

# Noises Off

Vol 9 - March, 2019

It's season two of "Noises Off," Pit and Balcony's newsletter! In the theatre "noises off" is a stage direction meaning sounds made offstage intended for the ears of the audience. In its second year, our goal with this newsletter remains the same, to provide our supporters with information about all the great things happening around the theatre both on stage and off. We've added a new letters to the editor section called "Audience Participation," which will include notes and thoughts from the most important people in our organization—you! We'd love to hear from you. E-mail [amy@pitandbalcony.com](mailto:amy@pitandbalcony.com) and you may see yourself quoted in an upcoming addition!

## Notes:

I am thrilled to share with all of you news of my recent promotion to Pit & Balcony's Managing Director. This is a full time position I am eager to sink my teeth into. PSB has come a long way over recent years and the fact that we are at a place where we can sustain a full time staff member is encouraging, to say the least. Pit has been a home away from home for me for the past 15 years and I am so grateful for all the opportunities I've had here and all the people I've met who also call this place home. I will be focusing much of my energy toward the realization of our strategic plan as well as continuing to ensure high quality productions and educational opportunities abound. I am excited for the growth on our horizon and to share it with our community! As always, thank you for your support!

Warmest Regards,

  
Amy Spadafore

Managing Director



This Pulitzer Prize winning dark comedy by David Mamet follows down-and-out real estate salesmen trying to get their piece of the American dream in 1980's Chicago. Full of biting humor and fast-paced dialogue, this show will keep you wondering who's telling the truth and where are the lies. This show contains mature language. Tickets are \$20 at [www.pitandbalconytheatre.com](http://www.pitandbalconytheatre.com) or 989.754.6587.

**NOW PLAYING**

**GLENGARRY  
GLEN-ROSS**



## Up Next:

*It Shoulda Been You*

Book and Lyrics by Brian Hargrove, Music by Barbara Anselmi, Additional lyrics by Michael Cooper, Will Randall, Carla Rose Fisher, Ernie Lijoi, and Jill Abramovitz

Directed by Todd Thomas

This charming, funny, and original new musical invites you to a wedding day that you'll never forget, where anything that can go wrong does, and love pops up in mysterious places. The bride is Jewish. The groom is Catholic. Her mother is a force of nature. His mother is a tempest in a cocktail shaker. And, when the bride's ex-boyfriend crashes the party, the perfect wedding starts to unravel. It's up to the sister of the bride to turn a tangled mess into a happily ever after in this musical comedy. May 10-12 & 17-19

Fridays & Saturdays @7:30pm | Sundays @3:00pm | Tickets: \$20  
[www.pitandbalconytheatre.com](http://www.pitandbalconytheatre.com) | 989.754.6587 | 805 N. Hamilton

# Audition Notice:



March 18 & 19 @ 7pm

Directed by Todd Thomas

Audition requirements, online audition form, and more information will be available on our Facebook page 1 month prior to auditions. [www.facebook.com/pitandbalcony](http://www.facebook.com/pitandbalcony)

## Exciting News!

Pit & Balcony is thrilled to be joining forces with Midland Center for the Arts, Bay City Players and the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance to present a regional production of the smash Broadway hit, *Mamma Mia!*, next fall! This is a huge undertaking as all three theatres are working together to produce something that, to our knowledge, has never been done before among community theatres anywhere. When the rights to *Mamma Mia!* became available, each organization realized we would probably want to produce it in our 2019-2020 seasons. In an effort to move toward more a regional relationship, the idea of one giant production came up and we ran with it! Public performances will be held at Midland Center for the Arts. Pit & Balcony will host students from all over the region for full day time performances, and Bay City Players will host cabarets and workshops. Tickets will be available June 27th through all three theatres' box offices. See page 4 for more information about *Mamma Mia!* and be sure to join us for this unprecedented event in the fall!

## Lobby Talk

With Matt Felan

President & CEO, Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance

**What is the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance?** The Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance is an unprecedented collaboration of leaders from Bay, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw Counties working together to encourage, support and celebrate regional collaboration and initiatives that will improve the economic vitality and quality of life in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

**Why is a project like *Mamma Mia!* so important to our region?**

The Great Lakes Bay Region needs to be a great place to Live, Work, and Play. Play is the operative word that makes *Mamma Mia!* such an intriguing project. The regional *Mamma Mia!* collaborative provides an opportunity to bring people from all 4 counties together to showcase our immense talent. It's an opportunity to get people from each county to go out to a neighboring county to utilize a different venue, to try out a new restaurant, and to understand that there is so much to do right here in our own backyard. People often travel to Detroit, Chicago, and Grand Rapids for art and entertainment. And that's just fine. But maybe we don't all realize the incredible quality, volume and diversity of art and entertainment that's offered in a short 30-40 minute drive right here in the Great Lakes Bay Region!



**What is your favorite thing about the Great Lakes Bay Region?**

I love the fact that we are one region, yet Bay, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw Counties are all unique in their own special way. We offer theatre, festivals, art museums, science museums, massive productions at Soaring Eagle, community Theatre at Pit & Balcony, a Japanese tea garden, Little Bavaria, golfing, hiking, boating, fishing, and so much more. Each and every community comes together to make the Great Lakes Bay Region an outstanding place to Live, Work, and Play.

## Audience Participation

Check out Page 4 to learn about each of the shows coming up in our 88th season!



E-mail [amy@pitandbalcony.com](mailto:amy@pitandbalcony.com) to share your thoughts on this or anything else!

# Join Us!

## Wednesday, May 22nd – Annual Membership Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Event

~6:00pm, Pit & Balcony - Our annual membership meeting is where Pit & Balcony members get their chance to have their voices heard! Vote on members

of important committees, changes to P&B practices and policies, and get the low-down on the state of the theatre. Beer & wine and appetizers will be served.

~Immediately following the Membership Meeting is our 3rd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Potluck. Mix and mingle with other volunteers, enjoy homemade dishes, music, and other activities.



## Photo Gallery

It was standing room only for the Youth Advisory Council's inaugural event at the Red Eye on March 8th! The open mic showcased artists of all kinds sharing their poetry, comedy, and musical talents. The love and support in the room was palpable. We are so proud of our youth!



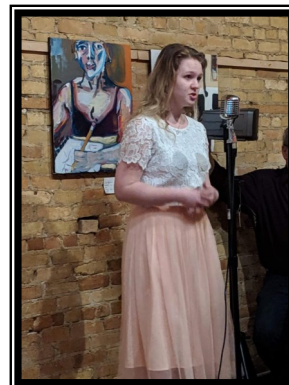
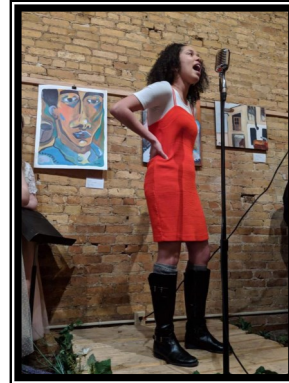
### Open Mic, Open Heart

By Andrea Richmond

Unable to articulate what to say when the videographer came by, blame it on residue of youth, so incredibly self-conscious and shy. I waited to mull it over, searching for the right words to say, performances and time passed, and opportunity moved on its way.

Emcees jovial and welcoming, creating a sense of belonging, comedy, song, or poem recited, all there applauding. Youth opening up, sharing from the heart and the page, surprising the audience, with courage and vulnerability on the small stage.

Words, experiences, and emotions once hidden, now displayed. Community connected, coffee and friends made. Laughter and chatter, expressing youthful admiration— incredible talent, youth showing up. The result, inspiration.







## Season 88!



Sep 20-22 and 27-29

At Midland Center for the Arts\*



Nov 29th-Dec 1  
and  
Dec 6-8, 2019



Jan 24-26  
and  
Jan 30-Feb 1, 2020



Mar 13-15  
and  
Mar 20-22, 2020



May 7-9  
and  
May 15-17, 2020



June 18-20, 2020

*Music and Lyrics by Benny Andersson, Bjorn Ulvaeus and some songs with Stig Anderson, Book by Catherine Johnson*

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago. A special regional project presented by the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance and sponsored by Bay City Players, Pit & Balcony, and Midland Center for the Arts.

\*Only available as add-on to P&B Flex Passes

*Adapted by Eric Coble from the Newbery Award-winning book by Lois Lowry.*

Jonas' world is perfect. Everything is under control and safe. There is no war or fear or pain. There are also no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. But when Jonas turns 12, he is chosen for special training from The Giver—to receive and keep the memories of the community. The Giver is the only person who holds the memories of real pain and real joy. Now Jonas will learn the truth about life—and the hypocrisy of his utopian world. Through this astonishing and moving adaptation, discover what it means to grow up, to grow wise, and to take control of your own destiny.

*By F. Scott Fitzgerald and adapted for the stage by Simon Levy*

Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, passionately pursues the elusive Daisy Buchanan. Nick Carraway, a young newcomer to Long Island, is drawn into their world of obsession, greed and danger. The breathtaking glamour and decadent excess of the Jazz Age come to the stage in F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, and in Simon Levy's adaptation, approved by the Fitzgerald Estate.

*By: Steve Martin*

Corky and Norm are excited to host Gerald and Laura at their home in the valley outside Los Angeles to watch a once-in-a-lifetime meteor shower. But as the stars come out and the conversation gets rolling, it becomes clear that Gerald and Laura might not be all that they appear to be. Over the course of a crazy, starlit dinner party, the wildly unexpected occurs. The couples begin to flirt and insanity reigns. Martin, using his trademark absurdist humor, bends the fluid nature of time and reality to create a surprising and unforgettably funny new play.

*book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro and music and lyrics by David Bryan*

Melvin Ferd, the Third, wants to clean up Tromaville, the most polluted town in New Jersey. Foiled by the mayor's bullies, Melvin is dumped into a vat of radioactive toxic waste, only to reemerge as *The Toxic Avenger*, New Jersey's first superhero. Affectionately known as Toxie, our new hero is a seven-foot mutant freak with superhuman strength and a heart as big as Newark. He's out to save New Jersey, end global warming, and woo the blind librarian in town. It's a toxic love story with an environmental twist! *The Toxic Avenger* will leave audiences laughing in the aisles as it rocks the house. Featuring a wailin' rock score, this comical musical has something for everyone to enjoy.

*By: Doug Wright*

From the author of *Quills* comes a deliciously macabre collection of four short plays. Alternately chilling and hilarious, UNWRAP YOUR CANDY is a delectable evening of bedtime tales for adults guaranteed to keep you awake for nights on end. Inspired in equal parts by Alfred Hitchcock, Roald Dahl and *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, the plays examine the danger of being a child, the terror of being an adult and even the perils of being an unsuspecting audience member. Spine-tinglers for the twenty-first century, these collected one acts in are guaranteed to jolt the senses and stimulate the mind.



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