resulting recording earned her two Grammy Awards. McDonald has issued five solo albums on the Nonesuch label as well as *Sing Happy* with the New York Philharmonic on Decca Gold. She also maintains a major career as a concert artist, regularly appearing on the great stages of the world and with leading international orchestras. A founding member of Black Theatre United, board member of Covenant House International, and prominent advocate for LGBTQAI+ rights, her favorite roles are those performed offstage, as an activist, wife to actor Will Swenson, and mother. ■



Photo: ©Allison Michael Orenstein

GOING OUT IS IN AGAIN



ARTS EDUCATION programs are back to enriching students with experiential education

In the last issue of *Backstage News*, we were celebrating the triumphant kick-off of our 2022-23 Arts Education season and welcoming back school audiences for the first time in more than 2 years! Since the fall, we have been overjoyed to welcome to the Theater nearly 10,000 students and educators (and counting!) from throughout Central Virginia for quality educational and enriching live arts events that capture imaginations, broaden perspectives, and tap into new ways of learning.

"It is hard to believe that we are now over halfway through our Arts Education season," shares The Paramount's Education & Outreach Manager Cathy von Storch, "a season we celebrate and are so grateful for each and every day. From the moments of first school bus arrivals to final waves goodbye — the sights and sounds of all the children in anticipation, with faces aglow, questions aplenty on arrival signaling teachers have prepared them, AMAZING artists taking to the stage bringing important stories to life, from history and literature to science and math, plays packed with hope and joy and messages of "I matter", and the clapping, and more clapping, gasps, sometimes tears, truly the purest of human interaction, radiantly signaling to all of us MANY opened minds and grateful hearts."

It's not just The Paramount or the students who are enjoying this return to the Theater, either. Educators at every level are more than ready to re-integrate experiences beyond the classroom with their learning plans for their students. What comes with these off-site experiences, what students get out of them, aren't necessarily lessons that can be instructed or demonstrated — it's the active participation, the opportunity to apply learned social skills in new environments and make connections to the "real world", that resonates on a deeper level.

Aaron Eichorst, Coordinator of Fine & Performing Arts at Charlottesville City Schools, says, "I have a great sense of pride in helping to facilitate field trips for our city school children to attend a production at The Paramount. Bringing students from disparate neighborhoods and backgrounds together under one roof physically unifies

Stone Robinson
Elementary
School Bright
Stars say
THANK YOU
after attending
It's Okay to
Be Different –
Stories by Todd
Parr, October
24, 2022.

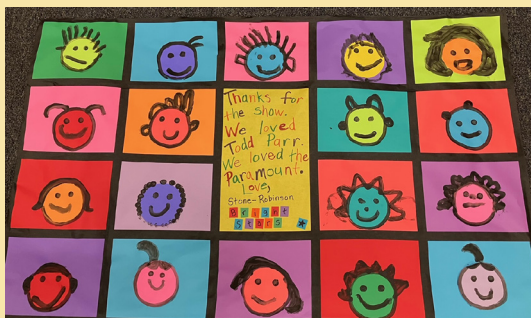


Photo: Franklin Knox

us. In these instances, The Paramount becomes a safe space that welcomes all regardless of race, class, ability, gender, or any other label that might separate us. I feel proud to play a role in bringing students to experience the arts in this context. I feel hopeful that we are planting the seeds for the future — that what students do as children they will also enjoy and do as adults whether that is as a performer or as an audience member or both."

Dama Schneider, Lead Coach, Visual and Performing Arts, Albemarle County Public Schools, adds, "For many Albemarle County students, Arts Education programs at The Paramount include a lot of firsts: their first time in downtown Charlottesville, their first time seeing a live performance, their first time at The Paramount, their first time in any venue of this size and age. It's a lot to take in and, better yet, it's a lot to remember, and that's impactful in many positive ways that will stay with our students forever."

"Overall, the feedback we receive from educators about these Arts Education experiences is overwhelmingly positive and appreciative," continues Cathy. "From the educational value and diverse content to the level of quality and artistry with each production, to the financial assistance available to ensure all have access, educators from all over Central Virginia continue to be eager to bring their students to the Theater. And our hearts have melted many times with hundreds of thank you letters from teachers and students, artwork too, not only filled with gratitude for the amazing show, but also for the generous donors who help make it possible, and for our amazing Paramount staff, Education Committee, and volunteers who work so hard and are such a vital part of the entire program!"

"Our Arts Education programs are central to our mission and close to all of our hearts," says Julie Montross, Executive Director of The Paramount Theater. "Having them back on our calendar means we are back to impacting students' lives in our own unique way, and we know that return to impact means so much to them on their educational and developmental journeys." ■

2022 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Every event at The Paramount is supported by a particularly dedicated group — our volunteers. Their kindness and goodwill are on full display, their welcoming spirit invites guests in, their assistance is well received and appreciated by all. The Theater is fortunate to count on so many volunteers to help us carry our mission to the people and visitors of Central Virginia.

Each year, we single out one volunteer for a special distinction: Volunteer of the Year. We are pleased to share that

BOB FULTON

has received the honor for 2022.

“Bob, you are an incredible asset to The Paramount. Your time, spirit, and contribution as a member of the Volunteer Committee, as well as being a rock as a Captain during many of our larger events, has been instrumental in keeping the Theater moving forward. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor,” says Volunteer Coordinator Malcolm Dyson.



How long have you been volunteering at The Paramount?

17 years.

Did you do any volunteering before starting at The Paramount?

I volunteered at many other venues, starting in the early 1980s at venues such as the Eastman Theater, the Auditorium, the Finger Lakes Performing Arts Center (all in the Rochester New York area), and at the State Theater in Easton PA.

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy being outside working in my yard and garden. I was a volunteer as a Master Gardener, the JMRL Book sale, and working at various wine festivals. I'm also active at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church where I am on several committees, sing in the choir, and coordinate the Men's group breakfast.

What are some of your favorite aspects of your role as a volunteer?

I get great satisfaction from seeing the smiling, happy people entering and then leaving the Theater knowing that they have enjoyed themselves. I also appreciate the recognition I receive from my fellow volunteers about doing a good job.

What does volunteering mean to you?

Making sure that everyone enjoys themselves and that they have a safe environment for that to happen.

What do you want future volunteers to know about The Paramount's volunteer community?

The volunteer community is a family and we can all have a good time while working at the Theater. It's not just about being here for a particular show, either — it's about being here for the wide variety of events that are held. We have a duty to make sure that each and every patron who walks through The Paramount's doors has a great time, an enjoyable experience, and a desire to return again.

Can you share a favorite Paramount memory or two?

There are just too many to list. ■

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARAMOUNT

VOLUNTEER? Ready to usher, give tours, assist with patron and guest hospitality, serve on committees, and enhance your role in the Charlottesville community? We'd love to tell you more about joining our incredible team. **Contact Malcom Dyson at 434. 293.1015 or malcolmdyson@theparamount.net**



Lou and Dan Jordan

LEAVING A *Legacy of Light*

LOU JORDAN, a local artist, dance supporter, and a former member of The Paramount's Board of Directors, helped The Paramount's effort to begin an endowment fund in 2016.

She knows all too well how significant endowment funds are for a non-profit's ability to exist in the future and for future generations to enjoy.

"For 24 years, my husband Dan headed The Thomas Jefferson Foundation, the non-profit that owns and operates Monticello, so I saw first-hand just how important endowments are to future planning, and I also saw many inspiring examples to follow for bringing this approach to The Paramount."

"And thanks to so many generous people, by 2016, The Paramount had gotten to a point where we were stable enough to devote quality time to think strategically about our future. We looked at what other theaters like ours were doing to protect their own futures and the Board wanted that for The Paramount."

Since The Paramount's endowment effort kicked off, the Jordans have been giving to the endowment fund, and they're not alone. The Jordans are passionate about encouraging others to join them, too.

"All of us need the kinds of experiences that The Paramount provides in our lives. There's a magic about The Paramount that we need to protect. Seeing the marquee and the blade lit up at night is such an inspiring sight to see. We need to have access to a variety of experiences — music, arts, education — because our souls need excitement. We want this for our grandchildren, and for their kids, and beyond, too." ■

Help ensure The Paramount will keep the lights on for generations to come! Be a part of the Theater's future by including a gift to The Paramount's endowment fund in your estate plans. Through a will, trust, or retirement plan, you can make gifts to ensure the future of The Paramount Theater, often greater in size than you can imagine during your lifetime.

To learn more about The Paramount's Endowment, contact Lauri Wilson, Director of Development at lauriwilson@theparamount.net or 434-218-1590.

CAST & CREW



Photo © Rob Carland Photographers

Cast & Crew members Ethel deNeveu (left) and Deb McMahon (right) with Volunteer John Crawford (center) bartending in the Founders Lounge during Elvis Costello & The Imposters.

PLAY A ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF THE PARAMOUNT

Your support makes it possible to preserve The Paramount's 91-year history and ensure this iconic treasure is here to share with generations to come!

From the variety of events to the richness of our outreach programs and partnerships with diverse community groups and nonprofits, the support and patronage of the community allows The Paramount to accomplish its mission and community-minded goals. We invite you to enjoy a variety of benefits by becoming an annual Paramount Member today!

FRIENDS OF THE PARAMOUNT

are a dedicated group who support the performing arts with charitable contributions beyond the purchase of tickets. When you become a Friend, you join a community of donors who receive insider access and an array of special benefits.

ASSOCIATE

\$75 Membership

- ▶ Pre-sale access to tickets (Some restrictions apply)

CONTRIBUTOR

\$150 Membership

Above Benefit plus:

- ▶ Two (2) popcorn vouchers
- ▶ Your generosity recognized in The Paramount Playbill

PERFORMER

\$250 Membership

Above benefits plus:

- ▶ Two (2) "Paramount Presents" movie tickets

DIRECTOR

\$500+ Membership

Above benefits plus:

- ▶ One (1) "Cinemaniac" pass to ten (10) "Paramount Presents" movies
- ▶ NEW: Two (2) beverage vouchers

MEMBERS OF THE PARAMOUNT'S CIRCLE PROGRAM

are our leading advocates and ambassadors. When you support us with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more, you join a group of dedicated partners that engage with the organization, enjoy special access and understand the need for and impact of their philanthropy.

Circle Members receive all Friend benefits plus:

STAR CIRCLE

\$1,000+ Membership

- ▶ Invitation to all Founders Lounge receptions prior to shows and at intermission (Includes Complimentary Food & Drink)
- ▶ Earliest advance ticket purchase
- ▶ Invitation to Annual Donor Reception
- ▶ Name recognition on donor plaque in Theater Lobby

PRINCIPLE CIRCLE

\$2,500+ Membership

Above benefits plus:

- ▶ Private Backstage tour of The Paramount Theater for you and your guests
- ▶ NEW: Seat plaque recognition on one seat (Be a part of The Paramount Theater's history)
- ▶ NEW: Ticketing concierge service

BENEFACITOR CIRCLE

\$5,000+ Membership

Above benefits plus:

- ▶ Your special message displayed on the Marquee
- ▶ Discounted rate to rent The Paramount
- ▶ Waived ticket and convenience fees
- ▶ NEW: Complimentary parking for events



SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

This year's "Gala in the Garden" will offer a wide array of epicurean delights, a signature event cocktail, full bar service, a silent auction, dancing on stage, silent disco and more!

We look forward to seeing you on the red carpet!

theparamount.net/annual-gala

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Paramount Presents:

HISTORICAL BACKSTAGE TOUR Mar 15

Paramount Presents:

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN™ - MARY CASSATT: PAINTING THE MODERN WOMAN Mar 15

Paramount Presents:

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE IN HD - THE CRUCIBLE Mar 16

Paramount Presents:

ALMOST QUEEN Mar 17

Paramount Presents:

MET LIVE IN HD - LOHENGRIN Mar 18

Paramount Presents:

CDP THEATRE PRODUCERS OF SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE'S MEETING MOZART Mar 19

2023 Virginia Festival of the Book Presents:

- **DEAF UTOPIA WITH NYLE DIMARCO;**
- **BESTSELLERS AND BEST CELLARS RECEPTION;**
- **FINDING THE LIGHT BESTSELLERS PANEL WITH HONORÉE FANONNE JEFFERS, VAISHNAVI PATEL, AND MATTHEW QUICK** Mar 24

Paramount Presents:

HISTORICAL BACKSTAGE TOUR Mar 25

Paramount at the Movies Presents:

GUYS & DOLLS (1955) [NR] Mar 25

Upfront Inc. Presents:

SAM MORRIL: THE CLASS ACT TOUR Mar 29

Patriot Industries Presents:

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS' WORDPLAY Mar 30

Paramount at the Movies Presents:

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN (1992) [PG] Mar 31

APRIL

Paramount Presents:

MET LIVE IN HD - FALSTAFF Apr 1

Paramount at the Movies Presents:

THE LAST DRAGON (1985) [PG-13] Apr 5

Paramount Presents:

CAROLE KING: HOME AGAIN - LIVE IN CENTRAL PARK Apr 6

UVA Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Presents:

ELLINGTON'S EVENING OF MUSIC AND POETRY Apr 8

Paramount Presents:

MET LIVE IN HD - DER ROSENKAVALIER Apr 15

Paramount Presents:

OUR PLANET LIVE IN CONCERT Apr 16

Paramount Presents:

AN EVENING WITH NATALIE MERCHANT - KEEP YOUR COURAGE TOUR Apr 19

Paramount Presents:

PIANO BATTLE - ANDREAS KERN VS. PAUL CIBIS Apr 20

Paramount Presents:

12TH ANNUAL GRAND MARQUEE GALA - GALA IN THE GARDEN Apr 22

Paramount Presents:

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN™ - VERMEER: THE BLOCKBUSTER EDITION Apr 26

Jazz Digs JABA Presents:

JOHN D'EARTH & UVA JAZZ ENSEMBLE Apr 28

Paramount Presents:

MET LIVE IN HD - CHAMPION Apr 29

Rosewood Music Presents:

JOHN KOVACH - CLASSICAL GUITARIST Apr 29

Paramount Presents:

THE WALLFLOWERS Apr 30

MAY

Paramount Presents:

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE IN HD - OTHELLO May 4

DMR Adventures Presents:

BROADWAY AT THE PARAMOUNT May 6

Paramount Presents:

MORGAN WADE - CROSSING STATE LINES TOUR May 7

La Jolla Booking Agency Presents:

THE FABBA SHOW - A TRIBUTE TO ABBA May 9

Charlottesville Ballet Presents:

CINDERELLA May 13

Paramount Presents:

AN EVENING WITH AUDRA McDONALD May 17

Paramount at the Movies Presents:

DONNIE DARKO (2001) [R] May 19

Paramount Presents:

MET LIVE IN HD - DON GIOVANNI May 20

Paramount Presents:

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN™ - TOKYO STORIES May 24

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