

# BACKSTAGE NEWS

ROBERT PLANT  
NOVEMBER 2, 2025



Photo © Rob Garland Photographers

THE PARAMOUNT THEATER

215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902  
434.979.1922 | [theparamount.net](http://theparamount.net)

FALL / WINTER 2026

# Mission

## 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.

## Board of Directors

Mary Dalton *Chair*  
 Sterling Frank *Immediate Past Chair*  
 Patti Cary *Secretary*  
 Dave Paulson *Treasurer*  
 Maia Bannan *Member-at-Large*  
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 Elsie Thompson *Member-at-Large*  
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 Julie A. Montross *Ex-Officio, CEO & Executive Director*

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Gerry Frank	Ken Shevlin
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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 CEO & Executive Director

**Julie A. Montross**



Hello and thank you for reading this latest issue of *Backstage News!*

This season's newsletter comes at an exciting time at The Paramount. We've been fortunate to have a remarkably strong calendar since fall began and there are no signs of slowing down in the months ahead! A busy theater with a wide range of quality programming that brings our community together for laughter, learning, joy, and maybe a tear or two (I prefer the happy kind) — this is why I love my job.

In these pages, we've rounded up just a few of the highlights and activities that have been happening recently, starting with a piece about the arts and community background of our new Board Chair, **Mary Dalton**, along with introductions of our **six new incoming Board members**. What an amazing group of ambassadors! I am so proud of how the Theater continues to attract such generous and talented people to lend their time and expertise to The Paramount and our mission.

You can also read up on what's in store for our **2025-26 Arts Education season**. The Paramount staff, our Education Committee, and our energetic event volunteers, have already welcomed teachers and students from across central Virginia to the Theater for our first show of the season! We have productions coming to our stage from Texas, Northern Ireland, England, Japan, and more!

I'm also excited to share that we recently launched a brand-new, **FREE Kids Club**. Signing up is easy, and if you've got a young person in your life, you're definitely going to want to learn more about what's included. I'll still give you the elevator pitch, though. If you love free movies and free popcorn, and you're under the age of 12 — you're in! Oh, and don't forget that it's **FREE!**

Two more things I want to point out about this season: the first is a recap of our **2025 Leadership Donor Event**. I always look forward to any opportunity we have to gather this group of generous supporters together to say a heartfelt thank you in a special way. As you'll see in these pages, this year's event included a chance to experience the Theater as a performer — time to hang out in the green room, the choral dressing rooms, the Star dressing rooms — before walking out on stage just like our performers do! It was so much fun and gave us a chance to show off one of the more unique parts of The Paramount — backstage.

Here's the second thing — we have a date for our **2026 Grand Marquee Gala** — Friday, April 17! We'll dance the night away and raise funds for this treasured historic theater!

Thank you for reading and THANK YOU for your continued support of The Paramount Theater. We have a lot on our calendar this winter — please be sure to say hello when you are here to enjoy a program.

From all of us — staff, Board, volunteers, committee members, and Cast & Crew — we are honored to be part of the vibrant Charlottesville community that gives all of us opportunities to experience the arts together.

With warm regards,

Julie A. Montross  
CEO & Executive Director  
The Paramount Theater

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# MARY TAKES THE CHAIR

This past June, at The Paramount's State of the Theater, an annual meeting meets year-in-review presentation, there was much to cover and celebrate, including **the announcement of Mary Dalton as The Paramount's new Board Chair.**

*"Mary will do a fantastic job in this position," says Immediate Past Chair, Sterling Frank. "She brings the drive and experience required to lead the Theater, and then some, and it's easy to see just how clearly her heart is into it. I'm excited for her and I'm excited for The Paramount."*

## ARTS START AT HOME

Growing up in Richmond, Virginia, Mary was exposed to the arts at an early age. "My mother was a prolific printmaker, and my father had a steadfast hobby as a drummer. While playing in a rock band wasn't his full-time job — as much as he would have loved for that to be the case — rock and roll was always playing in our house from either his drum set or from his extensive record collection. Dinners, conversations, and gatherings with family and friends — thoughts and opinions about art and music were always being shared and discussed, and I absorbed every ounce of what was said."

At three years old, Mary's lifelong relationship with music began, starting with the violin and moving to the cello at age seven. "Classical worked for me. I'm on the math side of music, I'm a disciplined person, and the routine, practice and structure surrounding the creativity of classical music appealed to me." The cello took Mary places, creatively and literally, performing in concerts with various orchestras and chamber groups, and as a soloist, predominantly on the east coast.

Following her dad's practical example, intentionally or not, Mary took her talents to Washington & Lee University for undergraduate studies in Music and Finance, then to the University of Richmond for an MBA with a concentration in Strategic Leadership, excelling every step of the way. Where she was headed next, math and music would be her trusted instruments.

## A-HA IN ASPEN

Professionally, Mary's mathematical mind found her pursuing a career in investment banking. One summer, between jobs and out of artistic curiosity, Mary accepted a summer volunteer position with the Aspen Music Festival, widely regarded as one of the top classical music festivals in the United States, acclaimed for its classical concert programming and mentorship and instruction of emerging talent. The position at the Aspen Music Festival was the first time Mary was not a performer, but instead was behind the scenes experiencing what it takes for cultural and musical organizations to exist. "Aspen opened my eyes to all the efforts it takes for communities to offer cultural experiences that enrich the lives of those living there or visiting. Where does the support come from? How is it operated? How are decisions made about what happens and by whom? How deep is the impact beyond the performance?" A seed was planted.

That seed found deep soil at the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation (now the Richmond Performing Arts Alliance), the first Board that invited Mary to join. "My father's friends were involved in VPAF, and they really showed me how to be a Board member. They were great examples of leadership, and I absorbed everything I could on the process and the importance of building a cultural hub in a community — an approach I continue to use today."

## RELOCATING TO LYNCHBURG

Mary and her husband, Jud, began a life together in Richmond, but ultimately relocated to Lynchburg as both their family and his career grew. Landing in a new town and quickly having a number of young children, Mary sought a community for herself in order to connect with culturally driven individuals. She quickly found her place with the Academy Center of the Arts in downtown Lynchburg.

In a Board tenure that lasted 10 years, Mary was an essential leader in the Academy's journey from relic to renaissance. In a story that resembles many historic

# THE PARAMOUNT THEATER INTRODUCES **MARY DALTON** AS THE NEW LEADER OF THE PARAMOUNT BOARD



Photo by Rob Garland  
Photographers

## CALLING CHARLOTTESVILLE HOME

2020 gave the world an unexpected amount of change to adjust to, but for the Daltons, making a move to Charlottesville was already in the works before the pandemic instigated pivots large and small.

“Charlottesville made perfect sense for us for our family’s next chapter. It’s close to Lynchburg and offers opportunities and a quality of life that was exciting for all of us,” remembers Mary.

For the kids, that meant new schools and new activities. For Mary, it meant finding the next place to continue her work as a strategic leader in the nonprofit space, and she didn’t have to look far.

“I had my eye on The Paramount early on. I remember spending some time with [Paramount Board Members] David Gies and Carolyn Rainey and being taken by how upbeat and positive they were. Their enthusiasm for the Theater was palpable, and it was natural for me to gravitate toward it. I didn’t think twice when I was invited to join the Board.”

“Given Mary’s background in the arts as a musician and a nonprofit leader, and how successful she’s been at both, there’s this sense of destiny that she’s now our Board Chair at The Paramount,” says Julie Montross, CEO & Executive Director of The Paramount. “She understands the ins and outs, the ups and downs of a historic venue — how vital a mission must be, and what it takes not just to succeed, but to lead an arts organization that serves a community with such a wide range of tastes, interests, and priorities.”

“I’m so honored to be Chair, and it’s a privilege to be in a position that has already seen so many dedicated and thoughtful leaders come before me. I am fortunate to begin my term as Chair with The Paramount in such great shape. My colleagues on the Board are an impressive group, and it makes me feel proud that they’ve entrusted me with this opportunity to lead,” reflects Mary.

theaters across the country, including The Paramount Theater, The Academy reopened in 2018 after a 60-year dormancy, with Mary serving as Board Chair from 2017-2019, stewarding leadership in the final stages of the restoration and taking a special seat on opening night. “That was a special evening,” she remembers.

“The Academy’s Board actually visited The Paramount when we were in the process of learning how these old treasures are restored, refurbished, and reimaged as historical theaters, and this was actually the first time I heard about The Paramount,” says Mary. “We were really impressed with everything The Paramount had done, from top to bottom — the attention to detail, community engagement, the standard for programming and operation. It was a model that we could follow, a real example. It showed us that a project like this could really be done. It was influential and inspiring.”

“It’s beyond clear to me that my own longstanding belief in the arts as a common denominator in every community has been alive and well at The Paramount for the last twenty years. The arts give us common ground for celebration, discussion, and perspective.”

I look forward to the collective effort between The Paramount team and the Charlottesville community to advance our mission — to educate, enchant, enrich, and enlighten — in exciting new places, on stage and screen, and beyond, so that more and more people can enjoy and benefit from its well-intended practice and purpose.” ■

# The Boxes We Check

Patti Cary and Todd Stansbury's inspired giving includes a five-year pledge and a request to think outside the box

“Every time we walk inside The Paramount, we smile,” says Todd Stansbury.

“It’s not just the building — which is beautiful, by the way. It’s the people — the staff, the volunteers, the patrons. Everyone wants to be here — chooses to be here — and that is very clear. And contagious,” adds Patti Cary.

After established and successful careers based in Washington, D.C. — Patti, an accountant, and Todd, a lawyer — choosing to retire in Charlottesville was a no-brainer. A UVA grad, Patti was already familiar with the unique pull that this part of the world has on people. “We couldn’t find any other place that came close,” adds Todd. “It has everything. Why would we look anywhere else? It checked all the boxes.”

One of the boxes was access to open surroundings. As avid cyclists, the Charlottesville area gives them plenty of space to ride and explore together. Another was easy access for travel. As active, seasoned travelers, they’re often pedaling their tandem bike up and down picturesque roads and pathways abroad.

Yet another box — and a big one — was community. “Through friends and people I met along the way, I began to explore where Todd’s and my interests and talents could make a difference — both to organizations open to our help and to us personally,” says Patti. “The Paramount does that and more.”

“I was invited to volunteer with the Gala Committee in 2019. That was such a fun group. It’s a great event that makes a big impact on the Theater, and it’s something that gave me a view of The Paramount and the people in its orbit. Through my work on the committee, we met other Paramount fans and supporters, and I could see that the Theater was an exciting place to be that was well run and in good care. And that quickly resonated.”

That experience turned into an invitation for Patti to join the Board in 2022. And a seat at Board meetings inspired a growing desire from both Patti and Todd to give more than their time to the Theater.

Since 2024, Patti and Todd have been Season Sponsors. “They are the perfect example of what it means to be interested and engaged donors,” says Julie Montross, CEO & Executive Director of The Paramount Theater. “They constantly bring their local friends, out-of-town guests, and family members to our events. They make introductions, they share Theater stories, they are



standout ambassadors. Watching Patti and Todd in the Theater is nothing short of delightful. They are an incredible team and a wonderful pair. Their support for the Theater is visibly genuine and authentic.”

So much so that they have, once again, upped their commitment to The Paramount. “Patti and Todd approached me in the spring with an incredibly generous idea — taking their giving to a new level with a five-year pledge of support. It’s so gracious and so sincere, and so...them,” adds Shawn Puller, Director of Development of The Paramount Theater.

“Our pledge is an expression of trust in The Paramount’s mission and values, in the people who operate it, in the programming and the thought behind it, and in the people who, like us, see where it’s going and what it’s capable of,” says Todd.

“We did have one request,” adds Patti.

“We asked that the Theater use these contributions for something The Paramount wouldn’t ‘normally’ do, that would create broad benefits.”

We trust that that’s what The Paramount will do and, of course, we look forward to the conversations about what that will be. And from everything we’ve seen, inside and out, The Paramount will make choices with our community top of mind.”

*We’ll think outside the boxes, Patti and Todd, and we’ll check them together when we’re done. ■*



## MARY JAE ABBITT

Remaining true to her initial History BA (Furman University), MJ contributes locally to Highland, President James Monroe's home, as a part-time guide and historical interpreter. She currently serves on the Hospice of the Piedmont Board of Directors, Commissioner for James Monroe's Highland Museum, and as Secretary for the Albemarle County Historical Society, and supports local NGOs, assisting Afghan Emigrants. A member of The Paramount Theater Board of Directors from 2018 to 2024, MJ has served on numerous committees and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Arts Education Committee.



## GERRY FRANK

Gerry Frank is the owner of Frank Saul Construction and Sun Painting, proudly serving the Charlottesville community since 2007. A Master Carpenter with a passion for preserving history, Gerry has worked on some of the city's most iconic landmarks, including the UVA Rotunda and Carr's Hill. This past year he has been serving on the facilities committee at The Paramount Theater and enjoys getting to know the history of the Theater.



## JULIA GIVEN

Julia Given has lived in the Charlottesville area since 2002. She has been in leadership at ExploreLearning, a math & science edtech company, for almost 20 years, where she has held several roles including VP of Marketing and Customer Service and currently VP of Finance. Julia has also served on the Board of a large area HOA and was the association's Treasurer for 3 years. She currently serves on the Pool and Fitness Committee at Farmington Country Club.

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW 2025-26 BOARD MEMBERS



## ERIN HALL

Erin Hall is a consultant, facilitator, and coach. She partners with cause-based organizations and philanthropists to solve problems and maximize opportunities. In addition, Erin teaches a practical course on Nonprofit Fundraising for the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia (UVA). Before consulting, Erin served UVA for fifteen years in a series of advancement roles for the Contemplative Sciences Center and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, raising more than \$75 million in philanthropic contributions. Erin served on the Live Arts Board of Directors and chaired its Governance and Development Committees. She currently sits on the Advisory Committee for Bennett's Village and co-chairs its Development Committee.



## COURT NEXSEN

Court Nexsen is co-owner of McLean Faulconer Inc. Court was born and raised in Central Virginia. He began his career with Goldman Sachs in New York City and has since spent nearly 15 years in some of the most demanding client-facing roles in the finance industry prior to joining McLean Faulconer. He previously led a team at Bank of America Private Bank (formerly U.S. Trust) advising wealthy families. Court recently served on the board and executive committee of the United Way of Greater Charlottesville and of Farmington Country Club (President 2019, 2020). He enjoys his time outside of the office as a panelist for Golf Digest, an evaluator for the Jefferson Scholars Foundation, and a class agent for Virginia Episcopal School, among other activities.



## CAROLYN RAINEY

Carolyn Rainey serves as the Market Executive and President of Bank of America Charlottesville. She is responsible for connecting the banking and investment resources to people and companies across the Charlottesville/Harrisonburg area. She also leads the effort to deploy Bank of America's resources to address social concerns, strengthen economic opportunity, and build strong communities. Carolyn is a native of Charlottesville and currently serves as the vice chair of the Jefferson School Foundation, Advisory Board Lifetime Member of the Salvation Army, Piedmont Virginia Community College Educational Foundation Board, and mentor for the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women. Carolyn previously served as Paramount Board Chair (2020-2023).

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## VITALY - AN EVENING OF WONDERS



Friday, November 28, 7:30PM

He stumped Penn & Teller THREE times on their hit TV show *Fool Us*. He lit up Times Square and amazed audiences all over the world. He is hailed as one of the most unique and innovative illusionists in the world. Now VITALY brings his latest and most ambitious production to the stage with *An Evening of Wonders*.

Combining breathtaking visuals with Vitaly's captivating style, *An Evening of Wonders* is an interactive theatrical experience that takes the audience on a magical journey. Along the way, Vitaly blends art and illusion to illustrate the story of his transformation from a boy with a dream to a man with a vision — the vision of a world where the rules of reality do not exist.

Featuring some of the most original illusions ever witnessed — many of which touch on tender topics such as love, loss, and growing old — Vitaly's *An Evening of Wonders* does more than entertain. It moves, inspires, and instills within all who experience it a fresh perspective on life and a greater realization that ours is a world of beauty and wonder.

Event Sponsor:  
**The FUNd at CACF**

Sponsor of Family Programming:



## BLIPPI: JOIN THE BAND TOUR



Thursday, December 11, 6:00PM

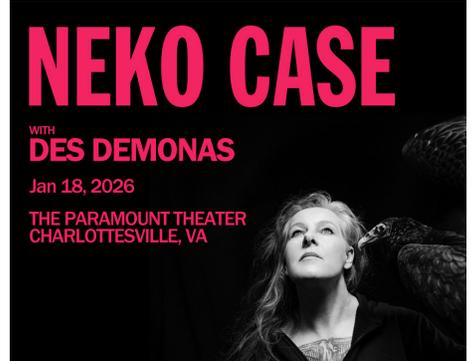
Get ready to sing, dance, and play along with Blippi and his best buddy Meekah as they rock out with fans in this interactive live performance! Whether it's drumming to the beat, strumming guitars, or hopping to catchy rhythms, kids are encouraged to get out of their seats and move with the music. Featuring fan-favorite songs, laugh-out-loud silliness, and lots of surprises, *Blippi: Join the Band Tour* makes learning fun through the joy of live music. It's more than a show — it's a full-on celebration designed to spark joy and curiosity in even the littlest concertgoers.

Blippi, one of the most popular live-action preschool brands in the world, turns the world into a playground for preschoolers everywhere. The brand empowers early childhood learning through curiosity, fun, and real-world adventure. Over the last decade, the Blippi brand has evolved from a singular YouTube creator to a worldwide sensation with more than 100 million fans around the world and over two billion monthly YouTube views.

Sponsor of Family Programming:



## NEKO CASE: NEON GREY MIDNIGHT GREEN TOUR



Saturday, January 18, 7:30PM

Singer, songwriter, music producer, visual artist, and writer Neko Case is the consummate career artist — fearless and versatile, with a fierce work ethic and a constant drive to search deeper within herself for creative growth.

“One of America’s best and most ambitious singer-songwriters” (*Rolling Stone*) and “essentially peerless” (*NPR*), Case has long been revered as one of music’s most influential artists, whose authenticity, lyrical storytelling, and sly wit have endeared her to a legion of critics, musicians, and lifelong fans. In addition to numerous acclaimed and GRAMMY-nominated solo records, Case is a founding member of Canadian supergroup The New Pornographers.

She is the author of *The New York Times* bestselling memoir *The Harder I Fight the More I Love You* and the weekly Substack newsletter *Entering The Lung*, and is currently composing the musical theater adaptation of the Academy Award-winning motion picture *Thelma & Louise*.

Event Sponsors:



## DRUM TAO - THE BEST



**Thursday, January 29, 7:00PM**

Direct from Japan, DRUM TAO returns to North America in 2026 with their all-new show — “The Best.”

DRUM TAO explodes on stage with a captivating performance full of flash and fire! Renowned for powerful and athletic drumming, their newest show, The Best, blends traditional “Wadaiko” (Japanese Drums) with modern energy and theatrical flair. Seen by 10 million spectators across the globe, DRUM TAO shows feature vibrant costumes, dramatic synchronized drumming, and movement with a variety of traditional Japanese instruments including flutes and harps alongside the massive taiko drums. They have captivated audiences worldwide — selling out shows in 26 countries — garnering critical acclaim and accolades along the way.

Their achievements have been recognized with numerous honors, including the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Award, the Japan Tourism Agency Commissioner’s Award, the Outstanding Cultural Achievement Award from Oita Prefecture, and the Cultural Creation Award from Taketa City.

Event Sponsor:  
**The FUNd at CACF**

Sponsor of Family Programming:



## AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH DAVID FOSTER & KATHARINE MCPHEE



**Saturday, February 7, 8:00PM**

DAVID FOSTER is one of the most illustrious composers of our time. With 16 Grammy Awards, including three for Producer of the Year, an Emmy Award, a Golden Globe, and three Oscar nominations for “Best Original Songs,” Foster has earned a reputation as a keen spotter of new talent. Few other individuals can claim to have their fingerprints on more major moments in all of popular music than David Foster. He has created hit songs for a diverse array of artists including Barbra Streisand; Celine Dion; Whitney Houston; Michael Jackson; Madonna; Andrea Bocelli; Michael Bublé; Josh Groban; Rod Stewart; Stevie Wonder; Earth, Wind & Fire; Toni Braxton; Natalie Cole; Michael Bolton; Seal; Chaka Khan; Kenny Rogers; Dolly Parton; Hall & Oates; 'N Sync; Boz Scaggs; and Gloria Estefan.

KATHARINE MCPHEE is one of a handful of artists who takes the lead in a career that includes film, television, Broadway, recording, and concert tours. Katharine first burst onto the scene in 2006, during a successful run on Season 5 of American Idol, that made her a household name. She is renowned for her powerhouse presence, and show-stopping performances. Her recordings have topped the charts in multiple genres including pop, jazz, and adult contemporary.

Event Sponsors:  
**Kathy Bliss & Eric Parlet  
Diane Rosin & Mark Okusa**

## KEB' MO'



**Sunday, February 22, 7:00PM**

With five GRAMMYS, 14 Blues Foundation Awards, and a groundbreaking career spanning nearly 50 years under his belt, Keb' Mo's got nothing left to prove. Just don't tell *him* that.

Born and raised in Compton, Keb' began his remarkable journey at the age of 21, when he landed his first major gig playing with Jefferson Airplane violinist Papa John Creach. For the next 20 years, Keb' would work primarily behind the scenes, establishing himself as a respected guitarist, songwriter, and arranger with a unique gift for linking the past and present in his evocative playing and singing. In 1994, he would introduce the world to Keb' Mo' with the release of his widely acclaimed self-titled debut. Critics were quick to take note of Keb's modern, genre-bending take on old school sounds, and two years later, he garnered his first Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Blues Album with *Just Like You*. In the decades to come, Keb' would take home four more Grammy Awards; top the Billboard Blues Chart seven times; perform everywhere from Carnegie Hall to The White House.

Event Sponsors:  
**Jackie Howell & Randy Huwa**



**2025-2026  
PROGRAM**



THE PARAMOUNT THEATER

# ARTS EDUCATION

Since 2004, the Arts Education Program has served more than

**241,950**  
Students & Teachers!

Presenting Sponsor of the  
2025-26 Arts Education Season



2025-26 Arts Education  
Season Sponsor



2025-26 Arts Education  
Season Sponsor

**MARGARET AND CHRIS  
NOLAND**

Glass Half Full Theatre from Austin, TX  
**LA MALETA DE MAEBELLE  
(MAEBELLE'S SUITCASE)**  
Thursday, October 30  
10:15AM and 12:15PM  
Sponsored by: Mary Jae Abbitt

**123 ANDRÉS: AROUND THE AMERICAS**  
\*Monday, December 1  
10:15AM and 12:15PM  
Sponsored by: Mary Jae Abbitt,  
Bank of the James

Theater Unspeakable from Chicago, IL  
**THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOUR**  
Monday, January 26  
10:15AM and 12:15PM  
Sponsored by: Virginia Cenedella

**DRUM TAO**  
\*Thursday, January 29, 10:30AM  
Sponsored by: Virginia Cenedella,  
The FUNd at CACF

Cahoots NI, from Belfast, Northern Ireland  
**SECRETS OF SPACE**  
Tuesday, February 10  
10:15AM and 12:15PM  
Sponsored by: Sheila H. McCarthy

Theatre Heroes from Austin, TX  
**WIND IN THE WILLOWS**  
Wednesday, February 25  
10:15AM and 12:15PM  
Sponsored by: Sheila H. McCarthy,  
Betty and Jim Phelan

Charlottesville Ballet  
**A FAIRY TALE GATHERING**  
\*Friday, March 13  
10:15AM  
Sponsored by: Sheila H. McCarthy

Charlottesville Opera  
**SING ME A STORY - ACHIEVE YOUR  
DREAMS WITH A TEAM!**  
Tuesday, March 24  
10:15AM and 12:15PM  
Sponsored by: The Joseph and Robert  
Cornell Memorial Foundation

**STEP AFRIKA!**  
\*Monday, April 20  
10:15AM and 12:15PM  
Sponsored by: Virginia Cenedella, The  
Dalton Family; Sponsored in part by: Bank  
of the James

Tutti Frutti Productions from Leeds, England  
**HARE & TORTOISE**  
\*Monday, May 4  
10:15AM and 12:15PM  
Sponsored by: Jacqueline Langholtz and  
William Taylor, Sheila H. McCarthy

\* Public performances are also offered.

# BECOME A KIDS CLUB MEMBER

## IT'S FREE!

New to The Paramount Theater this year is a revamped Kids Club, perfect for kids aged 12 and under who love movies and popcorn!

Each year, The Paramount will designate **six movies** as Kids Club movies.

Kids Club members will receive a **FREE ticket** to a Kids Club movie, plus a voucher for a **FREE popcorn** to enjoy for the show, AND a **Kids Club sticker** to wear for the screening so that our staff and volunteers know that you're a VIP!

ARE YOU

12 OR  
UNDER?

DO YOU LOVE

MOVIES?

DO YOU LIKE

POPCORN?



LEARN MORE



Scan the QR code to  
**VISIT OUR KIDS CLUB PAGE**  
to learn more and sign up!

## EVENT RECAP

# Behind THE Curtain

### ANNUAL LEADERSHIP DONOR EVENT ATTENDEES GOT AN ARTIST'S VIEW

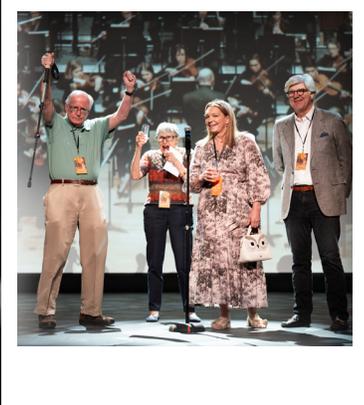
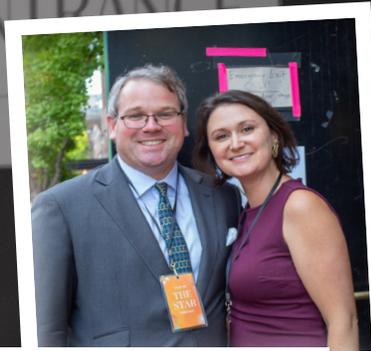
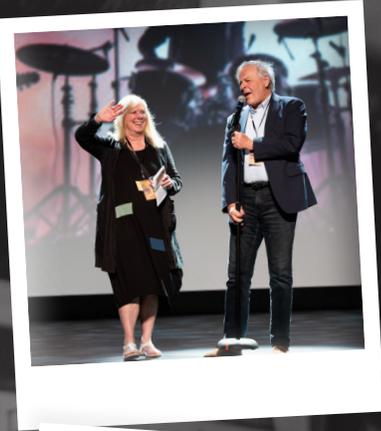
Every year, The Paramount invites our highest-level donors to the Theater for a celebration that puts their kindness and generosity centerstage.

**This year's event included a twist — the evening started backstage.**

"When we single out this group of wonderful supporters for an evening devoted to recognizing their thoughtful philanthropy, it's important that we make it a unique night that includes a few surprises. We owe them this level of gratitude and the entire staff truly welcomes the challenge of not repeating ourselves," says Julie Montross, The Paramount Theater's CEO & Executive Director.

As guests arrived to the Theater on Main Street, they were greeted with their first surprise — a re-route to the side door at the rear of the building before being ushered backstage to the dressing rooms where refreshments and conversation awaited them. "I could see a pleasant mix of curiosity and delight from our guests about what was going on as they arrived backstage, and I sensed in them that they appreciated the thrill of feeling what an artist feels as they enter venues and prepare for a performance," recounts Lauren Moon, Annual Gifts and Special Events Manager at The Paramount Theater.

And prepare for a performance they did — that was the next surprise. Guests were then invited to take the stage, just as an artist does, complete with walkout music, lights, and a microphone at centerstage. "Artists walking out into our auditorium is something I see regularly, and there was something extra special and exciting about seeing that rush through the uninitiated eyes of our Leadership Donors," says Kyle Schneider, Production Manager at The Paramount. ■



**SCAN TO VIEW THE FULL GALLERY!**



A NIGHT <sup>AT</sup> THE  
PARAMOUNT CLUB

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THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
GRAND MARQUEE  
GALA

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

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THE 2026 GRAND MARQUEE GALA COMMITTEE

Martha Jordan, Chair

Maia Bannan, Antoinette Brewster, Patti Cary, June DeFabio, Sharon Donovan, Pam Edmonds, Clay Eure, Sterling Frank, Janna Gies, Mark Hahn, Erin Hall, Carla Hallman  
Amanda Jones, Wendy Lam, Diane Long, Julie Montross, Lauren Moon, Sherri Moore,  
Shawn Puller, Mary Buckle Searle, Shannon Thomas, Laurie Turner, Adrienne Woodard

## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

### THE ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS WITH

# JOSHUA BELL

ACADEMY  
OF ST MARTIN IN  
THE FIELDS

With a career spanning almost four decades, Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated artists of our time. He has performed with virtually every major orchestra in the world, and regularly appears as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, conductor, and as the Music Director of London's Academy of St Martin in the Fields (ASMF).

In the 2025-26 season, Bell continues to champion the rediscovered Violin Concerto by Thomas de Hartmann, following his recent Diapason D'Or-winning world premiere recording of the work. After giving its UK premiere at London's BBC Proms, he performs the concerto with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, and Oslo Philharmonic, and gives its Canadian premiere during his season-long tenure as a Toronto Symphony Spotlight Artist. With ASMF, he leads extensive tours on both sides of the Atlantic, including returns to the Vienna Konzerthaus and New York's Carnegie Hall. Other orchestral highlights include his first appearances as Principal Guest Conductor of the New Jersey Symphony; concerto dates with the Houston Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Naples

Philharmonic, and Ottawa's National Arts Centre Orchestra; and concerts and an Asian tour with Hamburg's NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra. As well as giving recitals in the U.S. and Europe, Bell joins Steven Isserlis and Evgeny Kissin for trio programs in New York, Kansas City, Paris, Vienna, and Prague, and reunites with Jeremy Denk for duo recitals at Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Ravinia Festival.

In 2011, Bell was named Music Director of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, succeeding Sir Neville Marriner, who founded the orchestra in 1959. Bell's history with the Academy dates back to 1986, when he first recorded the Bruch and Mendelssohn concertos with Marriner and the orchestra. Bell has since led the orchestra on several albums, including the 2019 Grammy-nominated Bruch: Scottish Fantasy. In April 2024, the Academy announced the extension of his contract through the 2027-28 season. Bell is also the Founder and Music Director of the Chamber Orchestra of America (COA), which aims to empower the next generation of artists through performance opportunities, mentorship, and educational outreach initiatives. In April 2025, COA made its debut at TED2025, where Bell gave a TED Talk about the power of live orchestras in today's tech-filled world. ■

See Joshua Bell  
and the Academy  
live on stage at The  
Paramount, **Tuesday,**  
**March 3 at 7:30PM!**

#### Event Sponsors:

**VICTORIA BROWN**  
in Memory of Ed Botwinick  
**JANNA & DAVID GIES**  
**ELSIE & MAC THOMPSON**

Presenting Sponsor of  
Classical Programming:





## PLANNED GIVING

Keep us in mind when you're planning your own legacy. From endowment contributions to earmarking a required minimum distribution, these gifts contribute to future generations of Paramount patrons.

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS EVERYTHING TO US

## STAR CIRCLE

Star Circle members can join us in the Founder's Lounge before showtime and at intermissions for complimentary drinks and snacks.



## BECOME A MEMBER

With benefits like early access to ticket purchases, free concessions, and more, there are perks to being a member at every level.

## TICKETS

Taking a seat in the auditorium for any event is easily the best way to support the Theater. Experiencing the world of performance together is the whole reason why we're all here!

## VOLUNTEER

Working an event and tapping into the excitement of show day just might be the best gig in town.

## SPREAD THE WORD

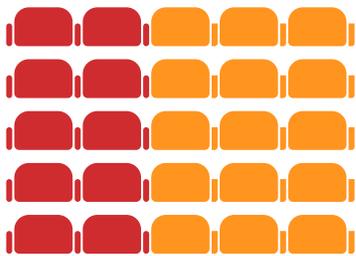
Good news travels fast and makes a difference. Sharing your own Paramount experience with your circle of friends and family builds the kind of community we can all be proud of.

## SPONSOR AN EVENT

Underwriting a film screening or live performance ensures that The Paramount is a home to the best of the stage and screen, plus gets you tickets and your name on the promotional materials that spread the word, among other perks.



DID YOU KNOW?



# 40%

OF GENERATED REVENUE COMES FROM DONATIONS

60% of generated revenue comes from ticket sales and other earned income



## INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CAST OF FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS?

Contact **Shawn Puller, Director of Development**, to learn more about the level of impact you can make at The Paramount Theater!

[shawnpuller@theparamount.net](mailto:shawnpuller@theparamount.net)  
434.218.1590



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Scan the QR code  
for the latest  
events or visit us at  
**THEPARAMOUNT.  
NET**



## November

- 22 Met Live in HD: *Arabella*
- 28 Paramount Presents:  
*Vitaly - An Evening of Wonders*
- 30 Paramount Presents:  
123 Andrés

## December

- 4 Big Ray and the Kool Kats  
Presents: Christmas with Elvis  
Starring Matt Lewis & The  
Long Live the King Orchestra
- 7 Cville Band Presents:  
The Charlottesville Band  
Holiday Concert
- 8 Talmi Entertainment  
Presents: *Nutcracker! Magical  
Christmas Ballet*
- 11 Paramount Presents:  
*Blippi: Join the Band Tour*
- 13 Paramount Presents:  
*Vienna Boys Choir*
- 16 Starr Hill Presents:  
Bela Fleck & The Flecktones:  
*Jingle All the Way*
- 17 JMB Tours, LLC Presents:  
Jim Brickman: *The Gift of  
Christmas*
- 20 The Oratorio Society of Virginia  
Presents: *Christmas at  
The Paramount*
- 23 Met Live in HD Holiday  
Encore: *The Magic Flute (from  
December 30, 2006)*

## January

- 3 Met Live in HD:  
*Andrea Chénier*
- 4 Grand Kyiv Ballet Presents:  
*Snow White*
- 17 Met Live in HD: *I Puritani*

- 18 Paramount Presents:  
*Neko Case: Neon Grey Midnight  
Green Tour*
- 29 Paramount Presents:  
*Drum Tao - The Best*

## February

- 7 Paramount Presents:  
An Intimate Evening with David  
Foster & Katharine McPhee
- 12 Paramount Presents:  
*Tango After Dark*
- 14 Met Live in HD:  
*Cinderella*
- 15 Charlottesville Symphony  
Presents: Masterworks Series:  
*Romance*
- 22 Paramount Presents:  
*Keb' Mo'*

## March

- 3 Paramount Presents:  
The Academy of St Martin in  
the Fields with Joshua Bell
- 6-8 Shenandoah National Park  
Trust Presents: Banff Centre  
Mountain Film Festival
- 9 Paramount Presents:  
*Rhythm of the Dance*
- 19 Paramount Presents:  
*Pat Metheny: Side Eye III+*
- 20 Paramount Presents:  
*The Peking Acrobats*
- 22 Paramount Presents:  
Diana Krall
- 27 Paramount Presents:  
*The Moth*
- 28 Paramount Presents:  
*Tristan und Isolde*
- 31 Paramount Presents:  
*The Simon & Garfunkel Story*



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Janna & David Gies • Julie & Geoff Montross • Susie Morris • Margaret and Chris Noland

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