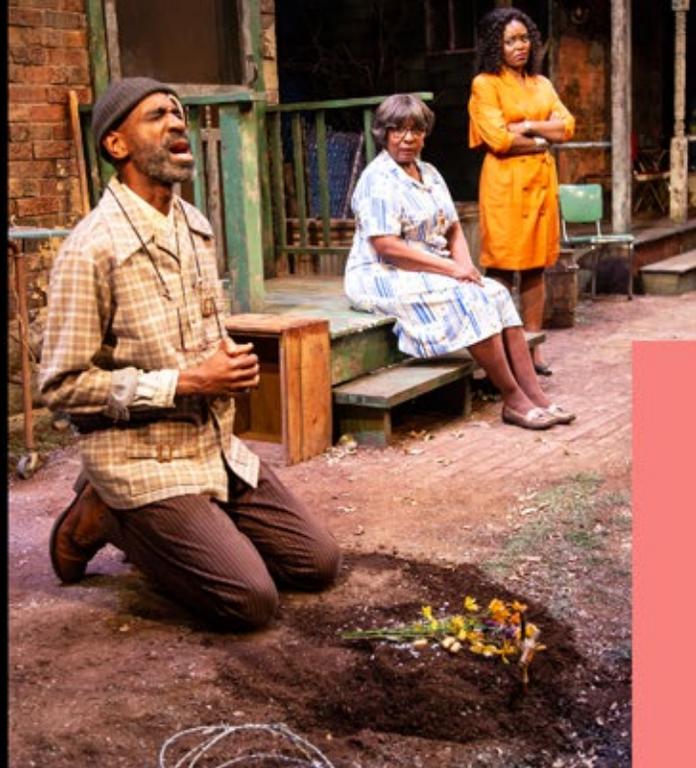


TWO — RIVER THEATER 25TH ANNIVERSARY

2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT



One of the **TOP 10 GREAT REGIONAL THEATERS** in the Nation

USA TODAY
— PUBLISHED JUNE 2019



OUR MISSION

WE CREATE GREAT AMERICAN THEATER BY DEVELOPING AND PRODUCING NEW WORKS AND WORLD MASTERPIECES THAT MOST RICHLY DIRECT OUR GAZE TO THE LIFE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT. WE CULTIVATE AN AUDIENCE THAT CHERISHES THE INTIMATE JOY OF THEATER, ENRICHED WHEN SHARED BY A COMMUNITY OF OTHERS.

VISION

TO BE A THEATER WHOSE WORK CONTRIBUTES TO THE CANON OF WORLD THEATER AND IS A VITAL CULTURAL RESOURCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

CORE VALUES

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

We nurture and challenge the visions of adventurous theater artists. Our commitment to the artistic process is sustained over time through an investment in people, their creative process, and our dedication to the highest artistic standards.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We make our theater a welcoming resource for all. We create engagement programs and partnerships that encourage all voices to come together in conversation around the stories we tell. We invest in the next generation of artists and audiences by introducing students and lifelong learners to the possibility and adventure that theater brings to our lives.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We believe that the essence of theater is democratic: it invites us to encounter, consider and perhaps adopt other points of view, if only for a brief time in a darkened theater. We aspire to build an environment in which artists, audiences, employees, and Board members from different backgrounds and experiences together form an institution that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We dedicate ourselves to the highest standards in our governance, management, operational, and financial practices. We are committed to developing and retaining an experienced and accomplished staff, an engaged and informed Board of Trustees, and a working environment that attracts staff, volunteers, and artists of the highest caliber.

Cover pictures, clockwise from top: Brian D. Coats, Elain Graham, and Brittany Bellizeare in August Wilson's *King Hedley II*, photo by T. Charles Erickson; Maureen Silliman in *The Belle of Amherst*, photo by T. Charles Erickson; Zachary Booth in *Theo*, photo by T. Charles Erickson; The Company of *Pamela's First Musical*, photo by T. Charles Erickson; Ellen Harvey in *Noises Off*, photo by T. Charles Erickson; Marva Hicks and Allison Semmes in *Oo-Bla-Dee*, photo by T. Charles Erickson.

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A NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JOHN DIAS AND MANAGING DIRECTOR MICHAEL HURST

IN 2018/19, TWO RIVER THEATER CELEBRATED OUR MILESTONE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON.

We are proud that, in June 2019, Two River was nationally recognized by USA TODAY as one of the top 10 great regional theaters in the nation—the only theater outside of a major city to be included in the article, “Beyond the Tony Awards and Broadway: Here are 10 great places to see a play.”

We were also honored to receive many letters of congratulations—including this tribute from United States Senator Cory Booker:

“For a quarter of a century, Two River Theater has been a center of arts and culture for the Monmouth County region and beyond. Everyone deserves access to the arts, and Two River Theater has been an important part of our state’s rich cultural landscape. Through your efforts you have touched many lives. Thank you for your dedication to the arts and improving your community.”

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the staff of Two River Theater, we thank Senator Booker for his commendation, which goes to the heart of our mission: to create great American theater and contribute to the vitality of our community.

WE ALSO THANK YOU, OUR INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS AND GENEROUS INDIVIDUAL DONORS. YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

During our 2018/19 Season, we welcomed more than 52,000 visitors of all ages to our theater for plays and musicals; education initiatives; and arts and humanities events that we offer through our Inside Two River program. We believe that the art we produce on stage must be integrated with world beyond the walls of the theater. And, we were proud to (literally!) expand our walls with the construction of our new Center for New Work, Education and Design. We also embarked on another capital project, to renovate the plaza in front of our lobby entrance. The new plaza will include foliage, benches, café tables and chairs and a pergola stage for programming and events. We anticipate this will be a useful amenity for our patrons and will serve as a gathering place for our community, enhancing their experience in our neighborhood and at our theater.

In the spring, we honored our founders, Joan and Robert Rechnitz, at our 25th Anniversary Gala, which raised over \$330,000. We celebrated Two River’s history of producing classic plays and new works that are now part of the national theater canon in a one-night reading, highlighting scenes and songs from some of the theater’s most notable productions since its founding in 1994. And then sadly, this past fall, we mourned the death of our Founder and Executive Producer, Robert M. Rechnitz. In this time of reflection, we looked to our history—our founder’s vision, our expansive mission, our family of artists—as we journeyed ever more boldly to our place at the forefront of the American theater.

Each of you—our audience—is a part of the family too. We know that you are deeply invested in our productions; that you look to us to be ambitious and entertaining; and that you want to see great stories, performed and designed with consummate skill. **TOGETHER, WE HONORED OUR HISTORY, CELEBRATED THESE PAST 25 YEARS—AND TOGETHER, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT’S NEXT. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!**



ARTISTS AGENTS EVENTS

TWO RIVER THEATER

PRODUCES CLASSICS, CONTEMPORARY PLAYS AND WORLD PREMIERES, AND SUPPORTS THE VOICES, AMBITIONS AND VISIONS OF THEATER ARTISTS.

Since Two River was established 25 years ago, we have stayed true to our founding principles, bringing a fresh eye to masterpieces from the European and American canons. We are also committed to the full range of new-play development and production. We believe that we are enlivened and enriched by new work and the artists who create it, and that the American theater is truer, richer, deeper and more reflective of who we are as a culture if it includes new work.

Since its founding, Two River has **PREMIERED** 16 original plays and musicals; **COMMISSIONED** original projects including *Be More Chill* by Tony Award nominee Joe Iconis and Joe Tracz (the theater's first Broadway production) and *Hurricane Diane* by Playwright-in-Residence Madeleine George (which enjoyed an Obie Award-winning Off-Broadway run); and **DEVELOPED** numerous other plays and musicals.

WE ARE SUPPORTING NEW PLAYS IN DEVELOPMENT by commissioned writers including Rinde Eckert (who is working on a Mark Twain/Huckleberry Finn project with director David Schweizer); Jessica Hagedorn (who is writing a musical based on the all-female band from the 1970s, Fanny); and Daniel Maté and Marshall Paillet (*Middle School Mysteries*). Other new works in development include the musical *Radiant Baby*, about the life and work of Keith Haring, written by Stuart Ross and Debra Barsha.

TWO RIVER HOSTS SEVERAL PROGRAMS TO NURTURE ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK. EACH YEAR, WE PRESENT A CABARET OF NEW SONGS FOR THE MUSICAL THEATER

in association with NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing program. Additionally, we host numerous artist residencies including a week-long retreat for playwrights from the adventurous New York-based company Clubbed Thumb.

Beginning in the 2018/19 Season, we continued to build our new-play program by introducing an **EMERGING PLAYWRIGHTS GROUP** with an inaugural cohort that included Eboni Booth, Noah Diaz, Emily Feldman and Miranda Rose Hall. Guided by Literary Manager Taylor Barfield and Playwright-in-Residence Madeleine George, the group met periodically in Red Bank throughout the season to share new work. Each playwright also had an intimate staged reading of a new play; audiences were invited to attend these free readings and be part of the process of creating new work for the American stage.

We believe that we have a responsibility to create the most representative theater that we can. Reflecting the demographics of our community, Two River has cast our productions with diverse acting companies, and made plays by African-American and Latinx theater artists an essential part of each mainstage season. In 2018/19, we marked the halfway point in our commitment to present all 10 plays of **AUGUST WILSON'S AMERICAN CENTURY CYCLE**, one play documenting each decade of African-American life in the 20th Century, with our production of *King Hedley II*.

In August 2018, Two River presented our 8th annual **CROSSING BORDERS (CRUZANDO FRONTERAS) FESTIVAL** of play readings and live music by Latinx theater artists. Each year, we look for full-length plays, musicals and works for young people that speak to the diversity of the Latinx experience. Participation in Crossing Borders (Cruzando Fronteras) grows each year. Attendance has increased by 38% in the seven years since the festival launched, with more than 800 people joining us for readings, concerts and free community events in the summer of 2018.



Charlie Hudson III and Blake Morris in August Wilson's *King Hedley II*. Photo by T Charles Erickson.



Jesse James Keitel and Zachary Booth in *Theo*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.



Sarah McKinley Austin in *Pamela's First Musical*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.



Students and alumni from NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing program perform at the 2018 Cabaret of New Songs for the Musical Theater.



MIKE BIRBIGLIA'S THE NEW ONE

BY MIKE BIRBIGLIA
DIRECTED BY SETH BARRISH
RECHNITZ THEATER

**JULY 18 –
JULY 22 / 2018**

Two River hosted a special summer event in July of 2018: six performances of *The New One*, written and performed by Mike Birbiglia, prior to its Broadway premiere. A comedian and storyteller, Birbiglia wrote, directed, and starred in the acclaimed films *Sleepwalk with Me* and *Don't Think Twice*. In *The New One*, Birbiglia approaches his emotional and physical journey to parenthood with heart and humor. In addition to its sold-out run at Two River, *The New One* toured to more than 40 cities around the country, had a successful Broadway run, and is now a Netflix comedy special. *The New One* on Broadway was named a *New York Times* Critic's Pick and one of Entertainment Weekly's Top 10 shows of 2018. Birbiglia received an Outer Critics Circle Award and a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Solo Performance for *The New One* on Broadway.

AUDIENCE RAVE: “My husband and I LOVED seeing Mike Birbiglia at your beautiful theater. This was our first visit to the theater and it definitely won't be our last. How have I not known about this wonderful place?”

WORLD PREMIERE

PAMELA'S FIRST MUSICAL

BY WENDY WASSERSTEIN AND CHRISTOPHER DURANG
MUSIC BY CY COLEMAN
LYRICS BY DAVID ZIPPEL
DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY GRACIELA DANIELE
RECHNITZ THEATER

**SEPTEMBER 8 –
OCTOBER 7 / 2018**



The Company of *Pamela's First Musical*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

Two River launched our 25th Anniversary Season with the largest and most ambitious production in our history, the long-awaited world premiere of *Pamela's First Musical*, written by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winner Wendy Wasserstein, Tony Award-winner Christopher Durang, three-time Tony Award winner Cy Coleman and Tony Award-winner David Zippel. Developed by Two River Theater for several years, *Pamela's First Musical* came to our stage with a cast of 15 and an eight-piece band, directed and choreographed by 10-time Tony Award-nominee Graciela Daniele.

“Twelve years after Wasserstein's death, *Pamela's First Musical* can now be seen in a delightful production with a marvelous cast, featuring Carolee Carmello as Aunt Louise, Howard McGillin as Pamela's father, and talented young actor Sarah McKinley Austin in the title role. The 90-minute, family-friendly love letter to Broadway captures the thrill of theater from the perspective of a child experiencing it for the first time.” — *TheaterMania*

UNDER 30 AUDIENCES: more than 500 ticket buyers were under the age of 30—the season's highest!

GROWING REVENUE: Our highest-grossing show in the Marion Huber Theater **EVER!**



Harvy Blanks, Blake Morris, Charlie Hudson III, and Brian D. Coats in August Wilson's *King Hedley II*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

AUGUST WILSON'S KING HEDLEY II

DIRECTED BY BRANDON J. DIRDEN
MARION HUBER THEATER

**NOVEMBER 10 –
DECEMBER 16 / 2018**

August Wilson's *King Hedley II* marked the halfway point in our commitment to present all 10 plays of the American Century Cycle—and the first time we presented one of the Cycle's plays in our intimate 110-seat Marion Huber Theater. Brandon J. Dirden—the award-winning actor/director who has appeared in five Two River productions—directed this sequel to *Seven Guitars*, which picks up the stories of Ruby and Canewell (known here as Stool Pigeon) in the 1980s, some 40 years after the events of the earlier drama.

“This *Hedley* shows clearly that as we reach the halfway point of Two River's Wilson project, the theater is losing no steam or enthusiasm for the work, but is rather charging ahead into the challenges and nuances of Wilson's plays.” — *The Star-Ledger*



Gopal Divan, Adrianna Mitchell, Ellen Harvey, and Jason O'Connell in *Noises Off*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

NOISES OFF

BY MICHAEL FRAYN

DIRECTED BY SARNA LAPINE

RECHNITZ THEATER

**JANUARY 12 –
FEBRUARY 3 / 2019**

Produced at Two River Theater 20 years ago in our 5th Anniversary Season, Michael Frayn's *Noises Off* belongs on any list of the funniest plays ever written. In this celebrated backstage farce-within-a-farce, mayhem ensues as a third-rate touring theater troupe rehearses and then performs the ill-fated *Nothing On*.

“*Nothing On* is the play being rehearsed and performed within Michael Frayn's supremely comical *Noises Off* by a troupe of inept actors who manage to mangle the farce-within-the-farce at every step. Two River's cast is anything but inept; their bungling of the third-rate inner play is a rib-tickling delight, a master-class in comic timing.” — *Scene on Stage*

NEW AUDIENCES: 56% of ticket buyers were brand-new attendees to Two River—the season's highest!



The Company of *Theo*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

WORLD PREMIERE

THEO

BY MARTIN MORAN

DIRECTED BY CAROLYN CANTOR

MARION HUBER THEATER

**FEBRUARY 23 –
MARCH 24 / 2019**

We were thrilled to include the celebrated American classic *The Belle of Amherst* in our 25th Anniversary Season, with beloved actor Maureen Silliman starring under the direction of Two River's founder and Executive Producer Robert Rechnittz. The production embodied Two River's mission to produce "new works and world masterpieces that most richly direct our gaze to the life of the human spirit."

"The passion Silliman demonstrated during events in the second act was particularly powerful. The empathy she drew from the audience at that point was apparent in the hushed state. Ultimately this production encouraged everyone to step out of Two River Theater and seek a spiritual connection through poetry, with nature, with loved ones, or both." — *New Jersey Stage*

A FAMILY OF ARTISTS: *The Belle of Amherst* was Maureen Silliman's eighth production at Two River Theater since 1998.



The Company of *Oo-Bla-Dee*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

OO-BLA-DEE

BY REGINA TAYLOR

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY DIEDRE L. MURRAY

DIRECTED BY RUBEN SANTIAGO-HUDSON

RECHNITZ THEATER

**JUNE 8 –
JUNE 30 / 2019**

The commissioned world-premiere play *Theo*, written by Martin Moran, renders the complexity of living, with humor and truth. A warm look at the far-reaching ties of love, this new play is a moving portrait of kinship, faith, and the pursuit of one's true self.

“There are times as a theatregoer when one sees a piece that, as it unfolds, enfolds you in its honesty and truth. Such plays are not common and therefore all the more appreciated. Two River Theater is home to the world premiere of one such play, Martin Moran’s *Theo*. It is amazing and beautiful, touching and real. It is a work of genius and talent and great love, and it must be seen.” — *Out in Jersey*

Martin Moran performed his solo shows *The Tricky Part* and *All the Rage* at Two River Theater, in repertory, in 2013/14, after which the theater commissioned him to write *Theo*, his first play for other actors.

THE BELLE OF AMHERST

STARRING MAUREEN SILLIMAN

BY WILLIAM LUCE

DIRECTED BY ROBERT RECHNITZ

RECHNITZ THEATER

**APRIL 13 –
MAY 5 / 2019**



Maureen Silliman in *The Belle of Amherst*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

Two River Theater concluded our 25th Anniversary Season with *Oo-Bla-Dee*, written by Golden Globe Award-winner Regina Taylor, featuring original songs by Taylor and Obie Award-winning composer Diedre L. Murray, directed by Tony Award-winner Ruben Santiago-Hudson. *Oo-Bla-Dee* follows Evelyn Waters and the Diviners, an all-black, all-female jazz band, as they travel from St. Louis to Chicago in order to set up a record deal following the end of World War II. On this trip toward freedom the latest member of the group, sax player Gin Del Sol, must wrestle with the complex timing of the music as well as the complicated times in which she lives.

“As a playwright, Regina Taylor will not be confined to words. Her work is lush with musicality and rhythms, expressing as much through sound as it does through language....Under the direction of Ruben Santiago-Hudson, this jazz musical hums with tones both celebratory and somber.” — *The Star-Ledger*

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT: Our most highly engaged audience with more than 2,000 patrons attending 13 Inside Two River Events in conjunction with the show!

THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES



Samantha Jackman and Shea Grant in *A Little Shakespeare: Macbeth*. Photo by Scott L. Friedman.

A LITTLE SHAKESPEARE: MACBETH

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY SARA HOLDREN
MARION HUBER THEATER

**JANUARY 25 –
FEBRUARY 2 / 2019**

Celebrating its 6th season as one of Two River's most popular programs, *A Little Shakespeare* engages young artists and audiences with the work of the Bard. Each year, a 75-minute version of one of Shakespeare's plays—adapted, directed and designed by professional artists—is performed by local high school students for audiences age 9 and up.

In our 25th Anniversary Season, we went scarier than ever before with the dark and terrifying tale of *Macbeth*, a soldier whose encounter with three mysterious witches begins a violent quest for power and the crown. The performance was adapted and directed by Sara Holdren, a director, teacher, and critic for *New York Magazine/Vulture.com* who specializes in Shakespeare, reimagined classics and spectacular, outsized stories with an element of the otherworldly to them.



Young audience members join the cast and oil the *Tin Man*. Photo by John Merrick.

JOURNEY TO OZ: A WIZARD OF OZ STORY

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
CHRISTOPHER PARKS
MUSIC COMPOSITION/SOUND DESIGN
BY JOSH TOTORA
RECHNITZ THEATER

NOVEMBER 23-25 / 2018

Inspired by L. Frank Baum's original stories, this clever adaptation put the audience front and center—literally—as they were invited on a journey to Oz with Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman and the Lion. Kids and their adults became part of the cast in this interactive production, singing, dancing and acting alongside professional actors.

A LITTLE SHAKESPEARE AUDIENCE RAVES: "Little Shakes is my and my children's favorite show EVERY season!"

"Lil Shakes is one of my favs. Never miss it."

"The show was amazing! My family really enjoyed it ...those actors really blew us away!"

ARTS EDUCATION

At Two River Theater,
WE BELIEVE that arts
education promotes
two central goals:
supporting the artist
within each student and
building future audiences.

WE INSPIRE empathy, risk-taking
and a sense of adventure; and
WE SUPPORT academic achievement
and life-long learning.



STUDENT MATINEES

- **2,400+** students from NJ schools
- **14** student matinee performances

Every teacher receives a Curriculum Guide to help them integrate the work on stage with work done in the classroom. Following each performance, schools are invited to participate in talkbacks with members of the casts, helping to inspire relevant and interesting discussions and study topics for classrooms, after-school clubs and groups.

NO SEATS EMPTY & NO SEATS EMPTY: TOTAL EXPERIENCE

- **942** students from low-income schools
- **30** pre- and post-performance workshops
- **150** students participated in No Seats Empty: Total Experience

Two River's No Seats Empty program makes theater accessible to all students by providing free tickets and transportation to low-income schools attending student matinee performances. No Seats Empty: Total Experience integrates the experience of seeing Two River's productions with in-depth examinations of each show's literary, historical and social context during in-school pre- and post-show workshops.

THEATERWORKS

- **72 participants** from: *Friends in Need Children's Center, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and School Based Youth Services programs from Asbury Park, Red Bank Regional High School and Long Branch High Schools.*

TheaterWorks connects underserved youth to the spectrum of vocational opportunities available in theater through the study of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into putting up a professional play. Participants in this program met for pre- and post-show career workshops and talkbacks, in addition to attending Saturday matinee performances.



METRO SCHOLARS

- **11** students, **6** local high schools

This year-long program, which is highly competitive for applicants—and free for participating students—is open to high school juniors who are interested in exploring acting, design or technical theater/stage management. Metro Scholars assist Two River's staff in several departments, see every show at Two River for free, participate in moderated conversations following each production, enjoy a backstage tour of each set, and take specially designed master classes with theater professionals.

SUMMER INTENSIVES

- **53** participants
- **14** full or partial needs-based student scholarships

Debuting in July 2018, Summer Intensives offers students in grades 7-12 a chance to create an entirely original show every week. Summer Intensives runs for three weeks in July and features an Onstage Track for actors, singers and dancers, and a Backstage Track for designers, stage crew and technicians. Led by a team of professionals and guest artists, each show is created by the students and shaped by the directors; the shows evolve around themes to challenge, inspire, and move the ensembles.



SPECTRUM THEATER CLASSES

In August 2018, Two River Theater offered one week of classes specifically designed for students on the autism spectrum. Led by teaching artists with extensive experience, students improved body awareness, verbal and non-verbal communication and self-confidence through the art of theater.

FIRST MONDAY MASTERS

- **112** students had the pleasure of working with talent agent Nancy Carson, director Sara Holdren, *UnkleDave's Fight-House*, playwright Martin Moran, costume designer Karen Perry, musical director Elliot Roth and director Ruben Santiago-Hudson.

Two River Theater hosted its second year of master classes led by some of the marvelous artists who were involved in our season. Great artists who are excited to share their visions and work with students and lifelong learners.



BEYOND RED BANK

TWO RIVER WORLD PREMIERES EXPAND TO NEW AUDIENCES

Two River Theater is committed to contributing to great American theater by nurturing and producing the classics of tomorrow. During the 2018/19 season, two commissioned works that had their world premieres at Two River Theater moved on to be produced in New York City: **BE MORE CHILL** by Joe Iconis and Joe Tracz was produced on Broadway in the spring of 2019. The musical earned Iconis his first Tony Award nomination for Best Original Score. The Wall Street Journal raved that it is “one of the strongest new musicals of the past decade.” **HURRICANE DIANE** by Playwright-in-Residence Madeleine George had an extended Off-Broadway run at the New York Theatre Workshop, winning an Obie Award and was called an “astonishing new play” by *The New York Times*.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

BE MORE CHILL

- 285 performances Broadway & Off-Broadway
- 170,000 attendees Broadway & Off-Broadway
- The 4TH most streamed original cast album of the decade, behind only *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Wicked*

HURRICANE DIANE

- 52 performances Off-Broadway
- Over 9,000 attendees for the full run including extension

TONY AWARD NOMINEE



Will Connolly and George Salazar in *Be More Chill* at Two River Theater. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

OBIE AWARD-WINNER



The Company of *Hurricane Diane*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

THE FUTURE IS NOW!



Metal Shop



Two River Theater Addition



Studio A

CENTER FOR NEW WORK, EDUCATION & DESIGN

Two River is thrilled to have opened an addition to our existing theater complex. **The Center for New Work, Education and Design** is a three-story facility that includes two rehearsal studios, artist labs, classrooms, expanded shops and centrally located offices. It has a footprint of 13,600 square feet and a total area of 36,000 square feet.

In addition to enhancing the work of our Production department, the new building allows the theater to expand the reach and impact of our Education programs and free community events that we offer through the Inside Two River program. The Center also allows us to expand the ambition and reach of our current efforts in support of new work, including artist residencies, retreats, readings, workshops, and collaborations with other theaters and artists engaged in new-play development.



We have embarked on a **renovation of the plaza** in front of the theater's lobby entrance. What was once a concrete slab is being transformed with beautiful foliage, benches, tables and chairs, better lighting, a bike rack and a pergola stage for events and programming.

The plaza renovation is made possible in part by a generous leadership gift from longtime Two River Trustee Caroline Huber. Through the Pave the Plaza campaign, which launched in the fall of 2019, supporters are invited to engrave a paver in the plaza and be recognized among Two River's most loyal and generous patrons.

We are thrilled to add more beautification to the west side of Red Bank, making this an even more desirable destination for everyone—from members of our community to the artists who are increasingly coming to think of Two River as an artistic home.



INSIDE TWO RIVER

■ A series of arts & humanities events - specially curated for each of our productions. Events include literacy clubs and film screenings, behind-the-scenes insight and access, culture and community events, and opportunities for conversation and play.

IN THE 2018/19 SEASON, 56 SEPARATE INSIDE TWO RIVER EVENTS HELPED TWO RIVER REACH MORE THAN 5,000 ATTENDEES. HERE ARE SOME OF THE EXCITING NEW EVENTS WE PRESENTED WITH SOME INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

DRAG 101

On February 28, local drag artists guided us through the basics of Drag, from the history of the art form to performing with confidence, in an event hosted by partner West Elm. Two audience members received special drag makeovers...and lip synched for their life! 75 drag fans joins us for this event.

2019 WOMEN'S JAZZ FESTIVAL: SOUNDS OF BEBOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE, NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

On March 11, as part of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture's 2019 Women's Jazz Festival, the Center presented a night of bebop curated by Obie Award-winning musician and jazz composer Diedre L. Murray, featuring selections of her original music composed for Two River's production of *Oo-Bla-Dee*.

YOGA IN THE LOBBY

In our production of Martin Moran's play *Theo*, the title character practices yoga, mindfulness and meditation. We invited the public to relax and unwind at free yoga classes taught by Scott Bailey of the Red Bank Family YMCA. A total of 45 yogis joined us for these all-levels-welcome classes in our lobby.

25 YEARS OF GREAT AMERICAN THEATER

Two River Theater hosted a special evening celebrating 25 years of great American theater on June 18. Artistic Assistant Brian Eckert directed a reading highlighting scenes, monologues and songs from some of our favorite shows, performed by some of our favorite actors. Nearly 150 attendees enjoyed this magical reading and post-show reception.



Halloween Ball

III

On October 20, 2018 we hosted our third annual benefit bash, The Halloween Ball. The theater was transformed into a laboratory for unsound scientists and evil geniuses. Brave guests explored a secret lair and discovered experimental games, mad science décor and a diabolical dance floor. Food was provided by Brennan's catering, with tunes spun by DJ Tyler Valentine.

All proceeds of The Halloween Ball benefited the programs and services of Two River Theater, including our many education and new-play development programs. Support for new work has contributed to the success of Two River's 2018/19 season opener, *Pamela's First Musical*, and the Broadway phenomenon *Be More Chill*.

Thank you to our sponsors for your support!

HALLOWEEN BALL III SPONSORS

EVENT UNDERWRITERS

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Anne Luzzatto and Gordon Litwin

DR. FRANKENSTEIN

Joan and Robert Rechnitz

DR. JEKYLL

Riverview Medical Center
Cullen Disque Family Foundation
Lanae and Todd Herman

DR. STRANGELOVE

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Sharon Falco and Jonathan Lustgarten
Nyire and Greg Melconian
Susan and Ty Olson
Kathryn Kent and Robert Patton

DR. EVIL

Melissa and John Bonello





25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

**HONORING
JOAN AND ROBERT RECHNITZ**

**HONORARY CHAIRS
DOROTHEA AND JON BON JOVI
(JBJ SOUL KITCHEN)**

THANK YOU

TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS AND UNDERWRITERS

On May 18, 2019, more than 250 guests joined us in honoring our incredible founders Joan and Robert Rechnitz at Two River Theater's 25th Anniversary Gala. It was a wonderful evening that celebrated these two visionaries and their steadfast commitment to making our community a wonderful place. All proceeds from the Gala benefit Two River Theater's productions and programs, including our Education Department.

DOLLAR AMOUNT RAISED: \$330,000

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO SUPPORTED OUR
25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA!**

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Photos by Lisa Campbell
and Yurik L. Lozano

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THANK YOU to the following generous individuals who made contributions to our Annual Fund, Events, and Capital Campaign!

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The following have provided matching gifts to Two River on behalf of their employees.

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Black Rock Matching Gift Program
C.R. Bard Foundation
Goldman Sachs
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IBM Corp
Johnson & Johnson Matching Gifts
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New Jersey Resources Matching Gift
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Verisk Analytics (2)
Verizon Wireless

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In memory of Robert Rechnitz
Esther Barcun
In memory of Robert Rechnitz
Leslie and Richard Black
In memory of Michelle Skole
Lois P. Broder
In memory of Robert Rechnitz
Lois P. Broder
In memory of Kenneth Stunkel
Jill and John Caddell
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In memory of Kenneth Stunkel
Ginny Kamin
*In memory of Layla Diba's mother
Soudavar Magaloff*
Ginny Kamin
In memory of Kristi Kaepplen's mother Jane
Ginny Kamin
In memory of Robert Rechnitz
Ms. Barbara Kenas
In memory of Helen Selinger
Mrs. Helen Kim
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Mary Jane and Richard Kroon
In Memory of Kenneth Stunkel
Lunch Break
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In memory of Art Kamin
Michelle McCreary
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The Murphy Family Foundation*
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In honor of Edward J. McKenna Jr.
Ms. Emily J. Rechnitz
In memory of Robert Rechnitz
Drs. Robert M. and Joan H. Rechnitz
In memory of Kenneth Stunkel
Ms. Sheila Sachs
In memory of Robert Rechnitz
Ms. Sheila Sachs
In memory of Elaine Rennert
Shrewsbury Foundation
In memory of Robert Rechnitz
Maureen Silliman and William Parry
In honor of Michael Stelle
Susan Stampler
In honor of Mary Jane Kroon
Karin and Joe Stein
In memory of Robert Rechnitz
Wendie and Stephen Weinstein
In memory of Robert Rechnitz
*Listing reflects gifts made between
December 1, 2018 and December 30, 2019*

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

THE VISIONARY CIRCLE \$25,000+



INNOVATOR CIRCLE \$10,000-\$24,999



BENEFACTOR \$5,000 - \$9,999



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



IN-KIND SUPPORT



THEATER ACCESS

TWO RIVER THEATER is committed to making our facilities and performances accessible for all patrons, actors, and employees.



BARRIER-FREE ACCESS

The theater provides barrier-free access for patrons using wheelchairs or walkers with on-grade entrances, elevators, railings, and wide doorways. Integrated seating for patrons in wheelchairs, accessible restrooms, wheelchair requests, and wheelchair storing space during the performance are also available.



ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

Assistive Listening Devices are available for individuals with hearing loss to assist with amplification and clarity. Lightweight headsets, with no wires or cables, are available free of charge for all Two River Theater performances.



AUDIO-DESCRIBED PERFORMANCES

Scheduled audio description performances for patrons with vision loss are offered for each of our subscription series productions. Using a lightweight headset, with no wires or cables, which operate with an infrared system, patrons can hear a live, objective, and concise description of the action on stage.*



OPEN CAPTIONING

Scheduled open captioned performances for patrons with hearing loss are offered for each of our subscription series productions. A screen, which projects dialogue as the action occurs live on stage, is placed to the side of the stage, and no additional special equipment is necessary.*



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

Scheduled American Sign Language interpreted performances for patrons with hearing loss, and fluency in ASL, are occasionally offered.



LARGE PRINT PROGRAMS

Large print programs are available at the box office.



RELAXED PERFORMANCES

Scheduled relaxed performances are designed to provide a welcoming and judgement-free theater experience for people on the autism spectrum and with other sensitivity issues or special needs.

**Reduced ticket prices are available for patrons benefiting from this service.*

FINANCIAL RESULTS

As a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization, Two River Theater is dedicated to creating great American theater while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Earned income from ticket sales represents less than one-third of our operating budget, therefore contributed income from generous individuals, businesses and foundations is critical to ensure Two River Theater remains a vital cultural institution.

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30/2019

INCOME

EARNED INCOME

	AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Single Ticket Sales	708,194	10.8%
Subscription Sales	471,826	7.2%
Other Earned Income	753,456	11.5%
TOTAL EARNED INCOME	1,933,476	29.4%

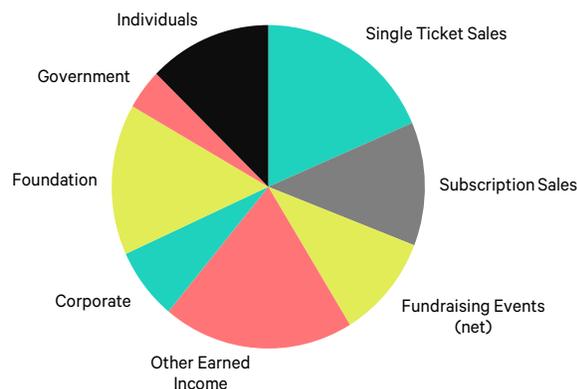
CONTRIBUTED INCOME

Corporate	275,033	4.2%
Foundation	576,730	8.8%
Fundraising Events (net)	396,446	6.0%
Government	153,812	2.3%
Individuals	484,475	7.4%
Released from Temporary Restricted	2,754,544	41.9%
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED INCOME	4,641,040	70.6%

TOTAL INCOME

TOTAL INCOME	6,574,516	100.0%
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INCOME



EXPENSES

PRODUCTION EXPENSES

Rechnitz Theater Productions	1,178,269	18.0%
Marion Huber Theater Productions	306,277	4.7%
Production Department	383,531	5.9%
PRODUCTION EXPENSES SUBTOTAL	1,868,077	28.6%

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES

Administrative	969,669	14.9%
Artistic	656,654	10.1%
Development	265,649	4.1%
Education	207,532	3.2%
Marketing and Audience Services	1,092,817	16.7%
Production and Operations	1,469,293	22.5%
DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES SUBTOTAL	4,661,615	71.4%

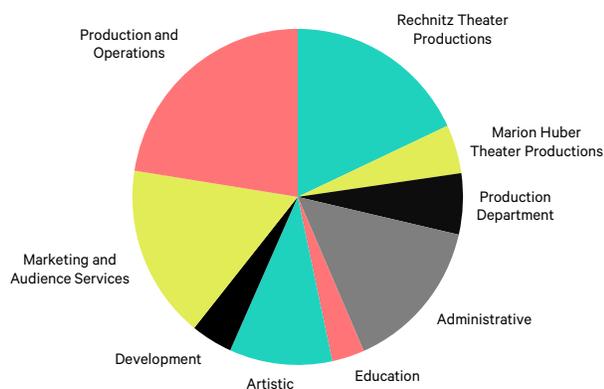
TOTAL EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES	6,529,692	100.0%
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OPERATING SURPLUS

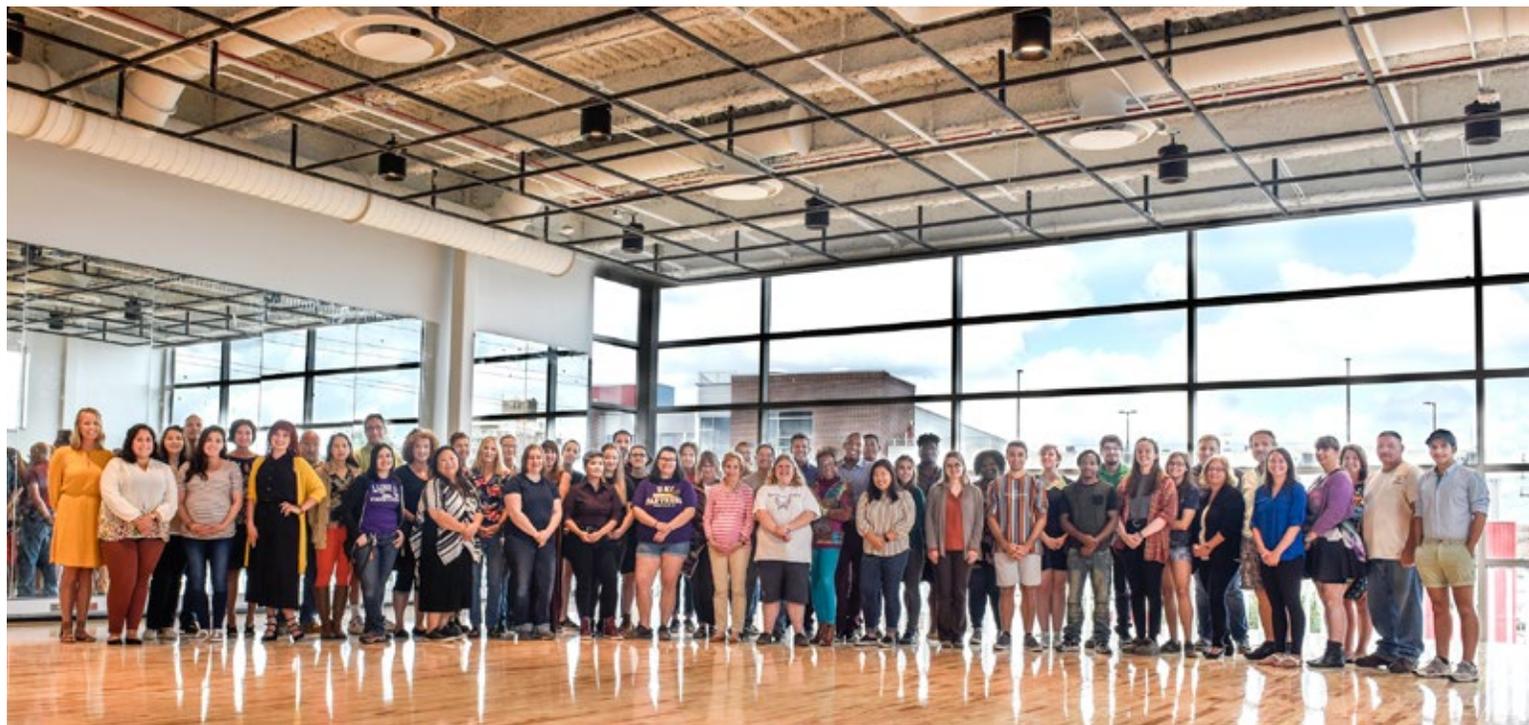
OPERATING SURPLUS	44,824
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EXPENSES



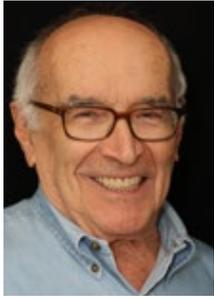
During our 2018/19 Season, we received our **sixth consecutive four-star rating - the highest possible - from Charity Navigator**, the leading charity evaluator, for our sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

STAFF



Two River Theater Staff in Studio A. Photo by Danny Sanchez

<p>ARTISTIC Stephanie Coen <i>Associate Artistic Director</i> Taylor Barfield <i>Literary Manager</i> Madeleine George <i>Playwright-in-Residence</i> Kamilah Bush <i>Artistic Assistant</i></p>	<p>Lauren Mancuso <i>Marketing Associate</i> Michele Klinsky <i>Box Office Manager</i> Evan Kudish <i>Box Office Supervisor</i> Lynn Kroll <i>Box Officer/Group Sales Coordinator</i> Vernette Spicer <i>Box Officer/Access Coordinator</i> Samantha Truglio Auslin Williams Matt Yee <i>Box Officers</i> Angela White <i>House Manager & Volunteer Coordinator</i> Tess Ammerman Carmen Balentine Briana Butler Kelsey Butler Myles Columbo Bobby DiGenova Thomas Dougherty Doreen Fromage Melissa Javorek John Knodel Matt Markowski Janet Pepsin Daniel Pino Kayla Santry</p>	<p>Gabby Scerbo Francesca Trerotola Nicholas Trerotola Elena Zambrowski <i>Front of House Staff</i></p> <p>DEVELOPMENT Denyse Reed, <i>Director of Development</i> Katie Benson <i>Special Events Manager</i> Thomas Dougherty <i>Events Assistant</i> Rachel Hulsart <i>Institutional Giving Manager</i> Angela Kluwin <i>Associate Director of Development</i></p> <p>EDUCATION Kate Cordaro <i>Director of Education</i> Amanda Espinoza <i>Education & Community Engagement Manager</i> Lea Anello Corinda Bravo Amanda Butterbaugh Devin Fletcher</p>	<p>Shane O'Neil Maria Paduano Lucas Pinner Elliot Roth Steven Wilson <i>Teaching Artists</i> Em Weinstein <i>Adaptor/Director</i></p> <p>OPERATIONS Wayne Van Sant <i>Maintenance Supervisor</i> Vinnie Gillick Lamar Hicks William Hinton <i>Building Maintenance</i></p> <p>PRODUCTION Lauren Kurinskas <i>Director of Production</i> Will Cruttenden <i>Associate Production Manager</i> Jackie Romeo <i>Production Management Assistant</i> Alison Campbell <i>Company Management Assistant</i> Jacqueline Deniz Young <i>Technical Director</i></p>	<p>Colleen Dolan <i>Scenic Charge</i> Fiona Malone <i>Assistant Technical Director</i> Duane Noch <i>Master Carpenter</i> Christian Dilks <i>Staff Carpenter</i> Laura Nuneviller <i>Shop Assistant</i> Marlene Whitney <i>Properties Supervisor</i> Victoria Schilling <i>Assistant Properties Supervisor</i> Mich Davis <i>Properties Assistant</i> Lesley Sorenson <i>Costume Shop Supervisor</i> Jill DiGiuseppe <i>Drapery</i> Maggie Barnett <i>Wardrobe Supervisor</i> Jannah H. Cruz <i>Costume Assistant</i> Olga "Sue" Patino <i>Lighting Supervisor</i> Dan Montano <i>Sound Supervisor</i> Cassie Mazza Abigail Lynn Smith</p>	<p><i>Lighting & Sound Assistants</i> Niew Bharyaguntra Devin Christor <i>Production Assistants</i></p> <p>SPECIAL SERVICES Gilda Rogers <i>Community Relations</i> Social Sidekick <i>Press & Publicity</i> Design Army <i>Graphic Design</i> Suzanne Anan <i>Graphic Design</i> T. Charles Erickson <i>Production Photography</i> Michael Boylan <i>Director, Cinematographer</i> Gordon N. Litwin, Esq., <i>Litwin & Provence, LLC Legal Counsel</i> WithumSmith + Brown <i>Auditors</i></p>
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REMEMBERING OUR FOUNDER, **BOB RECHNITZ**

Two River Theater mourns the loss of our Founder and Executive Producer, Robert M. Rechnitz, who died at his home on October 12, 2019. He was 89.

With his marvelous wife, Joan, Bob had the dream to create a world-class professional theater in Monmouth County 25 years ago. His directing credits here included 10 productions, most recently *The Belle of Amherst* starring his longtime collaborator Maureen Silliman.

In 2016, Two River produced *Lives of Reason*, a world-premiere play co-written by Bob and his friend and colleague Kenneth Stunkel, under the direction of Jonathan Fox, Two River's former Artistic Director. Like its authors, many of the characters in the play seek solace in literature; through it, they achieve a greater understanding of the universe, and our place in it.

Bob's impact on our theater and our community extended far beyond the work our audiences saw on stage. A civic leader, a philanthropist, a man with a quick laugh and a quicker mind, Bob was an indefatigable advocate for his belief that theater brings meaning and purpose to our lives. We will miss him.



Two River founders Robert and Joan Rechnitz.

We remember Bob with this short essay, “*Theater—A Human Resource.*” Bob wrote these words to support the launch of Two River's permanent home in Red Bank, which opened in 2005 with his production of *You Can't Take It with You.*

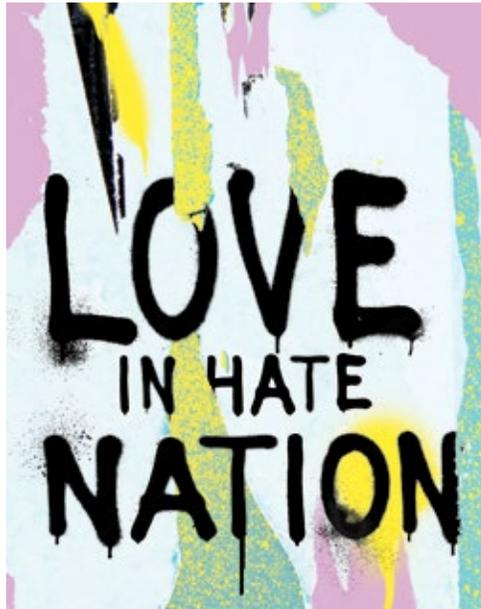
Like a town hall, a church, a sports arena, a theater is a gathering place. Within its walls, a collection of individuals can be forged into a community, a congregation. One takes his seat, the house lights dim, and one surrenders his individuality for a time to respond in concert with his fellows to the ritual of the play. Deeply akin to the ritual of religious ceremony, the great plays are woven of man's ultimate concerns, his explorations of the past, his profoundest aspirations for the future.

Theater instructs, it challenges, it entertains; it makes us laugh, tap our feet, weep, and long for other times. But, beyond laughter, beyond tears, the theater at its greatest brings us consolation. It feeds the heart's desires, speaking to the heart in the heart's own language, beyond words. And it inspires us with intimations and affirmations of life we never knew were hidden in us.

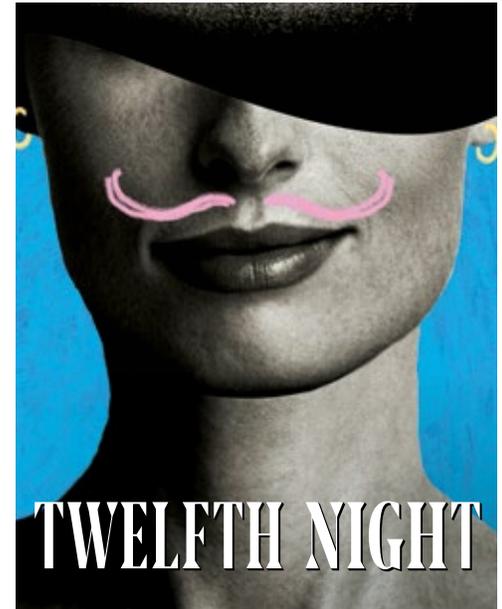
The theater building—the building itself—has its own significance. It becomes a place to hang out. The lights will always be on. People of all ages and means will find the place intriguing, a place of opportunities where they may learn, explore, and exercise their own various talents in the theater's professional environment. Young men and women, particularly those lonely ones whose hearts ache for meaning, whose minds hunger for a deeper direction, just may find comfort here. Through their contact with the art and the artists and their dedication to excellence, they may begin to discover pathways to the answers they seek. Just the physical fact of the building, then, will serve to bring a sense of order and meaning and purpose to the lives of many in our community.



SEPT 21 - OCT 13/2019
 By Jason O'Connell and Brenda Withers
 Adapted from the play *Cyrano de Bergerac*
 by Edmond Rostand
 Directed by Meredith McDonough
 A co-production with Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival



NOV 9 - DEC 1/2019
 Music, Lyrics and Book by Joe Iconis
 Directed by John Simpkins



TWELFTH NIGHT

JAN 11 - FEB 2/2020
 By William Shakespeare
 Directed by Sara Holdren



A LITTLE SHAKESPEARE:
TWELFTH NIGHT

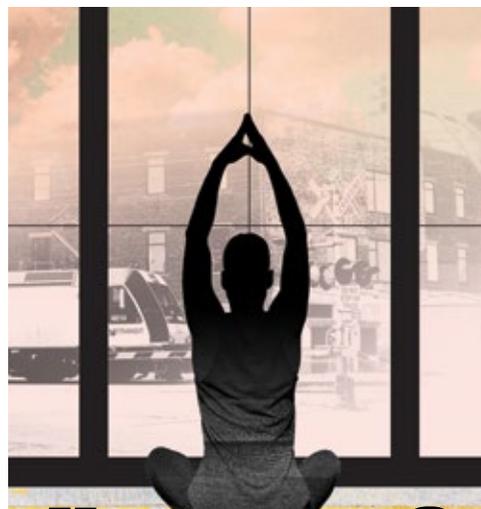
JAN 31 - FEB 9/2020
 By William Shakespeare
 Adapted and Directed by Em Weinstein



**AUGUST WILSON'S
 RADIO GOLF**

FEB 29 - MARCH 22/2020
 Directed by Brandon J. Dirden

Photo by and of the August Wilson House.



**THE
 HOMBRES**

APRIL 11 - MAY 10/2020
 By Tony Meneses
 Directed by Annie Tuppe



**LACKAWANNA
 BLUES**

JUNE 6 - 28/2020
 Written, Performed and Directed by
 Ruben Santiago-Hudson
 Original Music Composed by Bill Sims Jr.
 Additional Music Composed by Chris Thomas King

Photo of Ruben Santiago-Hudson by Benedict Evans.