



**WINTER 2023 - 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 and 2022 was to move forward and cultivate new ideas to recover our losses and build a new business while remaining a valued community resource. During the height of the pandemic, 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 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 and in 2022 we produced six main stage productions – all were well received by audiences and critics alike. Ivoryton Playhouse is open again!

As we look to 2023, we still find ourselves at a pivotal moment of rebuilding for the future. Ivoryton Playhouse will produce a six-play season of high-quality performances this year. The intention is to have Ivoryton Playhouse open the 2023 season in April at 100% capacity.

**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 we have established the Sally and George Mayer Daisy Fund that provides for discounted and/or free seats for underserved communities in our area.



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 Color Purple* in October.

We hope that with the support of Essex Savings Bank and our community, we will not only survive 2023 but thrive.

Jacqueline Hubbard  
Artistic / Executive Director  
Ivoryton Playhouse



## History of Ivoryton Playhouse

### *The First Lady of Connecticut Theatre*

### ***Mission***

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***

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***

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. 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 Ivoryton Playhouse!  
We look forward to welcoming you in 2023!***



Photo by Caryn B. Davis



## 2023 Season



### **THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA McBRIDE**

**By Matthew Lopez**

**Thursday, April 6 – Sunday, April 30, 2023**

*A big-hearted, music-filled comedy*

Casey is an Elvis impersonator with everything going for him, including a flashy sequin jumpsuit. But just like that, he loses his gig, rent is overdue, and his wife announces a baby is on the way. So, when Elvis leaves the building and a drag show moves in, “The King” transforms into an all-out queen with the help of new friends who become the second family Casey never saw coming. With snappy zingers and dance-worthy numbers, this wildly entertaining story will challenge your assumptions with extraordinary humor and depth.

### **ON GOLDEN POND**

**By Ernest Thompson**

**Thursday, May 18 – Sunday, June 11, 2023**

ON GOLDEN POND is the love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond. They are visited by their divorced, middle-aged daughter and her dentist fiancé, who leave for Europe and leave his teenage son behind for a summer of lessons learned and bonds strengthened. A heartwarming and hilarious show about generations of a family learning to communicate and to care.

### **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

**Music by Richard Rodgers Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II**

**Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse**

**Thursday, June 29 – Sunday, July 30, 2023**

One of the most beloved musicals of all time! In Austria, 1938, an exuberant young governess brings music and joy back to a broken family, only to face danger and intrigue as the Nazis gain power. Featuring Ivoryton favorites, last seen together in SOUTH PACIFIC, David Pittsinger, Patricia Schuman, Adrienne Hick and Bruce Connelly, singing the songs we know and love. This is truly a show for the whole family.

### **JERSEY BOYS**

**Book by: Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice**

**Music by: Bob Gaudio Lyrics by: Bob Crewe**

**Thursday, August 10 – Sunday, September 10, 2023**

JERSEY BOYS is the international musical phenomenon that takes you behind the scenes - and behind the music - of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Filled with all of their greatest hits, “Sherry,” “Walk Like A Man,” “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You,” and so many more. No wonder that, for over 15 years, America’s favorite musical is the one about the boys from Jersey.

### **THE COLOR PURPLE**

**Book by: Marsha Norman**

**Music & Lyrics by: Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray**

**Thursday, September 28 – Sunday, October 22, 2023**

THE COLOR PURPLE is an inspiring saga that tells the unforgettable story of a woman who, through love, finds strength to triumph over adversity and discover her voice in the world. This musical adaptation of Alice Walker’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (and 1985 Steven Spielberg film) spotlights Celie, a downtrodden young woman whose personal awakening over the course of 40 years forms the arc of this epic story. With a joyous score featuring jazz, ragtime, gospel, African music and blues, THE COLOR PURPLE is a story of hope, a testament to the healing power of love, and a celebration of life.

**The Christmas Show (waiting for approval of license – hope to announce soon)**

**Thursday, November 16 – Sunday, December 17, 2023**

Ivoryton Playhouse, 103 Main Street, PO Box 458, Ivoryton, CT 06442  
Six- and three-play subscriptions available - Tickets to the public on sale March 1, 2023  
860.767.7318 – [www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org)