

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 13th, 2021

Gretna Theatre is Back!

Tickets are Limited – Subscriptions provide the best seats at the best price!

Single Tickets for the 2021 Season on Sale Now!

MOUNT GRETN, PA — May 21st, 2021 — Gretna Theatre and Executive Producer Brian Kurtas are excited to announce the 2021 season! Gretna Theatre is back and excited to produce live theatre for audiences in our safe, fresh-air, outdoor amphitheater of the historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse. The 2021 Season includes five mainstage productions, four kids series productions, and a concert.

Audiences will feel the golden age of the theatre with *The Classics of Rodgers and Hammerstein*, the thrill and excitement of the circus with *The Great DuBois*, a rollercoaster of relationships with *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, the mystery and comedy of Sherlock Holmes' iconic *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and the nostalgia of Dean Martin himself in *Dino! An Evening with Dean Martin*. All these amazing performances presented in our historic Mt. Gretna playhouse under the trees of the PA Chautauqua.

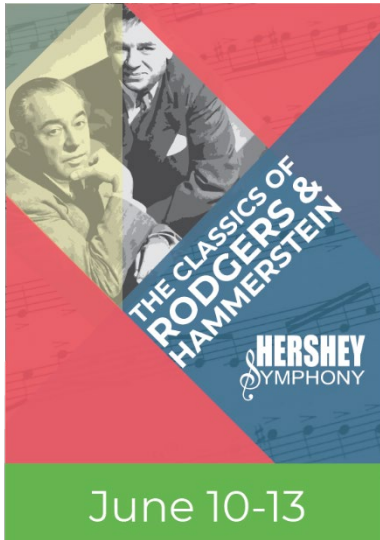
Families looking for safe, outdoor activities are welcomed to our Kids Series on Saturdays throughout the summer. Gretna Theatre's Kids Series introduces live theatre to kids, some for the very first time. This season, hiss, wiggle, and learn with *Forgotten Friend – Reptile Show*, help our piggies watch for wolves with *The Three Little Pigs*, join an all-out singing dancing llama drama, with *Llama Llama Red Pajama*, and be dazzled as we bring Eric Carle's famous *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to life on stage! Transform your Saturday with music, drama, dancing, and lots of laughs. We're sure these 1 hour shows will beat staying home and watching the same old Saturday morning cartoons.

Gretna Theatre has instituted safety procedures to aid in the mitigation effort of controlling the Covid-19 pandemic. These efforts include capacity restrictions, a fresh house reseating plan, a sanitization regiment before and after each performance, and sanitization stations at the entrances/exits. Efforts behind the scenes include new safety procedures for performers and administration.

Tickets for the 2021 Season are extremely limited due to capacity. Subscribers receive the best seats at the best price. For subscriptions and single tickets call the box office at 717-964-3627

For updates on safety procedures visit: gretnatheatre.org/safety

Our 2021 Season



The Classics of Rodgers & Hammerstein

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

June 10-13, 2021 | The Historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse

Featuring musicians from the *Hershey Symphony Orchestra*

A small chamber group of musicians from the Hershey Symphony join Gretna Theatre performers on stage for a nostalgic revue of some of Rodgers & Hammerstein's most memorable compositions. More than those of any composer or lyricist writing for the stage, the songs of Rodgers & Hammerstein have become an integral part of our everyday lives. We sing them in the shower; we dance to them in ballrooms; we hear them on the radio and in

clubs and, yes, in elevators and supermarkets, too. This sweeping collection of Rodgers & Hammerstein hits will be sung by four talent singers in concert.

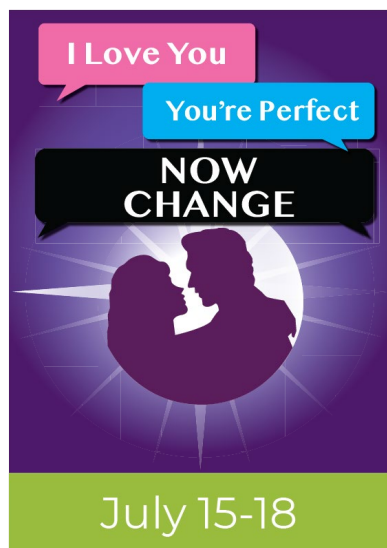


The Great DuBois

June 24-27, 2021 | The Historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse

Featuring Michael DuBois and Viktoria Grimmey

The world's most unique two-person circus show. Michael DuBois and Viktoria Grimmey have five generations of circus performing between them, and have appeared in Hugh Jackman's hit movie, *The Greatest Showman*, Broadway's *Pippin*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Late Night with David Letterman*, and Britney Spears' *World Circus Tour*. You'll "flip" for this fast-paced, high energy show for all-ages with incredible feats of juggling, unicycle, aerial, contortion, and audience interaction all wrapped in a blanket of comedy.



I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Book and Lyrics by Joe DiPietro

Music by Jimmy Roberts

July 15-18, 2021 | The Historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse

The second-longest running Off-Broadway musical, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* is a romantic comedy revue that takes on the truths and myths behind some of our deepest relationships. Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts' clever and witty musical about the pitfalls and joys of romantic relationships played over 5000 performances Off-Broadway and has been produced all over the world.



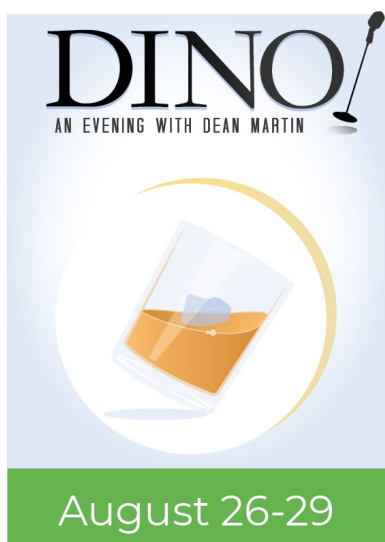
The Hound of the Baskervilles

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

August 5-8, 2021 | The Historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse

Adapted by Steven Canny and John Nicholson

The most popular of the Sherlock Holmes adventures. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead on his estate, with a look of terror still etched on his face and the paw prints of a gigantic hound beside his body, the great detective Sherlock Holmes and Watson are summoned to unravel the mysteries surrounding his death, and investigate the ancient curse of the Hound of the Baskervilles. This sublimely funny adaptation of the classic Sherlock Holmes story is sure to have you howling of laughter.



DINO! An Evening with Dean Martin

The toe-tapping musical event that's filled with "amore!"

A new play with music by Armen Pandola

August 26-29, 2021 | The Historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse

Dean Martin brings us an intimate evening filled with personal stories and classic songs including, "Ain't That a Kick in the Head," "Everybody Loves Somebody," "That's Amore" and more. For a short while, the man behind the legend reveals the humor, warmth and casual cool that marked his rise from his Italian-only speaking immigrant childhood to become one of the biggest legends in entertainment.





Our 2021 Kids Series

Performances are Saturdays 11AM and tickets are \$8 –
gretnatheatre.org/kids-series
\$5 for under 5

For audiences K-6 and their grown up friends! Gretna Theatre's Kids Series introduces live theatre to kids, some for the very first time. This season, hiss, wiggle, and learn with *Forgotten Friend – Reptile Show*, help our piggies watch for wolves with *The Three Little Pigs*, join an all-out singing dancing llama drama, with *Llama Llama Red Pajama*, and be dazzled as we bring Eric Carle's famous *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to life on stage! *Transform* your Saturday with music, drama, dancing, and lots of laughs. We're sure these 1 hour shows will beat staying home and watching the same old Saturday morning cartoons.

Kids Series is sensory-friendly. That means typical "rules of attendance" have been relaxed to accommodate individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities and the families who support them. Shows are in the daytime, so the theatre never goes dark or blackout and there aren't any startling or strobing lighting effects. Seating is also completely open and not sold out, so if you need to move in the middle of the show that is ok! You can get up and exit to walk around and break, or even stand in the back with parental supervision without any judgement or worry.



FORGOTTEN FRIEND – THE REPTILE SHOW

Saturday, June 12, 2021 | 11AM

The Historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse

Join Jesse the Reptile Guy as you meet the real life reptiles that inspired some of your favorite animated story characters, including Ka the snake from *Jungle Book*, *Frog & Toad*, and even Bruni the salamander from *Frozen III*! Hiss, wiggle, and learn how these amazing creatures make up the world around us. Jesse and the Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary has been rescuing reptiles and educating audiences of all ages with his band of reptile friends with over 2,000 appearances. Hiss, wiggle, and learn how these amazing creatures make up the world around us!



THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

Saturday, June 26, 2021 | 11AM

The Historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse

From Stiles and Drewe, the award-winning musical team behind Broadway's *Mary Poppins*, comes *The Three Little Pigs*, a "very curly musical tale" that is perfect for the whole family! When the pigpen starts to look like a real sty, Mama says it's time to leave and build something new. Help Cha, Siu and Bao watch for wolves while they use hay, sticks and bricks to make it in a big, bad world. This endearing tale will leave you squealing with glee and howling with laughter!



LLAMA LLAMA RED PAJAMA

Saturday, July 17, 2021 | 11AM

The Historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse

Everyone will be doing the Bedtime Dance in this brand-new musical based on the beloved book. It's been a big first day of school, and Llama's happy to be home and wearing his favorite red pajamas. After his bedtime story, Mama Llama tucks him in and goes downstairs. Llama's toys try to help him relax, but he's too wiggly. He needs a drink of water. But where did Mama Llama go? Why isn't she coming? Based on the Netflix series *Llama Llama*, it's an all-out llama drama!



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

Saturday, August 7, 2021 | 11AM

The Historic Mt. Gretna Playhouse

The Very Hungry Caterpillar has been dazzling readers around the globe for over six decades, and now you can experience Eric Carle's timeless classics as a stage play right before your eyes. The critically acclaimed show features a menagerie of over 75 large scale magical puppets. Alongside *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, every production of the show features two other Eric Carle short stories.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar has delighted generations of readers since it was first published in 1969 selling more than 45 million copies worldwide, and the New York Times calls this colorful play "Bedazzling!" for families!



THE SUMMER CLUB

Friday, September 3, 2021 - 7PM | Mt. Gretna Playhouse
ONE NIGHT ONLY | Sponsored by William & Carol Christ

Back by popular demand - The 17-piece swinging big band filling the evening with the best Sinatra-style and jazzy-Broadway hits!

2021 Season Sponsor

Pat & Linda Castagna

2021 Show Sponsors

William F. & Carol Christ

2021 Production Sponsors



2021 Kids Series Sponsor



2021 Accessibility Sponsor



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About Gretna Theatre - America's Oldest Summer Theatre

One of south-central Pennsylvania's few professional theatres, and the oldest summer theatres in America, Gretna Theatre is located in the arts/resort community (PA Chautauqua) of Mt. Gretna, PA where theatre has been produced at this same location since 1927! The original Playhouse dates back to 1891 when it was built as the centerpiece of the newly-created Pennsylvania Chautauqua.

The Chautauqua Movement was founded in the late 1800's by Lewis Miller and John Vincent, from New York, who shared a vision of providing education to people of all ages and backgrounds. "Chautauqua" is an American Indian word with a few meanings— "a bag tied in the middle" or "two moccasins tied together," and describes the shape of Chautauqua Lake, in southwest New York. This area was the setting for the first 'remote' educational assembly, and the white Christian migrants adopted that name for their movement. There, they started a summer camp for teachers, offering recreation, classes on religion and music, plays, and philosophy that provided an alternative to college. The Chautauqua Movement quickly spread to towns throughout the country. In 1891, a group of community leaders decided to organize the Pennsylvania Chautauqua in Mt. Gretna "for the advancement of literary and scientific attainment among the people and the promotion of popular culture in the interest of Christianity."

The Playhouse, known originally as the Chautauqua Auditorium, was designed by John Cilley, a civil engineer from Lebanon, and completed in July, 1892. With fewer events being held in the Auditorium, the Chautauqua Board of Managers contacted A. E. Scott, an actor and director from the Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, and suggested that Scott start a summer theater in Gretna. In the spring of 1927, the necessary alterations were made to the Chautauqua Auditorium to provide stage and dressing rooms and the first season of theater at Mt. Gretna opened in mid-June. Over the years, The Playhouse survived many natural disasters, including several major hurricanes, but the winter of 1994 proved to be too much for the 102-year-old structure. On February 12, its roof buried under an estimated 150 tons of snow, collapsed.

By the summer of 1995, a new Playhouse was complete. Gretna Theatre, which produces the seasons of summer stock theatrical shows, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which rents the Mt. Gretna Playhouse for its productions and works in conjunction with the professional unions of Actors' Equity Association and Stage Directors and Choreographers. Today, it is guided by the current leadership of Executive Producer Brian Kurtas. Many Broadway stars have performed at Gretna Theatre - including Bernadette Peters, Charlton Heston, Faith Prince, Laurie Beechman, and Sally Struthers.

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