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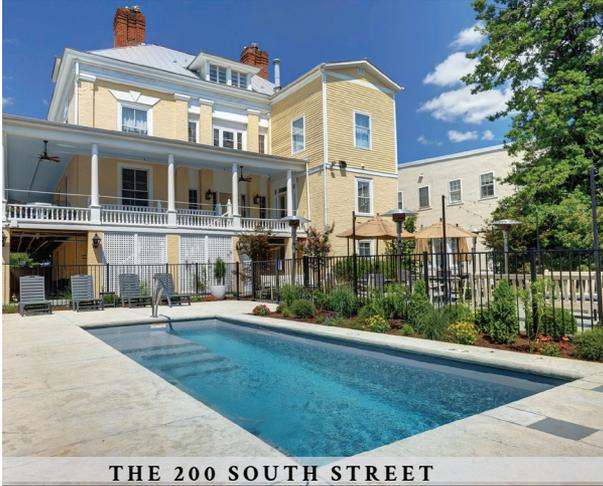
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Welcome

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

To our patrons, supporters, sponsors, friends, and neighbors:

It's spring at The Paramount!

This time of the year is always an especially busy one, and I know that our incredible staff, dedicated Board, and enthusiastic event volunteers join me in saying "We're ready!"

As you'll see in these pages, our calendar is full of live performances, fantastic films, insightful programs, and world-class artistry coming to our stage and screen. March gets the season started with a riveting performance from London's **The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields** with violin marvel **Joshua Bell** before we welcome back the Shenandoah National Park Trust's highly anticipated annual event, the **Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival**. And it only gets bigger and busier from there — in March we'll be honored to present live performances from **Rhythm of the Dance**, **Charlottesville Ballet**, **Pat Metheny**, **Diana Krall**, **The Moth**, and **The Simon and Garfunkel Story**, plus broadcasts from **Met Live in HD** and **Exhibition on Screen**, and a special screening of 2025 Virginia Film Festival favorite **Pep Banned**. What a month — and that's not even everything we've got lined up!

Our stage will be aglow with talent in April and May, too — **Graham Nash**, **Step Afrika!**, **Wordplay**, **Sherri Shepherd**, and **Swan Lake**, just to name a few — and there's one date in particular that you'll want to make sure is marked on your calendar, **The 15th Annual Grand Marquee Gala** on **Friday, April 17**. This year's theme is "*An Evening at The Paramount Club*" and our Gala Committee has been hard at work making plans in order to make the evening special and impactful for the Theater. It's a lot of work! The Gala is incredibly near and dear to our hearts, and for good reason: not only is it a chance to dress up and mingle and dance with friends and family, it's also our most important fundraising opportunity of the year. "*An Evening at The Paramount Club*" is going to be a night to remember, and it'll be here before we know it.

Looking a bit further ahead, two big anniversaries are coming our way this summer: **the 250th anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence** and **the 50th anniversary of the Downtown Mall**. Keep an eye on community calendars for upcoming events that honor and celebrate these milestones. Along with our area non-profit colleagues, arts partners, neighbors on the Mall, and network of members, supporters, and patrons, The Paramount will play a role helping to deliver quality programming opportunities that give us reason to gather and reflect on who we are, where we've been, and where we're going.

In the meantime, and on behalf of all of us at the Theater, thank you for your enduring support of The Paramount. Your role in our mission to "educate, enchant, enrich, and enlighten" is central to everything we do, and we couldn't do it without you.

With appreciation and gratitude,



Mary Dalton
The Paramount Board Chair



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The generous support from these sponsors helps underwrite artist fees, production costs, and ticket prices, helping to ensure that all members of our community have the opportunity to experience high-quality, diverse, live, and screened programming at The Paramount.

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to the many individuals and institutional partners who have given so generously in the past year. The Paramount welcomes new supporters and thanks those who renewed and increased their gifts during the fiscal year.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have made an error, please accept our apologies and contact our Development office at 434-293-1009 to update our records.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Scan or visit theparamount.net
to see what's on the calendar!



March

- 1 Paramount On Screen:
Beauty and the Beast (1991) [G]
- 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
- 14 Charlottesville Ballet Presents:
A Fairy Tale Gathering™
- 14 Charlottesville Ballet Presents: ***America250: Voices of Virginia***
- 18 Paramount On Screen:
Exhibition on Screen™ - *Turner & Constable*
- 19 Paramount Presents:
Pat Metheny: *Side-Eye III+*
- 20 Paramount Presents:
The Peking Acrobats
- 21 Virginia Festival of the Book
- 22 Paramount Presents:
Diana Krall
- 26 Advancing Native Missions Presents: ***To the Ends Film Screening***
- 27 Paramount Presents:
The Moth
- 28 Met Live in HD:
Tristan und Isolde
- 28 Paramount On Screen:
Pep Banned
- 29 AHS Jazz Band Presents:
Swing Into Spring Benefit Concert
- 31 Paramount Presents:
The Simon & Garfunkel Story

April

- 2 Georgia's Friends Presents:
The Creative High
- 4 The Jefferson Trust Presents:
Virginia Student Film Festival
- 9,10 Glennis Crosby Presents:
Hypocrite: The Musical
- 15 Starr Hill Presents: **Graham Nash - Live on Tour 2026**
- 17 Paramount Presents:
15th Annual Grand Marquee Gala
- 19 Paramount Presents:
**Step Afrika!
*The Evolution Tour***
- 21 La Jolla Booking Agency Presents: **Beatles vs Stones**
- 23 Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle Presents: **Wordplay**
- 25 Paramount Presents:
Sherri Shepherd: *Make it Make Sense Tour*

May

- 3 Paramount Presents:
Hare & Tortoise
- 5-6 World Ballet Company:
Swan Lake
- 9 Met Live in HD:
Eugene Onegin
- 20 Paramount On Screen:
Exhibition on Screen™ - *Frida Kahlo*
- 30 Met Live in HD:
El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego

June

- 11 Paramount Presents:
Elmo's Got the Moves

Paramount On Screen:

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST **SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2:00PM**

1991 | G

Run Time: 1hr 24min

Be Our Guest for a 35th anniversary screening of this timeless tale!

An arrogant young prince and his castle's servants fall under the spell of a wicked enchantress, who turns him into the hideous Beast until he learns to love and be loved in return. The spirited, headstrong village girl Belle enters the Beast's castle after he imprisons her father Maurice. With the help of his enchanted servants, Belle begins to draw the cold-hearted Beast out of his isolation. This beloved modern classic was the first animated feature film in the history of the Oscars to be nominated for Best Picture (1991). The music you'll never forget, the characters who will fill your heart, and the magical adventure about finding beauty within all come to spectacular life.

Movie Sponsor:
Carpet Plus



Photo: Walt Disney Pictures



Paramount Presents:

THE ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS WITH JOSHUA BELL TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 7:30PM

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).

Founded in 1958 by Sir Neville Marriner, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields has evolved into a musical powerhouse, an orchestra renowned across the world for its commitment to the musical freedom of its players and the sharing of joyful, inspiring performances.

Today, with Music Director Joshua Bell, ASMF's player-led approach empowers every member of the orchestra. This creates a direct line and electrifying connection between the orchestra and our audiences, resulting in ambitious and collaborative performances that transcend the more traditional conductor-led model.

ASMF will present its most ambitious season of the last decade in 2025/26 continuing to collaborate with the world's great soloists and directors, including Music Director Joshua Bell.

Event Sponsors:

**Victoria Brown in Memory of Ed Botwinick; Mary Jae Abbitt;
Janna and David Gies; Elsie and Mac Thompson**

Presenting Sponsor of Classical Programming:

The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation

Shenandoah National Park Trust Presents:

BANFF CENTRE MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 7:00PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 7:00PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 3:00PM

The Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour

The Shenandoah National Park Trust is thrilled to bring the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival back to The Paramount Theater! Get ready for an exhilarating cinematic journey featuring breathtaking stories of adventure, culture, and the power of the outdoors. Across three days, audiences will experience three entirely different screenings, each showcasing the world's best short films in mountain sports and culture.

Join the Trust for this unforgettable weekend of heart-pounding action and awe-inspiring mountain storytelling. Experience adventure across the globe while supporting your local national park. Profits from the sale of Banff Film Festival tickets support Shenandoah National Park programs and initiatives, from protecting black bears and other native flora and fauna to bringing kids and artists to the park, funding seasonal positions and professional internships, and more.

ABOUT THE HOST

The Shenandoah National Park Trust works closely with the park and surrounding communities to strategically invest in projects and programs that preserve, protect, and enhance the park's natural resources for all to enjoy, for this and future generations. Learn more at www.snptrust.org.





Paramount Presents:

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE **MONDAY, MARCH 9, 7:00PM**

The Irish Dance and Musical Spectacular!

Rhythm of the Dance has brought audiences around the world to their feet for over 25 years! Featuring world class musicians who play LIVE on stage, star vocalists singing live, and WORLD champion dancers, the show is a completely captivating experience of pulsating rhythms performed at lightning speed and slick choreography by its ensemble of champion step dancers and a live band.

Join us on a journey through Ireland's history from the ancient, rich in legend and myth, to the modern, urban Ireland that we see today, bursting with talent. It will be Irish in essence with a new edge from its roots in Sean Nos (meaning old style) to the modern style we see today, this new production of Rhythm of the Dance takes the audience on a thrilling, breathless journey for two hours.

Event Sponsors:

Donna Plasket and David Breneman

Charlottesville Ballet Presents:

A FAIRY TALE GATHERING™

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 10:30AM & 1:00PM

Step into a world of magic and wonder with Charlottesville Ballet's *A Fairy Tale Gathering*™!

Treat your little ones to a charming experience filled with dance, storytelling, and imagination in this original 45-minute narrated ballet, created by Co-Founder and UVA alumna Emily Hartka.

Join the Fairy Godmother as she hosts a whimsical tea party where fairy tale characters come to life through music and movement. Follow Cinderella as she dreams of the royal ball, help the Prince awaken Sleeping Beauty, and keep an eye out for beloved friends like Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood, the Sugar Plum Fairy, and more!

Perfect for young audiences, this family-friendly performance is a joyful introduction to the magic of ballet. After the performance, step into a storybook world at the "Fairy Tale Tea Party" — an enchanting on-stage experience designed for children ages 3-10. Young guests will delight in dancing with Charlottesville Ballet's professional artists, posing for magical photo moments, and enjoying a selection of royal refreshments fit for little princes and princesses.



charlottesville ballet

Resident Companies at the Academy Center of the Arts

Opera
ON THE JAMES

America250 VOICES OF VIRGINIA



Season Sponsor:



Charlottesville Ballet Presents:

AMERICA250: VOICES OF VIRGINIA **SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 4:00PM**

In honor of America's 250th anniversary, Charlottesville Ballet and Opera on the James will present *America250: Voices of Virginia* in Charlottesville. This sweeping multidisciplinary performance traces the arc of the American story — from its founding to the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, to today — through dance, opera, theater, poetry, and music created by Virginia artists.

America250: Voices of Virginia is more than a performance — it's a celebration of who we are, how we got here, and where we're headed together. Don't miss this inspiring experience of history in motion.

Join Us for a Special Post-Show Event

Presented by DuCard Vineyards — wine included for ages 21+

Join us for a thought-provoking public forum immediately following the performance, available as an add-on with any ticket type and included for VIP tickets (look for purple seats in the orchestra center). This dynamic conversation — featuring artists, scholars, and civic leaders — will delve into the powerful role the performing arts have played in shaping civic identity throughout history. Together, we'll explore how live performance continues to build community, inspire dialogue, and foster meaningful connection in today's world.

This production is generously underwritten by Mary Jae Abbitt Sushka and Lewis & Bobbi Dunn, and supported, in part, by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250), the National Endowment for the Arts/America250, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

Paramount On Screen:

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN™ - TURNER & CONSTABLE **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 7:00PM**

directed by David Bickerstaff

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of their births, this unmissable new documentary explores Turner and Constable's intertwined lives and legacies alongside the groundbreaking Tate exhibition.

Two of Britain's greatest painters, J.M.W. Turner and John Constable were also the greatest of rivals. Born within a year of each other, both used landscape painting to reflect the changing world around them. Tate Britain is bringing these two greats together for a groundbreaking exhibition, in London from November 2025 to April 2026. Discover unexpected sides to both artists with intimate views of sketchbooks and personal items and insights from leading experts.

Turner's blazing sunsets and sublime scenes from his travels and Constable's idealized depictions of beloved places from home whipped the public of the time into a frenzy of enthusiasm. Constable represents the very best of the old school of realism and pastoral nostalgia; Turner, an exciting new way of depicting emotion and dreamlike impressions. Critics compared their starkly different styles to a clash of "fire and water." Don't miss this opportunity to see these greats side-by-side, as they so often were in life, on the big screen for the first time.

Event Sponsors:

Janna and David Gies



PAT METHENY

JERMAINE PAUL CHRIS FISHMAN

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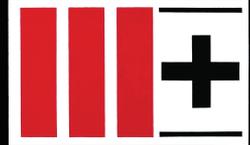
MARCH 19

THE PARAMOUNT THEATER
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THEPARAMOUNT.NET



SIDE-
EYE



Paramount Presents:

PAT METHENY: SIDE-EYE III+ **THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 7:30PM**

Pat Metheny was born into a musical family. Starting on trumpet at the age of 8, Metheny switched to guitar at age 12. By the age of 15, he was working regularly with the best jazz musicians in Kansas City, receiving valuable on-the-bandstand experience at an unusually young age. Metheny first burst onto the international jazz scene in 1974. Over the course of his three-year stint with vibraphone great Gary Burton, the young Missouri native already displayed his soon-to-become trademarked playing style, which blended the loose and flexible articulation customarily reserved for horn players with an advanced rhythmic and harmonic sensibility: a way of playing and improvising that was modern in conception but grounded deeply in the jazz tradition of melody, swing, and the blues. With the release of his first album, *Bright Size Life* (1975), he reinvented the traditional "jazz guitar" sound for a new generation of players. Throughout his career, Pat Metheny has continued to redefine the genre by utilizing new technology and constantly working to evolve the improvisational and sonic potential of his instrument.

Metheny's versatility is nearly without peer on any instrument. Over the years, he has performed with artists as diverse as Steve Reich to Ornette Coleman to Herbie Hancock to Jim Hall to Milton Nascimento to David Bowie. Metheny's body of work includes compositions for solo guitar, small ensembles, electric and acoustic instruments, large orchestras, and ballet pieces and even the robotic instruments of his Orchestrion project, while always sidestepping the limits of any one genre.

Event Sponsors:

Patti Cary and Todd Stansbury The Dalton Family

Paramount Presents:

THE PEKING ACROBATS

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 7:00PM

For the last thirty-nine years, The Peking Acrobats have redefined audience perceptions of Chinese acrobatics. They perform daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs and display their technical prowess at such arts as trick-cycling, precision tumbling, juggling, somersaulting, and gymnastics. They push the limits of human ability, defying gravity with amazing displays of contortion, flexibility, and control. The Peking Acrobats are often accompanied by live musicians who skillfully play traditional Chinese instruments; the time-honored Chinese music coalesces with high-tech special effects and awe-inspiring acrobatic feats, creating an exuberant entertainment event with the festive pageantry of a Chinese Carnival.

The Peking Acrobats are part of a time-honored Chinese tradition, rooted in centuries of Chinese history and folk art. Tradition demands that each generation of acrobats add its own improvements and embellishments; because of this, high honor is conferred upon those skilled enough to become acrobats. Since their founding in 1986, The Peking Acrobats have been featured on numerous television shows and celebrity-studded TV specials.

Event Sponsor:
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Virginia Festival
of the Book
VIRGINIA HUMANITIES

2026

Virginia Festival of the Book

AT THE PARAMOUNT THEATER

SATURDAY, MARCH 21



*Protest and the
Story of America*

10:00AM - 11:30AM



*Art Work: On the Creative
Life with Sally Mann*

1:00PM - 3:00PM



*Claire McCardell: Author Talk
and Historic Fashion Demo*

6:30PM - 8:30PM

The Virginia Festival of the Book Presents:

PROTEST AND THE STORY OF AMERICA

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 10:00AM | Paramount Balcony Lounge

Three different books serve as a macrocosm and microcosms of resistance. How do personal stories mesh with the greater picture of protest? And how has this larger history of everyday people standing up shaped America?

Tickets and information at theparamount.net/event/protest-and-the-story-of-america

ART WORK: ON THE CREATIVE LIFE WITH SALLY MANN

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1:00PM | Paramount Main Theater

Described as "erudite, frank, and funny" by author Amor Towles, renowned photographer Sally Mann's new book: *Art Work: On the Creative Life* seeks to demystify the artistic process, celebrating the gritty reality of labor. She explores the hazards of early success, the role of serendipitous luck, and the necessity of navigating rejection and censorship.

Tickets and information at theparamount.net/event/sally-mann

CLAIRE McCARDELL: AUTHOR TALK & HISTORIC FASHION DEMO

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 6:30PM | Paramount Main Theater

From pockets in skirts to mix-and-match separates; from wrap dresses to rompers, 20th century fashion designer Claire McCardell emphasized comfort and functionality in women's attire during a time when constraining styles were the mode. Author Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson will be in conversation with Kalela Williams, Director of the Virginia Center for the Book. A demonstration of historical clothing by professor Marcy Linton of the Historic Clothing Collection at UVA's Department of Drama will lend texture to this fascinating talk!

Tickets and information at theparamount.net/event/claire-mccardell

Paramount Presents:

DIANA KRALL

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 7:30PM

Diana Krall is the only jazz singer to have eight albums debut at the top of the Billboard Jazz Albums chart. To date, her albums have garnered two Grammy Awards, ten Juno Awards, and have also earned nine gold, three platinum, and seven multi-platinum albums. Krall's unique artistry transcends any single musical style and has made her one of the most recognizable artists of our time. As *The New York Times* recently noted, Krall possesses, "A voice at once cool and sultry, wielded with a rhythmic sophistication."

Diana Krall's recordings have been included in several film soundtracks and she has expanded upon her role as a performer to include songwriting, producing, and arranging and has brought her talents to collaborate with many other artists including Paul McCartney, Barbra Streisand, and Tony Bennett. She tours extensively around the globe to sold out audiences, appearing at premiere jazz festivals and concert halls throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Event Sponsors:

Patti Cary and Todd Stansbury

Janna and David Gies





Advancing Native Missions Presents:

***TO THE ENDS* FILM SCREENING** **THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 7:00PM**

To The Ends | A Mwendo Production

In the shadowy corners of paradise, a glimmer of hope. Bali's legendary beaches, temples, and nightlife beckon tourists from around the world, but locals struggle in a darker reality.

Journey to one of the world's most challenging mission fields through powerful storytelling, stunning footage, and inside access to real-time ministry in this breathtaking documentary from award-winning filmmakers Mwendo. *To The Ends* tells the story of missionary Chandra Tobing, pursuing the forgotten and lost in Bali, Indonesia.

Rather than simply retelling Chandra's story, *To The Ends* invites you to experience his life as it unfolds.

This immersive evening includes:

- The first public screening of the new feature documentary
- A VIP pre-screening experience and meet-and-greet with Chandra Tobing
- The Making of *To The Ends* — an exclusive behind-the-scenes featurette
- A live Q&A with director Mwita Chacha and Chandra Tobing

Paramount Presents:

THE MOTH

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 7:30PM

This Spring, globally beloved storytelling institution, The Moth, is bringing its Mainstage show to Charlottesville.

For ONE night, five seasoned storytellers will share extraordinary, true stories that dig deep into the idea of the American Dream.

Does it even exist anymore? FOR WHO? What happens when the dream rubs up against reality? What happens when it's dashed or deferred? And what happens when the dream comes true?

Come together, sit shoulder to shoulder, and listen to people sharing hilarious, moving, illuminating, astounding stories of their very own **American Dreams.**

ABOUT THE MOTH

The Moth is a nonprofit that believes in connecting humanity through the power of personal storytelling. Since its launch in 1997, The Moth has presented over 65,000 stories, told live and without notes, to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. The Moth produces 600+ live shows annually, as well as the Peabody Award-winning *The Moth Radio Hour*, and popular *The Moth Podcast*. You can listen to The Moth weekly on over 540 public radio stations and anywhere you find podcasts.

Event Sponsor:
Mary Jae Abbitt





Photo: © Paola Kudacki / Met Opera

Paramount Presents:

MET LIVE IN HD - TRISTAN UND ISOLDE
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 12:00PM

The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

Sung in: German

Approximate Run Time: 5hr 12min; two intermissions

Pre-Opera Lecturer: Dr. Leanne Clement - General Director of Charlottesville Opera. Previously, General Director of Opera Louisiana in Baton Rouge, LA. Mezzo-soprano specializing in the works of Verdi and Wagner.

This broadcast is an encore of March 21st's performance.

After years of anticipation, a truly unmissable event arrives in cinemas worldwide as the electrifying Lise Davidsen tackles one of the ultimate roles for dramatic soprano: the Irish princess Isolde in Wagner's transcendent meditation on love and death. Heroic tenor Michael Spyres stars opposite Davidsen as the love-drunk Tristan. The momentous occasion also marks the advent of a new, Met-debut staging by Yuval Sharon — hailed by *The New York Times* as "the most visionary opera director of his generation" and the first American to direct an opera at the famed Wagner festival in Bayreuth — as well as Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin's first time leading *Tristan und Isolde* at the Met. Mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Gubanova reprises her portrayal of Brangäne, alongside bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny, who sings Kurwenal after celebrated Met appearances in Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer* and Ring cycle. Bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green makes an important role debut as King Marke.

Presenting Sponsor of Classical Programming:
The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation

Paramount On Screen:

PEP BANNED

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 7:30PM

Run Time: 1hr 30min

Rosalia Films | directed by Chris Farina and Bill Reifenberger

In Collaboration with the Virginia Film Festival

For nearly three decades, the Virginia Pep Band was loved by students, hesitantly supported by administrators, and reviled by others. Sports, humor, and culture collided in the performances of this unique, student-run organization as it realized its goal of entertaining sports fans while addressing current events around Charlottesville, the nation, and the world.

Founded in 1974 as a light-hearted scramble band, the Pep Band ran into its first major controversy in the fall of 1977 after offending the acting governor of Maryland. Laughter, mayhem and adversity continued to follow the band from Scott Stadium to the Superdome until 2003 when it was permanently barred from all university events.

During its time the band established itself as one of the University of Virginia's most popular new traditions, leaving its mark on generations of students and alumni, visiting fans, local and national press, and a legion of former band member for whom wearing the orange vest and performing on Game Day marked the high point of their college experience.

In *Pep Banned*, band alumni, administrators, athletes, journalists and fans come together to tell the story of this iconic organization- from its humble beginnings to its rise to celebrity status on Grounds to its seemingly inevitable downfall — and to relive one of the truly entertaining eras in UVa history.

Join us after the film for a panel with members of the band and filmmakers!

Event Sponsor:
McLean Faulconer

Movie Sponsor:
Carpet Plus





AHS Jazz Band Presents:

SWING INTO SPRING BENEFIT CONCERT **SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 3:30PM**

Albemarle High School (AHS) Jazz Ensemble "Swing Into Spring" Benefit Concert returns to The Paramount on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at 3:30PM, featuring the national award-winning Albemarle HS Jazz Band and an all-star lineup of the area's top professional musicians sitting in with the ensemble. This event is designed as a benefit for the band to give back to the Charlottesville community. This year, the band will feature unique performances from Dropping Julia, Ivan Orr, Greg Thomas, Taylor Barnett, Bobby Gregg, Charles Owens, John D'Earth, Jay Pun, and Morwenna Lasko! The event will once again be hosted by Z95's Sherry Taylor.

Benefit Goal: The award-winning AHS Ensemble, under the direction of Andrew LaPrade, has for decades earned high-profile regional and national recognition for its consistent dedication to excellence, and for its unwavering respect and love for this uniquely American art form. In 2025, the band placed 2nd at the National Jazz Festival in Philadelphia, PA. The group has enjoyed the support of the Charlottesville community and is proud to headline an event to give back to this same community.

AHS Jazz is proud to support Stepping Stone as this year's beneficiary of the event. Stepping Stone was established in 2021 to meet a unique need — to provide children age newborn to three from under-resourced families with essentials that ensure their healthy development and safety.

The 34-piece band's fundraising goal for Stepping Stone is \$5,000.

Paramount Presents:

THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 7:30PM

The Simon & Garfunkel Story is touring North America again this year!

Using huge projection photos and original film footage, and featuring a full live band, they perform all the hits including "Mrs. Robinson," "Cecilia," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "Homeward Bound," and many more.

The immersive concert-style theater show chronicles the amazing journey shared by the folk-rock duo, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel. It tells the story from their humble beginnings as Tom & Jerry to their incredible success as one of the best-selling music groups of the '60's to their dramatic split in 1970. It culminates with the famous "The Concert in Central Park" reunion in 1981 with more than half a million fans in attendance.

With more than 100 million album sales since 1965, Simon & Garfunkel's perfect harmonies and songs that poignantly captured the times made them one of the most successful folk-rock duos of all time. Over the years, they won 10 Grammy Awards and were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990. In 1977, their *Bridge Over Troubled Water* album was nominated at the Brit Awards for Best International Album. In 2003, Simon and Garfunkel were awarded a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and the following year saw their "The Sound of Silence" awarded a Grammy Hall of Fame Award.

Event Sponsor:

Laurie Turner





Georgia's Friends Presents:

***THE CREATIVE HIGH* FILM SCREENING** **THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 7:30PM**

One Special Night of Film and Purpose

Join us for a film screening fundraiser honoring the 10-Year Anniversary of Georgia's Friends.

THE CREATIVE HIGH is a film by Director Adriana Marchione and Producer Dianne Griffin, featuring nine artists in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction who are transformed by creativity in their search for identity and freedom. THE CREATIVE HIGH explores how artists grappling with substance use disorder harness creative expression to heal and rebuild meaningful lives. Through hip-hop, theater, dance, rock and roll, photography and painting, this revealing documentary showcases how various art mediums can inspire resilience and celebrate the human spirit.

Before the film, Behind-the-Scenes Ticket holders will gather for an intimate, limited-capacity conversation with the director and producer, joined by program graduates of Georgia's Friends who bring lived experience, insight, and heart to the discussion.

Visit georgiasfriends.org for more details.

The Jefferson Trust Presents:

THE VIRGINIA STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

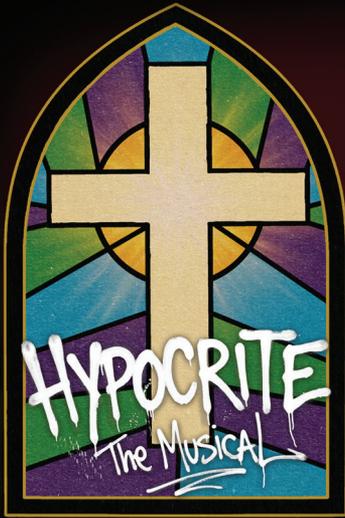
The Virginia Student Film Festival (VSFF) returns to the historic Paramount Theater in Charlottesville on April 4, 2026, reaffirming its commitment to celebrating bold, original storytelling from the next generation of filmmakers. Presented as a one-day showcase, VSFF highlights exceptional short films created by undergraduate filmmakers from universities across the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Building on the success of its recent revival, the festival will present two curated screening blocks featuring a diverse lineup of films under 15 minutes, representing a wide range of voices, styles, and perspectives. In addition to the screenings, audiences will be invited beyond the screen through a filmmaker panel offering insight into the creative process and the challenges of independent storytelling at the student level.

The evening culminates in a red carpet reception at the Paramount, complete with live music, filmmaker interviews, and photo opportunities, followed by an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding achievements in directing, acting, cinematography, and screenwriting. As one of the premier student film showcases in the region, VSFF serves as both a celebration of emerging talent and a gathering place for artists, audiences, and collaborators passionate about the future of cinema.

Sponsored by The Jefferson Trust and the UVA Student Council.





Hypocrite The Musical

Faith, Music & Laughter

The Paramount Theater
April 9th & 10th, 2026

Glennis Crosby Presents:

HYPOCRITE: THE MUSICAL

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 7:00PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 7:00PM

"Hypocrite: The Musical" is a jubilant gospel comedy that tells the remarkable tale of spirited street folks who become unexpected saviors for a dilapidated church in need of redemption. As the story unfolds, prepare to be swept away on a journey filled with laughter, tears, and soul-stirring melodies. With its vibrant characters, uplifting message, and toe-tapping tunes, this musical reminds us that even in the most unlikely circumstances, divine intervention and the power of faith can transform lives. So, sit back, enjoy the show, and remember, your angels are always watching over you.

Starr Hill Presents:

GRAHAM NASH - LIVE ON TOUR 2026 **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 7:30PM**

Graham Nash will perform a career-spanning retrospective of his six decades of contributions to contemporary music. Joined by Todd Caldwell (keyboards), Adam Minkoff (bass, drums, guitar, and vocals), and Zack Djanikian (guitar, bass, drums, and vocals), Nash will take the audience on a musical journey that encompasses his years with The Hollies, CSN, CSNY, and his beloved solo efforts.

ABOUT GRAHAM NASH

Nash is a two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, with Crosby, Stills and Nash, and with the Hollies. He was also inducted twice into the Songwriters' Hall of Fame, as a solo artist and with CSN, and he is a GRAMMY Award winner.





Paramount Presents:

15TH ANNUAL GRAND MARQUEE GALA **FRIDAY, APRIL 17**

The Annual Grand Marquee Gala is The Paramount Theater's signature fundraising event, supporting our mission to educate, enchant, enrich, and enlighten the Charlottesville community through the arts. This cherished Spring tradition brings together friends and supporters for an unforgettable evening of purpose and celebration — featuring a silent auction, dancing, and exceptional food and cocktails, all in support of our historic nonprofit theater.

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, Shawn Puller, Mary Buckle Searle, Shannon Thomas, Laurie Turner, Adrienne Woodard



Scan the QR code or visit theparamount.net/about/marquee-gala for more!

Paramount Presents:

STEP AFRIKA! THE EVOLUTION TOUR

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 7:00PM

Step Afrika! celebrates more than 30 years of critically acclaimed percussive performance with this groundbreaking program. As the world's leading authority on the art form of stepping, Step Afrika! is committed to pushing the boundaries of the tradition, exploring its nearly limitless artistic possibilities. This evening's production features exciting new dance works alongside a performance shaped and refined through the Company's long-standing collaboration with South Africa.

Welcome to *The Evolution Tour!*

THE STORY OF STEP AFRIKA!

Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the world's leading authority on the art form of stepping. Under Mr. Williams' leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America's cultural exports, touring more than 60 countries across the globe and ranking as one of the top 10 African American Dance Companies in the US.

Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy makes each performance unique and leaves the audience with their hearts pounding.

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Photo: Jati Lindsay

"Most unique tribute show in decades!" – LA Times

BEATLES **VS** STONES

A M U S I C A L S H O W D O W N

"Electrifying!" – OC Register

La Jolla Booking Agency Presents:

BEATLES VS STONES

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 7:00PM

The British Invasion brought us the two most popular rock groups of all time, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, as well as the liveliest debate in rock history — which band is the greatest? These two legendary bands will engage in a musical "shoot out of the hits" featuring internationally renowned tribute bands, Abbey Road and Satisfaction — The International Rolling Stones Show.

Alternating power sets with the two bands coming together on stage for an amazing encore makes this show a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle Presents:

WORDPLAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 7:00PM

Charlottesville's Fundraiser for Trivia Lovers

Wordplay is a team-based trivia competition for people who love words, vocabulary, pop-culture, history, literature, and showing off their smarts. The audience plays along as teams compete for bragging rights. Wordplay is the annual fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle, an independent, non-profit organization that promotes adult literacy through equitable, inclusive, free, confidential, one-to-one English and Citizenship tutoring. Funds raised through Wordplay support adult learners, many of whom are immigrants and refugees, as they achieve their educational goals.

Visit Literacyforall.org/Wordplay for more information.

Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle
presents

wordplay



Audience
tickets
\$20!

Charlottesville's fundraiser for trivia lovers



Thursday, April 23, 7pm
Literacyforall.org/Wordplay



Paramount Presents:

SHERRI SHEPHERD: MAKE IT MAKE SENSE TOUR
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 7:00PM

Sherri Shepherd is a Daytime Emmy Award-winning talk show host, comedian, actress, and best-selling author. She hosts the nationally syndicated talk show *Sherri*, where her warmth and fiery humor shine through her topical headlines, celebrity interviews, comedy, and uplifting stories. Recently, she co-starred in Tyler Perry's acclaimed film *STRAW* and is preparing to release her first children's book, *The Sunshine Queens*. A multiple NAACP Image Award winner, Sherri has also earned recognition for her hit podcast *Two Funny Mamas*, co-hosted with Kym Whitley. Her career spans three decades across television, film, Broadway, and stand-up comedy, with memorable roles in *30 Rock*, *Friends*, *Mr. Iglesias*, *Trial & Error*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *The Jamie Foxx Show*, and *Beauty Shop*. On stage, she tours nationwide as a stand-up comic, both solo and alongside Whitley in their comedy show *Two Funny Mamas*. Beyond entertainment, Shepherd is a dedicated advocate for inclusivity, representation, and children with special needs.

Paramount Presents:

HARE & TORTOISE

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 4:00PM

Tutti Frutti Productions from Leeds, England

Two unlikely friends — the speedy, confident Hare and the calm, steady Tortoise — meet for the greatest race on Earth. A race filled with suspense, surprises, and a nail-biting, medal-winning finish. Ready... Steady... Is it time to GO? This playful and imaginative adaptation of Aesop's classic fable is brought to life on stage in a vibrant performance. With three talented actors-musicians and a whole lot of energy, the story unfolds across the seasons — from the blossoming days of sunny spring through to the icy sparkle of winter. This heartwarming tale explores patience, friendship, and what it means to grow up.

Event Sponsors:

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Photo: © World Ballet Company

World Ballet Company:

SWAN LAKE

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 7:00PM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 7:00PM

The World's MOST Iconic Ballet — Live on Stage!

The legendary tale of *Swan Lake* takes flight in a breathtaking production from World Ballet Company, as fate and magic entwine in a timeless battle between good and evil. Featuring a cast of 50 international dancers, over 150 radiant hand-sewn costumes, and stunning hand-crafted sets, this spellbinding performance captures every heart-pounding moment — from the Dance of the Little Swans to the Black Swan's iconic 32 fouettés, and every pirouette in between.

With Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score soaring through the air, immerse yourself in this mesmerizing journey where dreams, heartbreak, and redemption unfold right before your eyes.

Paramount Presents:

MET LIVE IN HD - EUGENE ONEGIN
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1:00PM

The Metropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

Sung in: Russian

Approximate Run Time: 4hr 5min; two intermissions

Pre-opera Lecturer: Mary Ann Archer — Flutist, formerly with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for 26 years. Now also a spiritual director and author of *Shared Imagination*, a book on meditation, and *Zeesha's Tale*, an illustrated children's book.

This broadcast is an encore of May 2nd's performance.

Following her acclaimed 2024 company debut in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, soprano Asmik Grigorian returns to the Met as Tatiana, the lovestruck young heroine in this ardent operatic adaptation of Pushkin, which will be transmitted live from the Metropolitan Opera stage to cinemas worldwide. Baritone Igor Golovatenko reprises his portrayal of the urbane Onegin, who realizes his affection for her all too late. The Met's evocative production, directed by Tony Award — winner Deborah Warner, “offers a beautifully detailed reading of ... Tchaikovsky's lyrical romance” (*The Telegraph*).

Presenting Sponsor of Classical Programming:
The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation

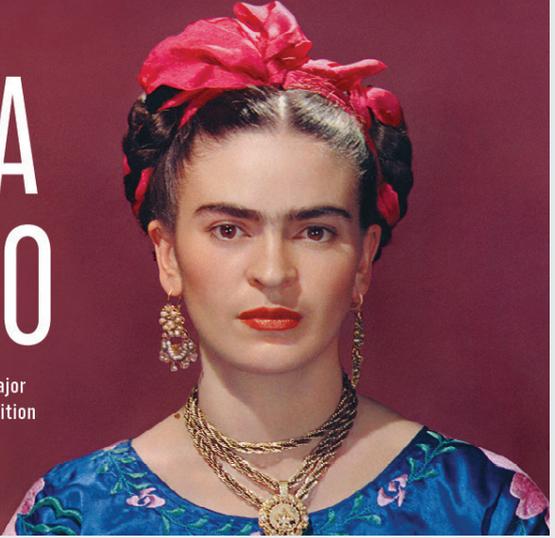


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ON SCREEN.

TATE MFA H
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

FRIDA KAHLO

Including new material from the major
Tate Modern and MFA Houston exhibition
MAKING OF AN ICON



Paramount On Screen:

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN™ - FRIDA KAHLO WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 7:00PM

directed by Ali Ray

Frida Kahlo is a phenomenon. She is arguably the world's favorite female artist — beloved by young and old. Exhibition on Screen™'s award-winning film is back with an exciting new addition from the blockbuster transatlantic exhibition from Tate Britain and MFA Houston, *Frida Kahlo: the Making of an Icon*. Back in the cinemas in May 2026, one month before the Tate exhibition opens, allowing audiences to watch both the film and see the show.

Who was Frida Kahlo? Everyone knows her face but who was the woman behind the bright colors, the big brows, and the floral crowns? Take a journey through the life of a true icon, discover her art, and uncover the true story of her rebellious, passionate, and turbulent life. Exhibition on Screen™'s trademark combination of interviews with those who knew her and world experts, commentary, and a detailed exploration of her art, combined with new special bonus footage from the 2026 Tate exhibition, delivers a treasure trove of color and emotion. This personal and intimate film offers privileged access to her works, her home, her studio, and highlights the source of her feverish creativity, her resilience, and her unmatched lust for life, beauty, and revolution.

Created in close collaboration with world experts and those who knew her.

Event Sponsors:
Janna and David Gies

Paramount Presents:

**MET LIVE IN HD -
EL ÚLTIMO SUEÑO DE FRIDA Y DIEGO
SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1:00PM**

The Metropolitan
Opera **HD
LIVE**

Sung in: Spanish

Approximate Run Time: 2hr 48min; one intermission

On May 30, the Metropolitan Opera's 2025-26 *Live in HD* season comes to a close with a live transmission of American composer Gabriela Lena Frank's first opera, a magical-realist portrait of Mexico's painterly power couple Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, with libretto by Pulitzer Prize — winning playwright Nilo Cruz. Fashioned as a reversal of the Orpheus and Euridice myth, the story depicts Frida, sung by leading mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, leaving the underworld on the Day of the Dead and reuniting with Diego, portrayed by baritone Carlos Álvarez. The famously feuding pair briefly relive their tumultuous love, embracing both the passion and the pain before bidding the land of the living a final farewell. Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts the Met-premiere staging of Frank's opera, a "confident, richly imagined score" (*The New Yorker*) that "bursts with color and fresh individuality" (*Los Angeles Times*). The vibrant new production, taking enthusiastic inspiration from Frida and Diego's paintings, is directed and choreographed by Deborah Colker.

**Presenting Sponsor of Classical Programming:
The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation**



Photo: © Zenith Richards / Met Opera



Paramount Presents:

ELMO'S GOT THE MOVES

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 6:00PM

Co-Presented with Round Room Live

Make unforgettable memories with your little ones at *Elmo's Got the Moves* — the all-new Sesame Street Live show coming to your neighborhood!

This exciting show will have kids and parents alike out of their seats and moving and dancing along with Elmo and his Sesame Street friends as they dance, stretch, and play along to fan-favorite songs, including "Sunny Days," "Elmo's Got the Moves," and "Letter of the Day."

Families will discover fun and playful ways to move — from yoga and jumping rope to cartwheeling and silly dance moves — all in a welcoming environment that brings the magic of Sesame Street from the screen to the stage. More than just a show, *Elmo's Got the Moves* is a shared moment of laughter and learning — an experience you and your child will treasure long after the final song.

Event Sponsor:
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ARTS EDUCATION



The **MISSION** of The Paramount Theater **Arts Education Program** is to foster appreciation, understanding, and love of the performing arts.

*The generosity of our Arts Education Partners has made it possible for **241,950 students and teachers** from all over Central Virginia to experience live performing arts in the restored historic Paramount Theater since 2004.*

The Paramount Theater believes that performing arts are an essential part of every child's education. Thanks to the generosity of our Arts Education Partners, each season The Paramount serves thousands of students and teachers from throughout Central Virginia with exceptional, educational, and enriching live performing arts experiences that capture imaginations, broaden perspectives, and tap into new ways of learning. ALL student/teacher tickets are subsidized and students who qualify for free and reduced meals participate at no cost.

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**For more information about supporting our Arts Education Program,
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2025-2026 PROGRAM

Glass Half Full Theatre from Austin, TX

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**Thursday, October 30
10:15AM and 12:15PM**

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123 ANDRÉS: AROUND THE AMERICAS

***Monday, December 1
10:15AM and 12:15PM**

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DRUM TAO

***Thursday, January 29, 10:30AM**

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Cahoots NI, from Belfast, Northern Ireland

SECRETS OF SPACE

**Tuesday, February 10
10:15AM and 12:15PM**

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Theatre Heroes from Austin, TX

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

**Wednesday, February 25
10:15AM and 12:15PM**

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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**

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STEP AFRIKA!

***Monday, April 20
10:15AM and 12:15PM**

*Sponsored by Virginia Cenedella,
The Dalton Family; Sponsored in part by:
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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*

Theater Unspeakable from Chicago, IL

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 250TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

**Monday, May 11
10:15AM and 12:15PM**

Sponsored by Virginia Cenedella

** Public performances are also offered. See event page in playbill for details.*

LOCAL EDUCATOR & STUDENT REMARKS

"Participating in The Paramount's Arts Education programs allows students to witness and experience the stories and artistic expressions of others, exposes students to different cultures and ways of life, and helps them gain a broader perspective on the world and understand the wider human experience. Empathy and critical thinking are fostered, and students develop a deeper appreciation for the arts."

Aaron Eichorst

Coordinator of Fine & Performing Arts,
Charlottesville City Schools

"Thank you for an opportunity to learn about Africa and I loved watching this amazing show and interacting at The Paramount! Watching the show was like looking at the sunset, all the colors bending this way and that. It was incredible!"

5th Grade Student

Agnor Elementary



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Photo: Rob Goff and Photographers



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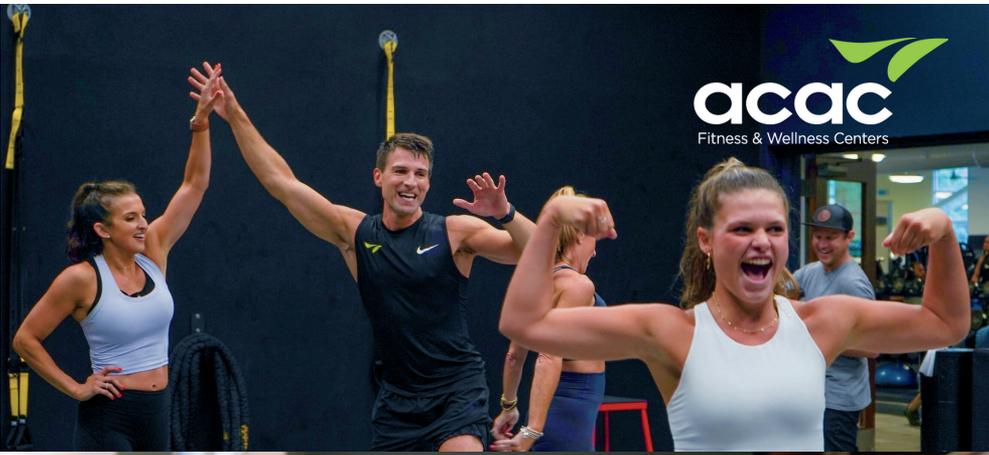
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Court Nexsen is co-owner of McLean Faulconer Inc. Born and raised in Central Virginia, Court began his career with Goldman Sachs in New York City. He spent 15 years in some of the most demanding client-facing roles in the finance industry prior to joining McLean Faulconer Inc. He previously led a team at Bank of America Private Bank advising wealthy families. He takes great pride in delivering the highest level of service by marshalling resources and his network at the local and national level.



Active in the community, Court serves on the board of the historic Paramount Theater. He recently served on the board and executive committee of the United Way of Greater Charlottesville and of Farmington Country Club (President '19, '20). He enjoys his time outside the office as a panelist for Golf Digest, an evaluator for the Jefferson Scholars Foundation, and a class agent for VES. Court is a graduate of Washington & Lee University and of the University of Virginia Darden School of Business.



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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 we're all here!

STAR CIRCLE

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

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.

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
434.218.1590

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.

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.

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.



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Alan Culbertson



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Katherine McNerney



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