

2023-2024 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON



THE REIF

PLAYBILL

APRIL 19, 2024
WILCOX THEATER



SPONSORED BY:



Minnesota
North College
Itasca



TRUE JOURNEY
Angela Tobeck
Senior Financial Advisor

PROUD TO BE YOUR
**COMMUNITY
BANK**



**GRAND RAPIDS
STATE BANK.**

• est 1914 •

MY COMMUNITY, MY BANK™ | grsb.bank





YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN THE
CAST, REGISTER TODAY!

3 WEEK SUMMER
THEATER WORKSHOP



REIF THEATER ARTS PRESENTS:

JACKIE & THE GREENSTALK

The truth behind the legend of Jack and the Beanstalk is brought to light in this hilarious courtroom drama. The character of the great Jack Growell, of the infamous beanstalk, has come into question. Now his granddaughter is on trial and at risk of losing the family legacy. The ferocious prosecutor, Nicoletta Vale is on a war path to prove that the Growell family consists entirely of crooks. Can Jackie clear her family name and save her grandparents from the sleeping spell that has them trapped? Join us this summer to find out. This three-week theater workshop will take students through the entire production process from auditions to casting to three performances on the main stage of the Reif. Everyone gets a part! If you are not comfortable in the spotlight, come work backstage! For students 3rd grade and up.

July 22 - August 11 | M-F 9AM-12PM

Performances: Aug. 9 at 7pm & Aug. 10 & 11 at 2pm

Instructor: Katie E. Smith | Location: Reif Center

Fee: \$150.00 (Before June 12) \$165.00 (After June 12)

For audition information
and to register visit
TheReif.org.

Questions? Email Katie
at ksmith@reifcenter.org
or call 218-327-5780.



Minnesota North College

Itasca

Minnesota North College – Itasca is committed to providing accessible, high-quality educational experiences in an inclusive environment that empowers our learners to pursue meaningful lives and productive careers.

www.minnesotanorth.edu



Angela Tobeck

Senior Financial Advisor

816 S. Pokegama Ave. Suite B
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Ph: 218-398-3929

angela.m.tobeck@truejourney.com

www.truejourney.com



TRUE JOURNEY
Invest In What Matters



Koo Koo was created by Bryan and Neil in 2008. They met four years prior as freshman at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN. After being in a campus rock band for the first few years of college, the guys created Koo Koo as an experimental project for SMU's annual battle of the bands. The idea centered around crowd participation, comedy and dance music, stretching the concept of a what a "band" could be.

The next few years saw Bryan and Neil touring throughout the midwest playing bars, basements and barbecues. Meanwhile they released their first few albums and music videos. In 2010 the band was chosen to support Orange County superhero rock band The Aquabats on their east coast tour. This turned into more support slots with Reel Big Fish and Yo Gabba Gabba Live. Meanwhile Koo Koo began creating "dance-a-

cont. p. 5





GAALAAS
ORTHODONTICS

Specialized care for children and adults

Peder A Gaalaas, DDS • Sara A Gaalaas, DDS, MS

Proud to support the arts

(218) 326-0377 • www.gaalaasorthodontics.com

280 NW 6th St, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Cap Baker Lions • Grand Rapids, MN



1922

2022

100 Years of Service

long” videos (initially as something of a joke) for their songs in order to help demonstrate the moves that audiences would need to know at their shows. These videos were unexpectedly a hit with elementary school teachers, which led Koo Koo into the world of children’s music and becoming a “real” kids band.

More domestic and international touring followed as the guys hit the road with The Vans Warped Tour, Frank Turner & Sleeping Souls, and MC Lars. Concept albums about cats, potty humor, self-help, holidays and Panera Bread added to the band’s discography. Simultaneously, the popularity of their “brain break” dance-a-long videos continued to skyrocket in classrooms around the world.



In 2021 Bryan and Neil released their first non-concept album since 2013, partnering with Twin Cities producer extraordinaire Lazerbeak. “Slow Clap” presents a more hip-hop-centric sound with plenty of grooving bass lines and monstrous drums, while retaining the catchy, weirdo-energy fans expect from the band.

Now they are ready to step into a new realm with their TV series “Oh Yeah Heck Yeah.” This fast-paced variety clip show features music videos, sketches, animation and interactive games in their irreverent, high-energy style. The first season consists of five ten minute episodes each premiering a brand new Koo Koo song and video. You can watch their self produced show on the Koo Koo YouTube channel.

More shows, videos, podcast episodes and antics are yet to come! We hope you’ll join in on the fun as we write the next chapter of Koo Koo.



LET'S MAKE SOME

MUSIC CAMP



TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

6/18/24 - 6/27/24

Ages 0-4: 9:45am-10:30am

Ages PreK - Entering grade 2: 11:00am-11:45am



Set your child up for success in this hands-on music camp for early learners! This camp combines creative play, catchy tunes, and fun games to give your child a meaningful musical experience. We will explore musical ideas with different instruments, activities, and themes.

Location: Reif Center, Grand Rapids
Fee: \$40

To register, contact the Reif Box Office
boxoffice@reifcenter.org or call 218-327-5780.

TRAVEL LEADERS®
travel better



816 S POKEGAMA AVE, SUITE A
GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744

218-327-2901

www.TRAVELLEADERS.COM/GRANDRAPIDSMN

Expertise
You Can Trust

Our agency has the training and connections to ensure your travel experiences exceed your expectations.

Enjoy customized itineraries, select privileges, negotiated values and upgrades on the top cruise lines and luxury hotels in the world.

**Contact our agents for
your exceptional journey
and discover what it
means to Travel Better.**

The TheaterWorksUSA Experience!

Behind the Scenes – April, 2024
by: John Miller, Technical Director



**Technical Director
John Miller**

Mother Nature can be a cruel and capricious companion for the Northland. We enjoyed an atypical winter with very little snow and above average temperatures, which makes our life a lot easier when we are loading in performances. But eventually it had to happen. We had a TheaterWorksUSA production of *Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical* (CKCC: TM) scheduled for March 26, 2024, got hit by a blizzard and ISD 318 closed the schools for two days!

Originally, this article was going to be about loading in, setting up and performing CKCC: TM for two packed audiences of local students. But now I'd like to talk about the TheaterWorksUSA (TWUSA) experience. We've had TWUSA productions here at the Reif Center for as long as I can remember and now I don't even need to look at their Technical Rider when we book them. When I hear it's a TWUSA production I know what time they will arrive, how much crew they need, what sound needs to be set up and what they will need for lighting!



TWUSA was founded in New York City in 1961 with the mission, "Create exceptional, transformative theatrical experiences that are accessible to young and family audiences in diverse communities throughout New York City and North America." TWUSA is known for their delightful adaptations of children's books, from the classic *Charlotte's Web* to newer titles like *Junie B. Jones* and *Pete The Cat*. Many young actors, directors and writers began their careers at TWUSA, their alumni include Jesse Tyler Ferguson, F. Murray Abraham and Henry Winkler.

The TheaterWorksUSA Experience!

Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical arrived at 7am in a tall cargo van as the snow fell and the wind howled! Greg shoveled the snow around the loading dock because the school hadn't plowed yet. At this point we knew that schools were going to have a delayed start, but we decided to load in because we thought we might still have a 12:30pm performance.

cont. p. 11

MPRnews

MPRNEWS.ORG | 91.3 FM



**MINNESOTA NOW
WITH CATHY WURZER
WEEKDAYS AT NOON.**

**MPR NEWS
WITH ANGELA DAVIS
WEEKDAYS AT 9:00 A.M.**

**Community
is more than
a place.**

**It's a way
of life.**



Mr. Charles K. Blandin

Mr. Blandin was personally committed to the Itasca County area. His passion for this place has fueled the Foundation's legacy for 80 years – for the ecosystem, economy and education.

Today, we balance stories of our past with horizons of a strong future.

Like Mr Blandin, the generosity of Reif donors, propels that future.

Together, we show the “spirit of helpfulness to one’s fellow man” Mr. Blandin knew gives our area its distinctive character. We build toward opportunities, where all rural people can choose their future.

**We work best
when we work
together.**



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

blandinfoundation.org





MacRostie Art Center

Inspiring a creative community.

EXHIBITIONS | CLASSES | ART SHOP



macrostieartcenter.org | 218.326.2697

Count on us to give you our best.

Real estate transactions require focus, follow through, and, above all, experience. Our seasoned, expert staff will guide your transaction from start to finish, regardless of complexity. For abstracting, title work, or closings, count on us to give you our best.



Abstract Service
COMPANY

111 NW 5th Street, Grand Rapids, MN | 218.326.9010
abstractservice.com





Greg Johnson shovels snow at 6:30am for Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical load in!

All the sets, props, sound equipment and costumes are tightly packed into the van along with the luggage for the cast and crew, generally 5-7 performers and a stage manager. TWUSA have some amazing designers and set builders on their team! They get so much scenery into that van! It must take a great deal of work to design, build it and figure out how to make it all fit! I will probably date myself here, but if you ever played Tetris, it's a lot like that!



Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical load in. Note the blizzard and everyone bundled up! This van is typical of what every TWUSA production travels in.

I'll reveal a few of their tricks that I've seen on almost every production. There is no wasted space, smaller pieces of scenery and props get packed into the open space on bigger set pieces. If the set includes flats (painted wall sections of scenery usually constructed of wood and canvas) they are built with welded metal frames covered with wood. Not only is this more durable for touring but they are thinner than typical flats and take up less space in the van. Every production travels with a full stage cloth backdrop. Unlike most productions where we would hang the backdrop on one of our line sets, they travel with metal frame that assembles and is self-supporting. None of their scenery is ever designed to "fly" in and out, I'm guessing it allows them to tour to smaller venues that may not have a fly system where scenery can be hung and flown. Nearly all the scenery is

on castors making it easier to load and unload, and move around on stage to create different locations needed for the performance.

One great thing about TWUSA is the cast does most of the unloading and set up! We usually only have 2 crew people helping and unloading and setting up usually happens in about an hour! Taking down goes even quicker!



ITASCA RELIABLE
Insurance Agency, Inc

Our Experienced Agents are
Committed to Our Community
and Your Needs!

Choice You Deserve.
Service You Trust.



AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • HEALTH

1121 Hwy 169 East • Grand Rapids, MN
218-326-8518 • 1-800-873-1471

Visit Our Website for On-line Quotes. www.itascareliableinsurance.com

THE GRAND RAPIDS PLAYERS
**Summer
Theatre Camp**

Camp runs June 10-June 29

More information at

www.grplayers.com/stc24



Oak Hill
ASSISTED LIVING



Disney • PIXAR
**FINDING
NEMO
JR.**

Book, Music and Lyrics by
Kristen Anderson-Lopez
and Robert Lopez

Book Adapted by
Lindsay Anderson

Music and Orchestrations
Adapted and Arranged by
Myrna Conn

Based on the 2003 Disney / Pixar film Finding Nemo written by
Andrew Stanton, Bob Peterson, David Reynolds
and directed by Andrew Stanton

Disney's Finding Nemo JR. is presented through
special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

As the set is being assembled their Stage Manager and I work on setting up sound while Melanie and Greg refocus lights as needed.

TWUSA travels with their own self-contained sound system but here at the Reif they rarely use it. They travel with a rack that contains all the receivers for their wireless microphones and we can tie those into our own sound system. The Stage Manager will mute and unmute the microphones for the performers and run the sound for the show off a laptop.



*Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical Stage Manager
Zoe Paraskevopoulos at the Reif soundboard prior to
sound check.*

Like the scenery, the lighting needs for TWUSA are very flexible to match the venue they are performing in. For venues with limited lighting they can perform with just a simple wash of lights. For venues with greater capabilities, the Stage Manager provides a cue list with descriptions of the lighting looks they want. We have state of the art lighting here at the Reif and we give them more than they expect! We like it when we point out that we have a mirror ball all set up and ready to go and they decide to work it into a cue!

Back to the blizzard! We were nearly done with assembling the set when we got word that ISD 318 had closed schools for the day. After a quick meeting with the Reif staff we decided to finish setting up until we heard from schools outside the district and non ISD 318 schools. The cast relaxed in the green room and had some lunch, luckily ISD 318 food service was still working! Eventually we got word that all the schools we were expecting had cancelled. We briefly toyed with the idea of them staying over a day, but due to a conflict on our stage it wasn't possible. Around 1pm the cast and crew took it all down and packed it into the van. Everyone was very understanding, but we were disappointed. It was going to be a great show!

I always look forward to having a TWUSA tour. I know what to expect and their cast and crew are friendly and professional. On Tuesday, April 30th TheaterWorksUSA will be performing *Charlotte's Web*.

These Student Matinees are not open to the public, but there are a couple of ways you may be able to attend. If your child's class will be attending, ask if you can accompany them as a chaperone! If you homeschool you can also purchase tickets for yourself and your children. If you are a teacher or a homeschool parent and would like more information visit www.reifcenter.org/student-matinees.

The Reif has a great line up of Student Matinees for the 2024-2025 season, including a number of TheaterWorksUSA productions. Ask your children's teachers if they can include a fun (and educational) trip to the Reif Center!

Michael Martin Murphey

Thursday, May 2 @ 7pm

The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Reif Dance: Spring Show

Fri, Sat, Sun, June 7-8-9

7pm | 2pm | The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Greg Kaczor

Thursday, June 13 @ 7PM

FREE concert, Hibbing's Bennett Park

Raised on Radio: The Music of Journey & Bon Jovi

Friday, June 14 @ 7PM

Pavilion at the Yanmar Arena

Takin' It to the Limit: An Eagles Tribute with Collective Unconscious and the Fabulous Armadillos

Thursday, June 20 @ 7PM

Pavilion at the Yanmar Arena

Twist of Fate

Friday, July 5 @ 7PM

BOAT-IN FREE concert,

Pokegama Lake, Sugar Bay

*Enter coordinates in Google Maps to find the place: 47°12'23.8"N 93°37'46.9"W***Adessa & The Beat**

Saturday, July 6 @ 7PM

BOAT-IN FREE concert, Prairie Lake

*Enter coordinates in Google Maps to find the place: 47.293832, -93.528146***Christopher David****Hanson Band**

Thursday, July 11 @ 7PM

FREE concert, Hibbing's Bennett Park

Reif Repertory Theater Presents: Little Shop of Horrors

July 11-14 @ 7PM & 2PM

The Reif, Wilcox Theater

Takin' it to the Streets: Doobie Brothers Tribute with Collective Unconscious and the Fabulous Armadillos

Thursday, July 25 @ 7PM

Pavilion at the Yanmar Arena

Chase & Ovation Celebrating the Music of Prince LIVE!

Thursday, August 1 @ 7PM

Pavilion at the Yanmar Arena

Adessa & The Beat

Thursday, August 8 @ 7PM

FREE concert, Hibbing's Bennett Park

Reif Theater Arts Presents: Jackie and the Greenstalk

August 9-11 @ 7PM& 2pm

The Reif, Wilcox Theater

**TICKETS**

TheReif.org | 218-327-5780

AT THE BOX OFFICE: 11AM - 4PM



-ASK US!
**WE FURNISH THE LEGACY
 OF WOOD STRUCTURES**

SCHROEDER LOG HOME SUPPLY, INC.
 Exterior Wood Stains • Sealants • Swedish Axes




1101 SE 7th Ave.
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
www.loghelp.com

Grand Rapids/Itasca Co.
 Gordon Newstrom Airport

LaPrairie

Capture the Timeless Beauty of Natural Grain

**PROUDLY SUPPORTING
 LOCAL ARTISTS**




NORTHERN LAKES
 DENTAL

218-326-2901 | 520 NW 5TH STREET | GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744
WWW.NLDENTALOFGRANDRAPIDS.COM

GENERAL INFORMATION

BUY TICKETS... NO FEES!



ONLINE: **TheReif.org**

MCMAHON BOX OFFICE:
MON-FRI: **11am to 4pm** AND
ONE HOUR PRIOR TO ALL EVENTS

PHONE: **218-327-5780**

**Please note there are no fees to purchase tickets.
If you would like your tickets mailed, shipping
and handling is \$2.00 per order.*

BUY EARLY AND SAVE!

Don't wait until the day of the show. Get your tickets early and **save \$5 per ticket.**

DISCOUNTS...



- Group discount of **10%** for 10 or more people (use code GROUP10 on eligible shows), **20%** for 20 or more people (use code GROUP20 on eligible shows) or call 218-327-5780 to secure groups
- Buy 3 or more events at one time and save **10% on your order** (use code SAVE10 on eligible shows)

Enjoy new student pricing on most Reif events.

\$11 tickets for all students (birth thru college*)

*valid ID required for college students

STAY CONNECTED!

Visit TheReif.org and join our email list to get Reif news, information and special ticket offers delivered to your mailbox!

REIF MISSION

To stimulate arts in Northern Minnesota.

Underlying principles that guide this mission include the Reif Arts Council's responsibility to provide a healthy organization and a well-managed facility in which a wide variety of visual and performing arts may be experienced, exhibited, and taught.

2023 - 2024

REIF ARTS COUNCIL BOARD

Myrna Peterson, *Board Chair*

Joni Namyst, *Vice Chair*

Tricia Sterle, *Secretary*

Angela Tobeck, *Treasurer*

Michelle Arnhold Davies

Jon Arntson

Katie Cargill

Adam Geibner

Mindy Nuhring, *ISD #318 Rep.*

Heather Pederson

Robert Ward, Jr.

Follow us on social media





IMAGINE SOMETHING MORE

When neighbors, friends and families come together,
we do great things. That's why we celebrate the hard work
and dedication it takes to strengthen our communities.
It's people like you who make this place unlike any other.

LIKE NOWHERE ELSESM



Essentia Health

Join our team: [EssentiaCareers.org](https://www.essentialcareers.org)



PROUD TO SUPPORT THE STAGE.

At Woodland Bank, our mission is to support our strong, vibrant community. The arts are a vital component of that, and that's why we're proud to support the Reif Center. Local people supporting local people. It's what we do!

Bank easy. Bank local. Bank Woodland.



Woodland Bank

woodland.bank
218.327.4000

Ask for **Kasasa**

