



BACKSTAGE AT THE

Valentine Theatre

SPRING 2023

OUR MISSION

The Toledo Cultural Arts Center, a non profit organization, produces and provides cultural and performing arts experiences for diverse audiences of all ages, to enhance the quality of the cultural and economic life of the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Northwestern Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

OUR HISTORY

The historic Valentine Theatre opened its doors on Christmas Day in 1895 and is currently a 901-seat facility operated by the Toledo Cultural Arts Center, Inc. Following a 21-year effort by the Board of Trustees and the community, the newly renovated theatre was reopened on October 9, 1999. Since then, more than a million people have attended international, national and regional presentations, weddings and events.

CONTACT US

419-242-2787

ValentineTheatre.com

410 Adams Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604



KeyBank



Our Annual Heart to Heart Gala With Broadway's Patti Lupone!

On March 4, the Valentine welcomed the incomparable Patti Lupone to headline our annual Heart to Heart Gala. The three-time Tony Award winner whose Broadway career has spanned four decades dazzled audience members with her moving renditions of Broadway standards as well as fan favorites like "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" from *Evita* and "Ladies Who Lunch" from *Company*. Her lifelong love affair with Broadway and admiration for the brilliant composers with whom she has worked resonated in her performance. More than 600 were in the audience, including over 35 high school students who were thrilled to see a Broadway legend right here in Toledo! Many thanks to our sponsors, including Presenting Sponsor, KeyBank. Their support is key to our success. Special thanks also to Giorgio's for catering and Heavenly Sweets and Cookie Cuterie for their delectable desserts. Extra special thanks to our mural actors who brought the Valentine's history to life. It was truly an amazing night!



Mural Actors

Having local actors portray some of the famous performers who graced the Valentine stage during its heyday (1895-1917) was the idea of Executive Director Jori Jex and a fun addition to this year's Gala. Kathy Dowd and Jim Norman sewed almost all of the elaborate costumes you see here. Guests loved chatting with the "stars" of yesteryear and hearing their stories of when they once performed in Toledo.



Valentine Mural Characters come to life! Standing (l-r): Savanna Large as Fanny Brice, Cyndy Brookover as Lillian Russell, Joel Twichell as Enrico Caruso, Patrick Boyer as Fred Stone, Joe Ball as W.C. Fields, Dom Glover as Bill "Mr. Bojangles" Robinson, Jill Reinstein as Mrs. John Drew. Seated (l-r): Anna Giller as Maude Adams, Chris Stack as George M. Cohan, and Danielle Moseley as Anna Pavlova.

A round of applause for our generous sponsors!



The Valentine is Now a Certified Autism Center

You may have noticed new signage in the entryway indicating that the Valentine is now a Certified Autism Center and wondered just what that might mean. Receiving this designation means that at least 80% of our front-facing staff and volunteers have passed an online course in sensory awareness training. We are now able to better assist and respond to families of children diagnosed with autism, autism spectrum disorder, or who have sensory sensitivities.



We are also now offering Sensory-Friendly / Relaxed children's shows as part of our Family Series. For these performances, which run an hour or less, theatre lights are at 50% which means the theatre is not completely dark, headphones are available to borrow, and there is a quiet retreat space with bean bag chairs, fidget widgets and coloring books available in our Founder's Room at the far end of the Grand Lobby. This retreat space is the perfect spot to regroup and find calm for anyone needing a break or feeling overwhelmed or overstimulated.

By becoming a Certified Autism Center, the Valentine hopes to make our venue even more accessible to families in the area, so that everyone has the chance to experience high quality children's programming in a warm and welcoming space. If you have a child or family member with sensory sensitivities, we hope you will join us for our Relaxed Family Series next season. For more information about our Sensory-Friendly offerings, please contact Kelby Sodeman at ksodeman@valentinetheatre.com or 419-214-4803.



Retreat Space in the Founder's Room



Headphones and fidget widgets available before the show

Become a Member

Membership starts at \$25

Benefits include movie tickets,
parking passes, exclusive
access to member events &
more!

at the forefront of performing arts in the Greater Toledo area. Whether you have been a longtime patron or just recently discovered our beautiful theatre, your support and patronage help keep the Valentine going strong.

Paying it forward. When you give to the Valentine Theatre's Annual Appeal, you are supporting programming which benefits thousands of school children who attend

Show Your Love for the Valentine

Donate to our Annual Appeal Today!

You are the heart of our success. As a friend of the Valentine Theatre, you are the reason that the Valentine continues to be

our Valentine School Days each year. You are supporting the scores of local musicians, dancers, and actors who perform on our stage, the same stage where legends like John Phillip Sousa, Anna Pavlova, and Lionel Barrymore once performed. When you give, you become part of the Valentine's legacy and have a direct influence in making sure future generations experience the same thrill of live theatre as you do today.

Membership has its perks! As our way of saying thank you, your annual donation entitles you to members-only benefits which include recognition in our program, drink tickets, buy one get one free ticket offers, and more.

Fun Fact – When Maurice Barrymore starred in the civil war play, “Shenandoah,” on the Valentine stage in 1898, the company included 24 calvary horses and 24 Rough Riders who actually rode with President Teddy Roosevelt in San Juan during the Spanish American War! A special train was outfitted to transport the company and the horses throughout the country. Barrymore was the father of Ethel, Lionel, and John Barrymore, and the great grandfather of Drew Barrymore.

From the History Vault

Ben Hur at the Valentine in 1903

Just off the elevator on the second floor of the theatre you will see a new addition to our collection of Valentine memorabilia — a vintage poster of *Ben Hur* which played here 120 years ago in March 1903. The poster is a gift from James and Janene Fentress. After doing a bit of research, we found a few articles from the *The Toledo Bee* and *The Blade* attesting to the extraordinary popularity of this play during the turn of the 20th century and the innovative stagecraft used in recreating the show's climactic chariot race.

UNHEARD-OF RUSH FOR "BEN-HUR" SEATS

Waiting Line Packs Valentine Lobby and Extends to Jackson Avenue Hundreds Sitting and Standing All Thro' Chilly Night and Cold Grey Dawn

This was the front page headline of *The Toledo Bee* on Thursday, March 26, 1903. According to the *Bee*, *Ben Hur* was so popular that hundreds of people camped out all night to buy tickets. The line ran from the Valentine entrance on St. Clair all the way to Jackson. One-day sales topped \$11,000, easily breaking the record of \$8,800 set in Columbus just the week before. To accommodate public demand, management offered eight performances — six evening shows and two matinees — making it possible for 16,000 people to enjoy the show if all the seats were sold. Some enterprising folks took advantage of the demand and made a pretty penny for themselves. *The Bee* reported several boys got in line with no money and then sold their places to latecomers at "star odds" with one boy at the front selling out for \$8! The highest priced ticket was only \$2.

One of the main attractions of *Ben Hur* is the exciting chariot horse race scene which occurs towards the end of the show. Ben Hur dramatically throws his spear through the wheel of his opponent's chariot, causing him to topple over and Hur to win the race. According to *The Blade*, the mechanics for the race scene cost \$15,000 (more than \$500,000 in today's dollars) and required reconstructing the Valentine stage to accommodate the 14-foot long racing machine. Each chariot was drawn by four real, live horses. The horses each had their own runway beneath their feet and they were secured with invisible cables which kept them in place and prevented them from moving forward off their runways. The cables were independent of the harnesses, allowing the horses "to run as if in the open air," giving the illusion that they were running at full speed when in reality they were literally running in mid-air. The wheels of the Roman chariots revolved on rubber rollers operated by electrical motors, and they used uneven wheels to make it look as though the chariots were jostling as they circled the track. The effect was incredibly convincing and audiences loved it. In fact, audience demand for *Ben Hur* was so high, Valentine management re-booked the show the following September for another 6-night tour.

The next time you are at the Valentine, please check out this wonderful poster. Many thanks again to the Fentresses for gifting it to us and to For the Love of Art for beautifully framing both the poster and the accompanying flyer.

Sources: "Unheard-of Rush for Ben-Hur Seats," *The Toledo Bee*, March 26, 1903, pp. 1-2; "In Theatres Next Week: Ben Hur," *Toledo Blade*, March 1903; "Theatrical Notes: Return of Ben Hur to Toledo," *The Daily Sentinel* (Bowling Green), September 2, 1903, p. 8



Valentine Staff Updates



Danielle Moseley

Since our last edition we've had a few changes in staff responsibilities. Events Manager Nancy Golde officially retired in March. Nancy was gracious enough to step in quickly when former events director Dan Heberling retired unexpectedly in 2019. Nancy will continue to help cater for national touring groups and offer consultation as needed. We wish her the very best as she starts a new chapter. Helping to fill her role are Danielle Moseley and Steve Boyd. Danielle has been with the Valentine in various capacities for several years, most recently as Assistant Box Office Manager and Manager of Support Services. She will be managing front-of-house for events, meeting with prospective renters, and scheduling events. Steven Boyd has been a longtime bartender at the Valentine and venues throughout Toledo. He was Nancy's right-hand assistant and will now manage our bartending staff, product inventory, and schedule deliveries, in addition to his bartending duties. Please welcome Danielle and Steve to their new roles!



Steven Boyd



VALENTINE STAFF

JORI JEX
Executive Director

MATT LENTZ
Director of Marketing & PR

TIM DURHAM
Technical Director

ADAM BERGERON
Assistant Technical Director

JOE GOZDOWSKI
Assistant Technical Director

BILL COLTER
Facility Manager

RUTH KILLE
Finance Manager

AMY SPAULDING-HEURING
Box Office Manager

Danielle Moseley
*Manager Special Events and
Support Services/ Box Office
Assistant Manager*

Matthew Leuck
*House Director & Volunteer
Corps Coordinator*

Stevem Boyd
Events Coordinator

KELBY SODEMAN
DEVELOPMENT & VSD COORDINATOR



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Toledo Cultural Arts Center
The Valentine Theatre
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25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT COMING SOON!

We just wrapped up our 24th presenting season with New York's Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* on April 3. What a wonderful season we had! Several of the performances sold out, including *The Million Dollar Quartet Christmas*, *Jim Brickman A Very Merry Christmas*, *Scared Scriptless* with Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, and *The Simon & Garfunkel Experience*. Marketing Director Matt Lentz is busily finalizing next season, which will be our 25th. We anticipate a full complement of exciting shows for our Broadway, Pick 4, Valentine School Days, and Relaxed/Sensory-Friendly Family Series, as well as our popular \$5 Silver Screen Movies. Information about the upcoming season will be announced in early summer. Please keep an eye out for season flyers in the mail and email announcements. If you are not yet receiving our emails, please consider subscribing. Simply click on the E-Newsletter Sign up Button on our website valentinetheatre.com to stay up-to-date on upcoming shows and events. We look forward to seeing you at the theatre next Fall!