



**WINTER 2022 - A NOTE FROM JACQUI HUBBARD  
IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE ARTISTIC/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

**Support from the Essex Savings Bank is more vital than ever for the Ivoryton Playhouse.**

Like so many organizations, the pandemic devastated the Playhouse. Our primary strategy in 2021 was to move forward and cultivate new ideas to recover our losses and build a new business while remaining a valued community resource. In 2020, the Playhouse lost 157 performances and revenue estimated at \$1,265,000 plus cabarets, children's shows and many fundraising events – 14 of which would have benefitted other charities and nonprofits in our community. The ray of hope for us this past year was the tremendous support we received from our family of sponsors (including Essex Savings Bank) members and audience, who let us know how much they missed us and appreciated our return as a center for the arts in our community. In 2021, we produced a five-show season that was well received by audiences and critics alike. The Ivoryton Playhouse was open again!

As we look to 2022, we still find ourselves at a pivotal moment of rebuilding for the future. The Ivoryton Playhouse will produce a six-play season of performances this year as well as a summer series of cabaret special events. The intention is to have the Ivoryton Playhouse open the 2022 season in April with a fully vaccinated audience that is at 100% capacity rather with seating that is socially distanced.

**Commitment to Community** - It has always been a priority for the Playhouse to provide affordable professional theatre and this year is no different. We will not increase ticket prices. We will offer discounts for Senior Citizens and servicemen and women and their families. It is our mission to make the Playhouse affordable and accessible to all and discussions are in the works to establish a program of discounted seats for underserved communities in our area.



The Ivoryton Playhouse will also continue its commitment to partnering with Little Wonder. Little Wonder offers free tickets to patients currently undergoing the grueling process of radiation and chemotherapy – tickets to everything from the Ivoryton Playhouse to concerts at Foxwoods to sporting events. Now, more than ever, it is important to offer a respite for those patients and families that would enjoy an evening of theatre.

Though we may not be able to offer educational programs on the same scale as in the past, we will work towards partnering with local High Schools for programming around our production of *The Great Gatsby* in October.

We hope that with the support of Essex Savings Bank and our community, we will not only survive 2022 but thrive. Our hope and wish is that this will be a year of continued healing and regaining strength.



# History of the Ivoryton Playhouse

## *The First Lady of Connecticut Theatre*

### ***Mission***

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

### ***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.

### ***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.



## ***History***

The Ivoryton Playhouse is a unique theatre with a fascinating history and exciting future. Built in 1911 as a recreation hall for the workers for the Comstock-Cheney factory, the building hosted silent movies, dances, town meetings, and vaudeville shows. In 1930, under the direction of Milton Stiefel, the theater became summer home of most of the great names of the American stage including Katharine Hepburn, Marlon Brando, Helen Hayes, and Tallulah Bankhead. The Ivoryton Playhouse is the oldest, continuously running, self-supporting summer theater in the nation.

Over the course of the past 30 years, the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation has completed a total renovation of the building, including new shingles, a new heating and air-conditioning system, new seats and state-of-the-art theatrical sound system and LED lighting fixtures.

Under the Artistic Direction of Jacqueline Hubbard for the last 30 years, the Foundation has been producing year round seasons of professional theatre. In 2011, the Playhouse celebrated its 100th birthday and has been going from strength to strength each year since producing a diverse season of comedies, musicals and dramas that continue to win critical praise and awards.

***Thank you for voting for the Ivoryton Playhouse!  
We look forward to welcoming you in 2022!***



Photo by Caryn B. Davis



## 2022 Season



### STAR OF FREEDOM

*World premiere of a new musical*

Based on the concept album "Exodus" by Jeff Blaney

Music and Lyrics by Jeff Blaney; Book by Lawrence Thelen

*Thursday, April 7 – Sunday, May 1, 2022*

Combining the lilting melodies of Irish folk and the soulful music of the African American community in the 1800s, Jeff Blaney, a Connecticut native, has conjured up a new vision of America from two very different immigrant experiences. Travel with Sean and Chloe as they cross this great, new land in search of a home.

### NATIVE GARDENS

By Karen Zacarias

*Thursday, May 19 – Sunday, June 12, 2022*

What divides us and what do we share? A love of gardening, maybe? It is said that fences make for good neighbors but in this case, it just makes things worse. Frank Butley's symmetrical rows of pruned shrubs or Tania Del Valle's unruly, organic native garden? Which will win when gardens and cultures clash, turning friendly neighbors into feuding enemies in this hilarious new comedy of good intentions and bad manners

### SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ

The Songs of Leiber and Stoller

Words and Music by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller

*Thursday, June 30 – Sunday, July 31, 2022*

This Grammy® Award-winning and Tony Award®-nominated smash, made history as Broadway's longest-running musical revue. Featuring 40 of the greatest songs of the past century, including show-stopping classics like "On Broadway," "Stand by Me," "Jailhouse Rock," "Hound Dog," "Love Potion No. 9," "Spanish Harlem," "Yakety Yak" and "Charlie Brown," it celebrates the music of the legendary songwriting duo, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Their generation-defining songs provided hit after hit for icons like Elvis Presley, Ben E. King, The Coasters, and The Drifters.

### RING OF FIRE

The Music of Johnny Cash

Created by Richard Maltby, Jr. Conceived by William Meade

*Thursday, August 11 – Sunday, September 11, 2022*

The Man in Black is Back! From the songbook of Johnny Cash comes this unique musical about love and faith, struggle and success, rowdiness and redemption, and the healing power of home and family. More than two dozen classic hits—including "I Walk The Line," "A Boy Named Sue," "Folsom Prison Blues," and the title tune—performed by a multi-talented cast, paint a musical portrait that is a foot-stompin', crowd-pleasin' salute to a unique musical legend!

### THE GREAT GATSBY

adapted for the stage by Simon Levy

*Thursday, September 29 – Sunday, October 23, 2022*

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. A beautifully crafted interpretation of the 1925 novel which defined the Jazz Age, Simon Levy's play captures the breathtaking glamor and decadent excess of the 1920s.

### WINTER WONDERETTES

Created by Roger Bean

*Thursday, November 17 – Sunday, December 18, 2022*

The Wonderettes are back! This seasonal celebration finds the girls entertaining at the annual Harper's Hardware Holiday Party. When Santa turns up missing, the girls use their talent and ingenuity to save the holiday party! Featuring '60s versions of holiday classics such as "Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town," "Jingle Bell Rock," and "Winter Wonderland," the result is, of course, marvelous! This energetic and glittering holiday package is guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages.

Ivoryton Playhouse, 103 Main Street, PO Box 458, Ivoryton, CT 06442  
Subscriptions available now – Tickets to the public go on sale March 1, 2022  
860.767.7318 – [www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org)