



2018

Ivoryton Playhouse

Annual Report



Statement of Purpose

The Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation is a non-profit organization, formed for the purpose of owning, restoring and operating the Playhouse, maintaining it's cultural, educational, entertainment and service value to the community at large.

The Foundation is committed to providing exceptional theatre experiences of high professional quality to enrich, enlighten, educate, and entertain the diverse audience in the Shoreline region and beyond.

Strong education and training programs are central parts of our commitment to the local and national artistic communities.

Mission: The Ivoryton Playhouse provides high quality professional theatre in a casual, historic setting at an affordable price.

Vision: The Ivoryton Playhouse will continue to bring the excitement of Broadway theatre to the historic village of Ivoryton for another one hundred years. A destination for people from far and wide, the Playhouse is the cultural heart of the village, and enriches everyone it touches.

The President's Message

April 2, 2019

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I'd like to make a confession. I love live theater, and I love the Ivoryton Playhouse!

When my wife Kathleen and I relocated to the shoreline, one of the first things we did was sample all the plentiful offerings of theater in the area. We are blessed to have a lot of marvelous theaters here and, of course, Broadway is only a train ride away. I quickly came to the conclusion, though, that Ivoryton Playhouse is where I wanted to focus my energy. The Playhouse is an iconic and intimate setting in which to enjoy theater, and I'm proud to be part of it.

2018 saw the Playhouse enjoying another successful season. Two musicals, *Grease* and *A Chorus Line*, were sellouts seen by over 6,700 people! We think it's also important to take some creative risks, so we produced two new works last season, *Love Quest* and *Queens of the Golden Mask*. We will continue to look for similar opportunities to support emerging talented playwrights. Also, we continued our Women Playwrights Initiative for the third consecutive year. We received over 157 submissions and the four plays we produced as staged readings received very favorable responses from audiences.

One of the Playhouse's best friends and all-time audience favorites, the celebrated David Pittsinger, made an extraordinary commitment to us in 2018, appearing in three productions, *The Fantasticks*, *Arlington Sons*, and *An Ivoryton Playhouse Christmas Hour*. We thank David, his wife Patricia, and their son Richard for their time and dedication.

And there is a wonderful slate of shows to entertain you in 2019. Jacqui has done her usual outstanding job of bringing us a mix of big musicals, a thought-provoking play, and some entertaining comedies. These productions will appeal to a blend of young audiences, older audiences, families and school age children. I am very happy to report that this season is already resonating with you, our members. As of the end of March, we are currently at the highest subscription dollar amount ever!

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at the Playhouse.



Al Jaffe
President

The Year in Review

The Ivoryton Playhouse opened its 2018 season with a romantic fable that has enchanted audiences around the world for over fifty years. **THE FANTASTICKS** by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt is a timeless tale of young love, shattered dreams and universal truths and it opened in Ivoryton on Wednesday, March 21st, 2018.

This intimate show with a bounty of catchy tunes and beautiful melodies, including the classic “Try to remember the kind of September...” is a quintessential celebration of love in all its gorgeous simplicity and heartbreaking complexities. Beautifully directed by Brian Feehan, the show featured internationally acclaimed baritone David Pittsinger as El Gallo, the storyteller.



LOVE QUEST— a brand new comedy by Mary Maguire and Steven McGraw— opened in April and explored the journeys of two women in the perilous world of online dating. This funny, poignant and timely story was an instant success with Ivoryton audiences who related to its contemporary and relevant subject matter.

It has been part of the mission of the Ivoryton Playhouse for the last 5 years to try to include one new play in our season and we were thrilled to have the opportunity to produce this piece, starring the lovely Linda Purl.



On May 30th, the legendary Queen of Rock and Roll, Janis Joplin, was celebrated in Ivoryton with a phenomenal production of **A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN**. This incredible show came to us from North Carolina Theatre and featured some of the most powerful female voices ever heard in Ivoryton including Paige MacNamara and Francesca Ferrari, who shared the role of Janis; Aurianna Angelique*, Jennifer Leigh Warren*, Tawny Dolley*, and Amma Osei* who took on the roles of the many women who influenced Janis – Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Bessie Smith, Nina Simone and many more.

“Tell me more! Tell me more!” was the theme song of July as we dusted off our leather jackets and pulled on our bobby socks and took a nostalgic trip back to Rydell High with Sandy and Danny and the whole gang in **GREASE**.

The movie that we all know and love opened 40 years ago and it is a testament to the music and the iconic characters that **GREASE** is still the word today. Here is Rydell High’s senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding “Burger Palace Boys” and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking “Pink Ladies” in bobby sox and pedal pushers,



evoking the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical. “Summer Nights”, “Greased Lightnin’,” “It’s Raining on Prom Night,” “Alone at the Drive-In Movie” recalled the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard, and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation and a record breaking summer hit for the Ivoryton Playhouse. A-wop-bop-a-loo-bop, a-wop-bam-boom!

The Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning singular sensation, **A CHORUS LINE** opened with a whole lot of razzle dazzle in August. This classic Broadway musical brilliantly evoked both the glamour and grind of showbiz, and is still the musical for everyone who’s ever had a dream and put it all on the line.



The iconic score features such classics as “What I Did for Love,” “One,” “I Hope I Get It” and more! With its celebration and true-to-life depiction of performers and their struggle to achieve greatness on the Broadway stage, **A CHORUS LINE** garnered box office and critical acclaim for the Playhouse and is truly one of the true masterpieces of live theater.

Both summer musicals were directed and choreographed by Playhouse Associate Artistic Director, Todd Underwood and musical directed by Resident Musical Director, Michael Morris.



From the streets of Dublin to the Ivoryton Playhouse, the magical musical **ONCE** took the stage in September and audiences were blown away by the beautiful music, gorgeously played by a talented cast of actors and musicians that brilliantly evoked the lives and dreams of these characters.

On the streets of Dublin, an Irish musician about to give up on his dreams and a beautiful young Czech immigrant are drawn together by their shared love of music. Over the course of one fateful week, an unexpected friendship and collaboration quickly evolves into a powerful but complicated love story, underscored by the most beautiful, emotionally charged music. Based on the 2007 movie of the same name, written by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova, the show featured all of the haunting songs from the critically acclaimed film, including the Oscar-winning “Falling Slowly”. This production featured the husband and wife team, Ben Hope and Katie Barton: Ben making his directorial debut and Katie in an incredible performance as the Girl.



In October, the Playhouse did something quite unusual. We produced our second new play in a season – **THE QUEENS OF THE GOLDEN MASK** by Carole Lockwood. Set in Celestial, Alabama in the summer of 1961, this world premiere pulled aside the Cotton Curtain to reveal a hidden piece of history and told a little known story about the lives of the women of the Ku Klux Klan.

The play is based on the experiences of Elizabeth H. Cobbs/Petric Smith who wrote the autobiographical *Long Time Coming: An Insiders Story of the Birmingham Church Bombing that Rocked the World*. Smith’s work provides more than an insider’s account of one of the most atrocious events of the civil rights era; it is also the personal journey of a woman inside the

world of the most extreme opponents of racial justice. In the violent world of the Klan, women were subservient; men beat their wives with impunity in order to sustain white male supremacy. Most women were partners in the goal of maintaining white supremacy but there were many who, quietly and with great moral courage, put their lives on the line. This was their story and we are proud to have been able to tell it for them.

We were also thrilled to be able to present school performances with financial help from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and the Community Foundation of New London County. We produced study guides for the schools and each performance was followed by an animated and engaging talk back with the cast.



In December, as the nights grew colder and the village began to twinkle with thousands of holiday lights, we presented two wonderful and very different shows that were filled with the Christmas spirit. **AN IVORYTON**

PLAYHOUSE CHRISTMAS HOUR was an old fashioned Christmas celebration of holiday standards and sacred songs, featuring David Pittsinger with his wife, Patricia Schuman, son Richard, Carly Callahan, Ryan Bloomquist and Anna Fagan.

The Ivoryton Playhouse Community show opened on December 13th and ran until December 23rd. **CONEY ISLAND CHRISTMAS** by Donald Margulies was a heartwarming story with a lot to



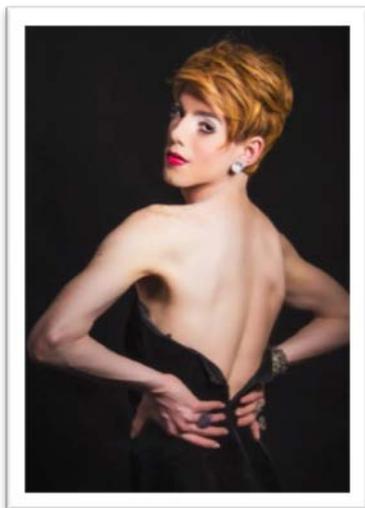
say about how life could be better through understanding and tolerance for one another. Filled with a cast of all ages from our local community, this instant holiday classic appealed to young and old alike.

Commissioned by the late Gilbert Cates, **CONEY ISLAND CHRISTMAS** premiered at the Geffen Playhouse in 2012. This community production in

Ivoryton was directed by Sasha Bratt, who also directed *Biloxi Blues* last season. Bursting with feel good holiday spirit, **CONEY ISLAND CHRISTMAS** ended the year with an antidote to cynicism and a love letter to good old fashioned holiday fun.

Our 2018 season also included several special events. We were thrilled to be able to host once again our Second Annual Women Playwrights Initiative. Led by Laura Copland, our Director of

New Play Development, we were able to bring four talented new playwrights to Ivoryton for a week to work on their scripts with directors and actors. The week end culminated in 2 nights of staged readings and, though the weather threatened us we remained stalwart and the event was a resounding success!



On August 20th our very own Sam Given (Bobby in A CHORUS LINE and many roles in I HATE MUSICALS: THE MUSICAL) brought his Summer Cabaret special - **DON'T MAKE ME OVER** with his alter ego Millie Grams – to Ivoryton. A glorious pastiche of Bacharach songs and Broadway parodies interspersed with Sam's unique, wry and occasionally heartbreaking brand of storytelling. What a terrific evening!

In November we were privileged to present a concert honoring our veterans on Monday, November 12th. **Arlington Sons** was performed by David Pittsinger and his son, Richard Pittsinger. This moving piece was personally commissioned by David to honor his late father – a US Army veteran and distinguished guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

Lyrical and expressive, **Arlington Sons** told the story of a father bringing his young son to Arlington National Cemetery for the first time, to witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. **Arlington Sons** illuminated a universal experience—the changing of the guard between generations—in a uniquely American context.

The concert also included some well-known songs and readings by Dave Williams of ICRV radio; Peter Walker, an actor and veteran of WWII and Captain Jane Viera, retired Command Chaplain to the Naval Submarine School in Groton and was musical directed by Simon Holt of Salt Marsh Opera.

A thought provoking, evocative and nostalgic season, 2018 leaves us with fond memories, new relationships and inspiration for the year ahead.

Handwritten signature of Jacqueline Hubbard.

Jacqueline Hubbard
Executive/Artistic Director

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Who We Are

Board of Trustees (2018)

Suzy Burke

Carly Callahan

Bill Chatman (retired December 2018)

Joseph Ettore, *Vice President*

Bill French

Ralph Guardiano

Harvey Hoberman

Jacqueline Hubbard, *Artistic / Executive Director*

Bill Jacaruso

Al Jaffe

Thomas Johnston

Hank McInerney

Paula Merrick, *President* (end of term December 2018)

Norman Needleman, *Treasurer*

Susan Origlia, *Secretary*

Toni Robinson

Bonnie Stone

Recommend the election of the following officers to serve a one year term:

President

Al Jaffe

Vice President

Bonnie Stone

Secretary

Susan Origlia

Treasurer

Norman Needleman

Class with Term expiring at the end of 2020: Suzy Burke, Joe Ettore, Bill Jacaruso

Class with Term expiring at the end of 2021: Bill Chatman, Ralph Guardiano, Hank McInerney, Norman Needleman, Susan Origlia, Bonnie Stone

Class with Term expiring at the end of 2022: Al Jaffe, Thomas Johnston, Toni Robinson

Class with Term expiring at the end of 2023: Carly Callahan, Bill French

Honorary Life Members

Centerbrook Architects
Sherry & Herb Clark
Eileen and James Daily
Essex Savings Bank
Ian Hubbard
Paula Merrick
Lucy Weed



Legal Counsel

Campbell Hudson

Life Trustees

Jacqueline Hubbard
Peg Quirin

Honorary Historian

Henry Josten
Brenda Milkofsky



Administration and Production (2018)

Jacqueline Hubbard, *Artistic / Executive Director*
Krista May, *Managing Director*
Daniel Nischan, *Associate Artistic Director*
Todd Underwood, *Associate Artistic Director*
Mike Morris, *Resident Musical Director*
Marcus Abbott, *Resident Production Designer*
Susan McCann, *Box Office Manager*
Diane Mizejeski, *Office Manager*
Claudia Volano, *Development Associate*
Tate R. Burmeister, *Technical Director*
Rachel Smith, *Assistant Technical Director*
Holly Price, *Production Assistant / Prop Mistress*
Phil Bird, *Facilities Manager*
Noah Rice, *Master Carpenter*
Steve Johnson, *Shop Manager*
Ray Smith, *Audio Consultant*
Anne Hudson and Jonathan Steele, *Photographers*

Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Total Cash and Investments	\$ 1,456,089
Fixed Assets	
Building and Improvements	\$ 1,312,514
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	\$ 96,348
Land	\$ 189,500
Vehicle	\$ 5,000
ACCUM. DEPRECIATION	<u>(\$ 872,835)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 730,527
Other Assets	
Cash - Restricted	\$ 23,768
Closing Costs	<u>\$ 2,328</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>\$ 26,096</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 2,212,712</u></u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$ 203,122
Long Term Liabilities	<u>\$ 221,199</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 424,321
Net Assets	
With Donor Restriction	\$ 986,437
Without Donor Restrictions	<u>\$ 801,954</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$ 1,788,391</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>\$ 2,212,712</u></u>

As of December 31, 2018

Draft Audit

Statement of Activities

	Approved Budget 2019	Actual 2018	Approved Budget 2018
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
MEMBERSHIP	\$ 190,000	\$ 203,368	\$ 190,000
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 114,000	\$ 94,702	\$ 95,000
FUNDRAISING	\$ 62,000	\$ 95,833	\$ 104,000
PROGRAM	\$ 1,551,600	\$ 1,569,736	\$ 1,517,800
Total Income	\$ 1,917,600	\$ 1,963,640	\$ 1,906,800
Expense			
OFFICE	\$ 396,920	\$ 384,630	\$ 416,200
THEATER	\$ 138,600	\$ 134,884	\$ 137,450
FUNDRAISING	\$ 61,580	\$ 105,900	\$ 74,000
PROGRAM	\$ 1,310,500	\$ 1,364,028	\$ 1,274,150
Total Expense	\$ 1,907,600	\$ 1,991,172	\$ 1,901,800
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 10,000	\$ -27,532	\$ 5,0000

As of December 31, 2018

Draft Audit

Thank You to Our Sponsors

2018 Season and Show Sponsors

Celebrity Cruises	Middlesex Hospital
The Clark Group	Mionetto Prosecco
Essex Meadows	Overabove
Essex Printing	Pasta Vita
Essex Savings Bank	The Safety Zone
Guilford Savings Bank	Saybrook Country Barn
Hamilton Connections	Sennheiser Electronic Corporation
Hinding Concrete Solutions	Tower Labs
HT Partners	Webster Bank
KeyBank	Wells Fargo (Essex Branch of)

Our thanks to Michael A. Dattilo and Frank Perrotti, Executive Producers

2018 Foundations

The Bauman Family Foundation	Community Foundation of
Community Foundation of	Eastern Connecticut
Middlesex County	- Anonymous
- Council of Business Partners	- Elsie Childs Fund
- The Griffin Family Fund	Essex Community Fund
- Jacaruso Family Fund	Essex Lions Club
- The Jones Family Fund	Eversource “Dollars for Doers”
- Peach Pit Foundation	Jensen’s Inc. via Neighborhood
- Sari A. Rosenbaum Fund for	Assistance Act
Women and Girls	The Max Showalter Foundation, Inc.
	Rotary Club of Essex

With Support from:

Department of Economic and
Community Development

Office of the Arts

Connecticut
still revolutionary