



PROVIDENCE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER'S

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY : 2022





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT

It has been a challenging two years since PPAC's last Report to the Community. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to our committed Board of Directors, valuable staff, devoted volunteer ushers, loyal patrons and dedicated donors for your steadfast support.

For almost 95 years, PPAC has been a cultural and artistic gem for Providence and the State of Rhode Island. Today, the Theatre thrives by breathing life, vibrancy and economic gain into the region, honoring the cultural tapestry of the Ocean State and inspiring generations of people. We are especially proud of the lasting impact PPAC has on the local community through outreach initiatives and ongoing restoration projects.

The Report to the Community is a means of staying connected by informing you of our initiatives, achievements and progress. We want to communicate our mission to the public – to serve, preserve and maintain – and, more importantly, celebrate PPAC's strong commitment to our community. Recent highlights of our work include:

- ★ PPAC hosted two sold out weeks of the blockbuster musical HAMILTON in December 2021. In an independent third party study, the total direct economic impact for Rhode Island was estimated at over \$5.5 million.
- ★ We are grateful for our subscribers who renewed their Broadway tickets and all the new theater lovers who joined during a time when shows were on hold at PPAC.
- ★ Experience PPAC and Arts Showcase went completely virtual since Spring 2020. This expanded the reach of the programs to additional students and made it easier to incorporate the performances into classroom learning.
- ★ PPAC and Disney Musical in Schools have partnered with four Providence and Pawtucket elementary schools to assist teachers and students to create their first school musical. This experience will culminate with a student performance on our stage in June 2022.
- ★ Artists are staying safe on the road and patrons' improved confidence levels are resulting in increased ticket sales. We are announcing new shows frequently and PPAC is excited to kick off our COOL SUMMER NIGHTS concert series this summer.
- ★ PPAC is well known in theater circles for launching national tours. Last October, we opened PRETTY WOMAN: THE MUSICAL and we launch TINA – THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL in September. It is an economic boost for PPAC as well as Providence and you get to see these shows before anyone else outside of New York City!

With your sustained patronage and support, PPAC continues to successfully uphold our mission to the community. We strongly encourage you to visit us online at [pppacri.org](http://pppacri.org) and follow us on [facebook.com/ProvPacRI](https://facebook.com/ProvPacRI) and [twitter.com/ProvPacRI](https://twitter.com/ProvPacRI).

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Walsh, Esq.  
Chairman, PPAC's Board of Directors

J.L. "Lynn" Singleton  
President & CEO

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## PPAC'S MISSION IS THREE-FOLD

1

To serve the entertainment needs of the State's various populations by presenting the widest possible variety of high quality arts and cultural events

2

To preserve the historic integrity and beauty of the building

3

To maintain fiscal responsibility

PPAC is a non-profit organization with an ongoing commitment to give back to and demonstrate arts leadership in the community by:

• Presenting community programs

• Providing resources to local non-profits

• Engaging in community collaborations

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Every dollar donated to PPAC's Annual Fund and raised through the Theatre's Gala Celebration is used to support our Community Outreach Initiative. Each year, this Initiative brings theater to life for thousands of audience members and emerging artists by making available low or no-cost programming.

ARTS Scholarships

Arts Showcase

Big Dreams Begin with Broadway  
*(Seats for Big Brothers  
Big Sisters of Rhode Island)*

Disney Musicals  
in Schools

Experience PPAC

From Books to Broadway

Next Stop BROADWAY®

Seats for Service Members

Sensory-Friendly  
Performances

Wonders of the Wurlitzer

**Coming 2022/23**  
Ocean State Star Awards

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## GALA CELEBRATION

Each season, PPAC's Gala Celebration brings together over 600 supporters from within our community for an elegant evening of entertainment and spectacular food prepared by some of Rhode Island's top restaurants and catering companies. Contributions to the Gala Celebration support PPAC's Community Outreach Initiative which brings theater to life for thousands of audience members and emerging artists by making available low or no-cost programming.

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## PPAC GALA HISTORY

1978 Ethel Merman	1979 Dionne Warwick	1980 Andy Williams	1981 Sandler & Young	1982 Sergio Franchi	1983 Ben Vereen
1984 Tony Bennett	1985 Marvin Hamlisch	1987 CATS	1988 Liza Minnelli	1989 Les Misérables	1991 Starlight Express
1992 Music of Andrew Lloyd Weber	1993 Julio Iglesias	1994 Will Rogers Follies	1995 Phantom Masked Ball	1997 Miss Saigon	1998 Riverdance
2000 Disney's Beauty & The Beast	2000 Irish Tenors	2002 Aida	2003 Hairspray	2004 The Producers	2005 Disney's The Lion King
2007 Wicked	2008 Liza Minnelli	2008 Dolly Parton	2010 Jersey Boys	2010 Radio City Christmas Spectacular	2012 Mary Poppins
2013 The Phantom of The Opera	2015 Jay Leno	2016 Kristin Chenoweth	2017 Billy Crystal	2018 Steve Martin & Martin Short	2019 Hamilton



2022  
Josh Groban

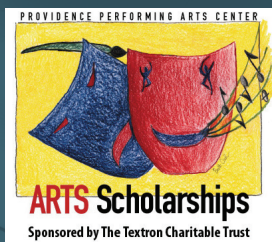




# CURRENT PROGRAMS

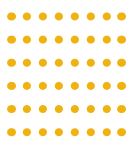
## ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 1996, PPAC's ARTS Scholarships program has opened doorways to the arts for talented Rhode Island students by providing financial assistance to enroll in local, summer education programs spanning the breadth of artistic pursuits. Each year, a minimum of 30 scholarships are awarded to students aged 11 – 14. By providing opportunity when many students' interests and capacities are rapidly evolving and coalescing, the Scholarships program provides critical access to the cultivation of creative thinking, confidence and self-awareness unique to artistic endeavors. Since the program's inception, PPAC has granted almost \$300,000 in scholarships to over 600 middle school students and counting!



## ARTS SHOWCASE

Each year, the Arts Showcase enables approximately 10,000 elementary and middle school students to attend PPAC during regular school hours to experience the joy and creativity of live theater. Performed on the PPAC stage by local professional performing arts groups, the Arts Showcase is designed to entertain, educate and inspire student audiences in new ways. Since the program's inception in 1998, more than 200,000 Rhode Island students have attended and enjoyed underwritten live performances at PPAC! Due to COVID-19, Arts Showcase live performances were pre-recorded at PPAC for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons and virtually distributed at no cost to all Rhode Island students grades K-8.



## EXPERIENCE PPAC

Experience PPAC creates the opportunity for every 10th grade student in Rhode Island to see a select touring Broadway performance at no cost including transportation, making participation accessible to every student. Show study guides are provided to schools prior to their specified performance so that they can engage in the educational material and creative concepts prior to attending. Due to COVID-19, PPAC selected four amazing, pre-recorded performances to share virtually for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons. These titles tie to the 10th grade curriculum but the programming was made available to all high school students for viewing in the classroom. Additionally, PPAC selected four Broadway shows from our Spring 2022 season to provide 75 students and their plus-one adult with an in-person theater performance.



## NEXT STOP BROADWAY

Next Stop BROADWAY® transports local theater-loving youth ages 10-17 to the "Golden Age of Broadway." Through workshops, classes and rehearsals, they tap their creativity, hone their skills and cultivate their passions in the collaborative context of the ensemble – all in one of the nation's foremost independent theaters! This five-day, rigorous immersion into the music and choreography of iconic chorus numbers culminates in an "Opening Night" performance on the PPAC stage for their families and friends.



## WONDERS OF THE WURLITZER

PPAC's one-of-a-kind 1927 Wurlitzer theater pipe organ is one of only three of its kind left in the country and the only fully functioning Wurlitzer of that group! Due to COVID-19, PPAC and House Organist Peter Edwin Krasinski began producing virtual Wurlitzer concerts in October 2020. The first virtual performance was a unique, improvised accompaniment on the Mighty Wurlitzer to the 1925 silent film *The Phantom of The Opera*, followed by special performances for the Christmas holiday season and Valentine's Day as well as a unique concert presentation for the Arts Showcase. These free concerts are accessible anytime at [ppacri.org/wurlitzer](http://ppacri.org/wurlitzer).

WONDERS OF  
THE WURLITZER  
THEATRE CONCERT SERIES



During the winter of 2020/21, PPAC installed new, custom terra cotta tiles and exterior lighting to the Theatre's Weybosset Street façade. This is the first time the façade has ever undergone a restoration project. The meticulous and historically accurate restoration and installation was performed by Consigli Construction with beautiful lighting designed by Evelyn Audet Lighting Design, LLC. Preserve RI and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission honored PPAC with a Rhody Award for a Historic Preservation Project.



Façade photo by CORE Photographic. Tile detail photo by Robert Umenhofer.



Due to Rhode Island government imposed COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 through the end of calendar year 2021. We look forward to returning to our normal programming in 2022.



# PROGRAMS RETURNING THIS SEASON

## DISNEY MUSICALS IN SCHOOLS

In 2019, PPAC was selected as an affiliate organization for Disney Musicals in Schools which creates sustainable musical theater programs in under-resourced elementary schools. This season, we are working with schools in Providence and Pawtucket. They are provided with free performance materials, professional development and in-school support from professional PPAC teaching artists to produce a 30-minute Disney KIDS musical at their school. Disney Musicals in Schools culminates with students performing at a Student Share Event on PPAC's stage in June.



## FROM BOOKS TO BROADWAY

From Books to Broadway exposes middle and high school students to the Theatre by providing underwritten tickets to Broadway shows combined with a cast member "meet and greet." The program brings Broadway show information into the schools in a way that emphasizes the show's educational aspects as well as information about production values, costumes and other theater topics. Visiting cast members discuss their education, experience and how they entered touring theatricals; in some cases, the cast members may even demonstrate some of their skills.



## SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCES

In partnership with The Autism Project and the Theatre Development Fund, PPAC's sensory-friendly performances create a guest experience that is welcoming, judgment free and inclusive of guests with a wide range of sensory, learning and physical differences. These performances are perfect for young children and guests who might benefit from a more relaxed theatrical environment.





tions, these Community Outreach programs were put on hold from March  
ard to once again welcoming back these great programs to PPAC in 2022.

## BIG DREAMS BEGIN WITH BROADWAY

Big Dreams Begin with Broadway offers prime orchestra seats for Broadway or Encore performances throughout the season to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island (BBBS) to distribute to their “bigs” (mentors) and “littles” (children). For many children in the BBBS program, this may be the very first time they get to experience live theater or their first visit to PPAC.



## SEATS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

PPAC's Seats for Service Members program gives members of the Rhode Island National Guard/USO New England and their families the opportunity to experience live theater first-hand by providing underwritten “preferred seating” to the Theatre's Broadway performances throughout the year. PPAC created the Seats for Service Members program as a means to express the community's gratitude and appreciation for our service members' outstanding sacrifices and courageous efforts.



## OCEAN STATE STAR AWARDS

PPAC's Ocean State Star Awards celebrates the achievements of students, teachers and designers involved in high school musical theater programs. To participate, schools register to have their production reviewed by a qualified team of adjudicators. During the spring of each review period, PPAC will host an award showcase to recognize the outstanding achievements of high school musical theater productions and students that is modeled after the Tony Awards®. The Ocean State Star Awards becomes a feeder program to the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, also known as The Jimmy Awards in New York City. (New! Coming 2022/23)



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