

PROGRAM

BARTELL COMMUNITY THEATRE

TAKE YOUR SEATS
FOR OUR
2024-2025
SEASON

FEATURING OUR RESIDENT COMPANIES



MADISON
THEATRE
GUILD



MADISON'S HOME FOR THEATRE
SINCE 1998

WHO WE ARE

The Gerald A. Bartell Community Theatre Foundation is a unique collaboration between its member theatre companies. Founded in 1998 by six community theatre groups, the Bartell's mission is to provide a space for its member companies and other community art groups to perform in and call home.

Within our walls, Madison artists tell stories about themselves and their world. Audience members are transformed, enlightened, entertained, and invited into the conversation about who and what this community is.

The Foundation is arranged in a co-op style--practically unique in the United States--and is governed by a board of directors. The Foundation currently supports five full-time resident companies: Madison Theatre Guild, Madison Shakespeare Company, Mercury Players Theatre, StageQ, and Strollers Theatre.

ABOUT OUR SPACES

The building the Bartell Foundation calls home was built in 1906 and has been everything from a dance academy, tavern, barber shop, bowling ally, and a movie theatre. In 1994, the Foundation was formed and acquired the building. Thousands of hours of volunteer labor and countless donations and in-kind contributions from contractors later, the space you see today was created.



DRURY STAGE

Often called our "upstairs theatre," the Drury Stage is a traditional proscenium space seating 199 + 4 wheelchair spaces. The space is ADA accessible through a lift that can be accessed from the rear of the lobby and features full lighting, audio, and movie projection capabilities.



EVJUE STAGE

Often called our "downstairs theatre," the Evjue Stage is a black-box style space with modular seating that can be set in various configurations with seating up to 96. An intimate and flexible space that features lighting and audio systems able to accommodate any configuration.

WANT TO RENT THE BARTELL FOR YOUR OWN SHOW, WEDDING, OR EVENT?

Inquire about rentals, call 608-204-0280 or email info@bartelltheatre.org.

**WE HAVE WAY MORE SHOWS EACH SEASON THAN WE CAN PRINT HERE.
BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN FOR SHOW ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TOURING ARTISTS AND LOCAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS!**

OUR RESIDENTS



MADISON THEATRE GUILD

founded in 1946

Madison Theatre Guild (MTG) is Madison's oldest community theatre group, with nearly 400 productions for all ages in its illustrious history. MTG is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to ensuring opportunities for people of all ages and experience levels. MTG's productions range from classic musicals to contemporary dramas and everything in between.

STROLLERS THEATRE

founded in 1957



Founded in 1957 as the "St James Players," Strollers Theatre is a volunteer-led, membership-based, community theater dedicated to producing high-quality productions at affordable prices. With a focus on classical drama such as Agatha Christie, Neil Simon, and Arthur Miller, Strollers's seasons range from Shakespeare to contemporary authors like Lauren Gunderson and David Mamet.

MERCURY PLAYERS THEATRE

founded in 1994



Mercury Players specializes in new, unusual, and original plays with a leaning towards black comedy and surprise. Their annual Holiday Panto and New Year's Eve Blitz are now community staples. Whether written by famous playwrights or by homegrown, local talent, there is no such thing as a show that "doesn't fit" with Mercury.

STAGEQ

founded in 2001



StageQ is dedicated to celebrating and advancing LGBTQ representation by producing plays and musicals by queer artists. Led by an all-volunteer board, StageQ has produced sell-out shows that challenge perceptions and champion diversity through lavish musicals, intimate dramas, or their long-running Pride Month short play festivals. StageQ is a member of the National Queer Theatre Alliance.

MADISON SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

founded in 2011



Madison Shakespeare Company is dedicated to the production and performance of classic theatrical works for audiences in the Madison, Wisconsin area. The company produces both full-length works and short-form performances including their signature Valentine's Day productions and Shakespeare in the Park series.

FALL 2024



GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S PATIENCE

written by Arthur Sullivan & W.S. Gilbert

All of the maidens in the village are besotted with Reginald, a moody and handsome poet, but he has eyes only for the simple milkmaid, Patience. The problem? Bunthorne's artistic ways are all just an act to attract women to him--he doesn't even like poetry! One of Gilbert & Sullivan's most successful shows, Patience is a rollicking satire that pits the straight-laced ideals of the Victorian era against the passions and indulgences of the 1870s Aesthetic Movement.

August 2 - 11, 2024

Musical Operetta, Satire | Evjue Stage

COMEDY NIGHT AT THE BARTELL!



The funniest standup comics in the region perform LIVE in the intimate setting of the Evjue Theatre for two nights only! See comedy as it was meant to be seen: in a theatre, not a noisy bar. (But the Bartell Lobby Bar WILL be open!) Hosted by local standup favorite Robert Helfinstine.

September 20 - 21, 2024

Stand-Up Comedy | Evjue Stage

THE AMAZING ACRO-CATS!

presented by Rock Cats Rescue



This troupe of trained domestic house cats, all former orphans, rescues, and strays, give a one-of-a-kind purrformance that includes riding skateboards, jumping through hoops, and performing other feats of agility and entertainment. The Acro-Cats tour to support Rock Cats Rescue, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.

October 9 - 13, 2024

Cats! | Drury Stage

THE STOPS

written by Eric Lane Barnes

Rose, Ginny, & Euglena are church organists from different denominations touring the Midwest to sing about love, acceptance, The Great Flood, and pot lucks! Their favorite Christian songwriter and organist has been fired from his job at the Quad Cities Faith Tabernacle for being gay, and they're here to raise awareness and money for his defense. Featuring three-part harmonies, an exploration of faith, and middle-aged church lady drag, "The Stops" is a musical with heart.. and casseroles!



August 30 - September 14, 2024

Musical Comedy | Evjue Stage

SLOHTROP MUSIC
AND THE
BARTELL COMMUNITY THEATRE
PRESENT

NEW FOR 2024!



A NASHVILLE-STYLE, ALL-ACOUSTIC,
WRITERS-IN-THE-ROUND CONCERT SERIES.

WRITER'S BLOCK

A SONGWRITERS
IN THE ROUND

AUGUST 8, 2024 * NOVEMBER 21, 2024
FEBURARY TBD, 2025 * MAY 15, 2025

TICKETS: \$15 STUDENTS, \$20 ADULTS

NEW FOR 2024!

Bartell film Series

The Bartell returns to its movie theatre roots with a new monthly film series of movies and documentaries kicking off in October 2024.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY MATINEES | BREW-N-VIEWS | LATE-NIGHT SHOWS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

7PM - THE BIG LEBOWSKI

BREW-N-VIEW

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

FAMILY FRIENDLY SHOWING

2PM - DISNEY'S HOCUS POCUS

6:30PM - ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S PSYCHO - DIRECTOR'S CUT

9PM - DISNEY'S HOCUS POCUS LATE-NIGHT GROWN UP FUN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024

FAMILY FRIENDLY SHOWING

3PM - ELF

7PM - IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

HOLIDAY CLASSIC

Check out our website for complete list of dates and films as they are announced.

Bartell Film Series is made possible, in part, through generous grants and partnerships from the Evjue Foundation and the Wisconsin Film Festival.

FALL/WINTER 2024

THE PLAY: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE COLLYER BROTHERS

written by Finn Gallagher*



The real-life Collyer Brothers of Harlem, famously reclusive millionaire hoarders, wanted nothing more than to be left alone with their 140 ton "collection." After suffering a stroke, Homer was left blind and paralyzed, reliant on his brother, Langley, to care for him. Langley and Homer have very different opinions on their solitude, their collection, and the newspaper reporters knocking at the door, but they're stuck together. That is, until Langley dies suddenly, and Homer is left to starve.

October 11 - 26, 2024

Drama | Evjue Stage

THE BLUE COMET

written by Eden Phillpotts



The Bedale family of Hampstead has three big problems:
Expenses exceed income...
...a rogue comet is about to crash into the Earth...
...and their Australian relation is coming to visit.
It all adds up to one terribly polite comedy about the end of the world.

November 1 - 9, 2024

Comedy | Drury Stage

TO BE ANNOUNCED

written by TBD

Coming Soon!



November 1 - 16, 2024

TBD | Drury Stage

SCOOBY-DOO! AND A PANTO TOO!

written by Patrick Mahoney, Madeline Dooher and Heidi Hakseth*



Jinkies! A mysterious Phantom is haunting the Bartell Theater and it is up to Scooby-Doo and the Mystery Gang to save the day. Help your favorite cartoon crime solvers uncover the truth and have a whole lot of fun while doing it! IMMATURE AUDIENCES ONLY! PARENTAL DISCRETION DISCOURAGED!

December 13 - 28, 2024

Comedy | Drury Stage

WINTER 2025

BALL DROP BLITZ 2024

A Co-Production of Mercury Players and KnowBetter Productions



For the 9th year, a group of writers, directors, and actors meet on December 30th to pick names, titles, and writing challenges out of a hat. Just 24 hours from pick-to-page-to-stage! Proceeds – as always – will benefit the Bartell, so ring in the New Year with a good time for a good cause!

December 31, 2024

24-Hour Play Festival | Drury Stage

TO BE ANNOUNCED

written by TBD

Coming Soon!



January 24 - February 8

TBD | Evjue Stage

FAIRVIEW

written by Jackie Sibblies Drury

What begins as a typical family drama transforms into a deconstruction of white perspective in real time. A Black middle-class family is getting ready for their grandmother's birthday dinner. In a twist, white actors enter the fray, first as voices, and then as characters — Black characters, played by white actors. The effect is outrageous, cringeworthy, and an expression of the Black experience in white-dominated spaces and a forthright critique of the white gaze.



February 7 - 22, 2025

Comedy | Drury Stage

A VALENTINE'S LOVE AFFAIR 2025: LOVE SCENES FROM SHAKESPEARE AND BEYOND

written by William Shakespeare (and Shakes-peers!)



"Sweet love, renew thy force!" Celebrate Valentine's Day this uniquely Madison way, with more classic tales of love and passion from William Shakespeare and his contemporaries. AVA 2025 features history's greatest lovers, seducers, and schemers. You'll see familiar faces and unconventional suitors in scenes of romance and heartache, plus the unpredictable fun of Sonnets From a Hat.

February 12 - 15, 2025

Comedy, Drama | Evjue Stage

YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS COMMUNITY THEATRE ALIVE!

THE MORE WE RECIEVE IN DONATIONS,
THE CHEAPER WE CAN MAKE RENTAL
COSTS TO COMMUNITY GROUPS!

THE BARTELL GIVES COUNTLESS
COMMUNITY GROUPS A HOME TO PERFORM
THEIR ART AND GIVES COUNTLESS MORE
COMMUNITY MEMBERS A FINACIALLY
ACCESSIBLE HOME TO SEE ART LIVE ON STAGE.

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE
TO DONATE TODAY!



BARTELLTHEATRE.ORG/DONATE



WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

written by Agatha Christie



A rich older woman has been murdered. Her young male friend is on trial for her death. His wife has been called to defend him. But her shocking testimony will rock the courts in a way only the Queen of Mystery Agatha Christie can spin. Generally regarded as one of Christie's most accomplished plays, this suspenseful thriller keeps audiences guessing until the deadly end.

March 14 - 22, 2025

Suspense Thriller | Drury Stage

BECKY'S NEW CAR

written by Steven Dietz



Becky is working too many late nights at the auto dealership. Her roofer husband has yet to fix the leak in their own roof, and their adult son is still in college and living in their basement. Then one night a widowed, car-shopping millionaire bumbles into her life and changes it forever. Ride shotgun on this hilarious misadventure into the what-if - and brace yourself for the curves!

March 28 - April 12, 2025

Comedy | Drury Stage

LIZZIE

music and lyrics by Steven Cheslik-deMeyer; lyrics and book by Tim Maner
music and additional lyrics by Alan Stevens Hewitt



In the summer 1892, Andrew Borden and his wife are found murdered in their house. The main suspect in the murders is Andrew's youngest daughter from a previous marriage, Lizzie Borden. Using a searing rock score, and based on the historical record, LIZZIE explores the heady and heated days leading up to the murder and Lizzie's controversial acquittal of all charges and the creation of a new American myth.

April 18 - May 3, 2025

Rock Musical | Drury Stage



HENRY THE FIFTH

written by William Shakespeare



"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers." The young and wild Prince Hal is now King in his own right. At home, he is widely revered for rallying overmatched English forces to monumental victory. On the international stage, he is deeply reviled for his ambition and aggression. This modern production shows the man and the king, whose short reign set England on the path to decades of chaos and infighting.

May 2 - 10, 2025

Drama | Evjue Stage

A HOUSE NOT MEANT TO STAND

written by Tennessee Williams



Christmas 1982: Cornelius and Bella McCorkle of Pascagoula, Mississippi, return one stormy midnight from the funeral of their older son to a house and a life literally falling apart - daughter Joanie is in an asylum and their younger son Charlie is upstairs having sex with his pregnant, holy-roller girlfriend as the McCorkles enter. In this dark, expressionistic comedy, what he called his "Southern Gothic Spook Sonata," Williams brilliantly chronicles the fragile state of our world.

May 9 - 24, 2025

Dark Comedy | Drury Stage

CAPITALQ FESTIVAL 2025



Join us for our annual Pride Month celebration when StageQ takes over both Bartell Theatre stages for one weekend to present brand new play readings, 10-minute shorts, and one-act plays by up-and-coming queer playwrights from around the country. Along with FREE workshops and masterclasses where you can learn about all aspects of theatre, we will celebrate Pride the best way we know how: highlighting new, queer voices telling their stories.

June 13-15, 2025

Play Festival | Drury & Evjue Stage

BARTELL THEATRE

**113 E MIFFLIN ST
MADISON, WI 53703**

FOR TICKET INFORMATION VISIT:
BARTELLTHEATRE.ORG
OR CALL:
(608)661-9696

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