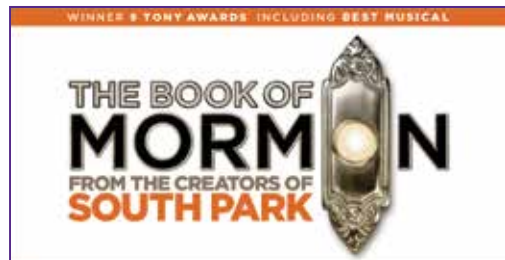


THE BOOK OF MORMON / BROADWAY SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

If you are a member of our Friends Society Program, you should have recently received a mailing announcing the exciting 2015-16 lineup for the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall's Dance/Orchestra/Broadway Series. Included in this year's season are *The Book of Mormon*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *The Producers*, *Buddy-The Buddy Holly Story*, *42nd Street*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Neil Berg's 107 Years of Broadway*. As a Friend of the Foundation, you are entitled to pre-order for priority seating before these shows go on sale to the general public. We encourage you to get your orders in as soon as possible for the best seats and pricing!



As previously announced, *The Book of Mormon* will anchor the 2015-16 Broadway season playing a limited one week engagement February 9th-14th. This show has generated a lot of buzz and is likely to sell out! If you are a Friend of the Foundation and are interested in seeing this show, we strongly urge you to place your ticket order as soon as possible, to avoid missing out.

Please note that this show contains explicit language



VAN WEZEL FOUNDATION NAMED BEST FUNDRAISING GALA BY SARASOTA MAGAZINE

The Van Wezel Foundation was recently honored with the award for **Best Fundraising Gala** in *Sarasota Magazine's* "Best of 2015" edition which hit newsstands in early May. The Van Wezel Foundation was selected in an **Annual Reader's Choice Poll** under the category of **Best Arts & Entertainment**.



A LETTER FROM MONICA VAN BUSKIRK PRESIDENT AND CEO

With the end of the 2014/2015 season here I'm pleased to report that the Hall had a stellar season! Congratulations to Mary Bensel and her fine staff. We had many incredible performances with some of my favorites being the always fabulous Harry Connick, Jr, Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band, and Sarah McLachlan who was outstanding as our 14th Annual Gala Star.

Despite the rain, our wonderful Van Wezel Foundation Society Friends, Patrons and Donors braved the weather to attend our 2015 Gala. Once again our Gala turned out to be a strong financial success for our fundraising efforts to support the children's programs at the Hall. Another favorite this year was Jersey Boys which set a record for sold out performances and financial revenue for the Hall. I appreciated seeing it and I know many of you also enjoyed the show.

Our education program hit new records with attendance. We had nine shows with students from all four counties attending performances. I have been involved with our education programs for over ten years now and I continue to be thrilled at the Hall's efforts, and the joy I feel at seeing the young students experiencing live theatre for the first time. They are attentive, playful, and respectful, and it makes me proud to be a part of the program.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that after winning the Frank G. Berlin, Sr. Cultural Organization of the Year Award in 2014, we were also recently awarded Sarasota Magazine Readers Choice Best Fundraising Gala 2015! I am so proud of our staff, gala chairs, donors, board, and volunteers who all help make our organization such a success year after year.

For the upcoming season I can only tell you that the new lineup is spectacular! Keep your eyes and ears open for our mailings and releases over the summer months. See you next season!

Monica Van Buskirk, President and CEO

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A LETTER FROM MICHAEL MARTELLA CHAIRMAN

I would like to congratulate the Van Wezel Hall and Foundation for a hugely successful 2014/15 season. I've been involved with the Foundation for many years and I've never seen a lineup of performances as impressive as we had this past season. Next year looks equally inspiring and I'm proud to be associated with these two fine organizations.

Children's performing arts education is very important to me and my family. The Foundation increased its participation this year and will stay very involved with the programs for next year. Next season's lineup of children's performances looks exciting. It kicks off with *Skippyjon Jones Snow What* on October 27th and is followed by other great shows including *Doctor Kaboom! Live Wire-The Electricity Tour*; *The Science of Pirates*, *Junie B's Essential Survival Guide to School* and many more.

Finally, planning for the Bayfront's future is actively going forward. I'm proud to say both the Foundation and the Hall are working closely with Bayfront 20:20, the City of Sarasota, the Sarasota Orchestra and other arts organizations to look at the long range view of where the Van Wezel Hall will be 50 years from now. We recognize the importance of strategic planning and also sustainability. We will share more as plans in the community evolve.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer and see you back here in the fall for another exciting season!

Michael Martella
Chairman, Van Wezel Foundation
President of Boars Head Provisions

NEW MARKETING CAMPAIGN

In February, we launched a simple campaign based on the idea that the Foundation and the Hall are two separate entities working together toward a common set of goals: bringing Performing Arts and Arts Education to our community.



NEW FRIENDS AT THE VWF!

Thank you to our new friends, longtime friends and all who have helped the Van Wezel in its success. All of our donors are special to us and we could not accomplish our mission without their help! They've supported us at shows, the Gala and much more! We'd like to recognize the following new friends at the Van Wezel Foundation!

Kerri Anderson Michael & Jane Dolan
Charles & Linda Bell Roger & Kathy Stoll
Lon & Leslee Deckard Susan & Charles Wilson

In addition, we would also like to recognize our newest Founders Society/Inspiration member: Phil Steyaert



REFER A FRIEND PROGRAM

Have you heard about our "Refer a Friend Program"? This new and exciting program is an easy way to earn free tickets to shows at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and free pre-show dinners at the delicious Mattison's Bayside. Call Michele Strauss at 941-366-5578 for more details!

JOIN OUR FRIENDS SOCIETY PROGRAM AND RECEIVE EXCLUSIVE VIP BENEFITS!

Making an annual contribution of \$3,000 or more to the Van Wezel Foundation entitles our Friends Society Program members to exclusive benefits as our way of saying "Thank You". Some of the many benefits include:

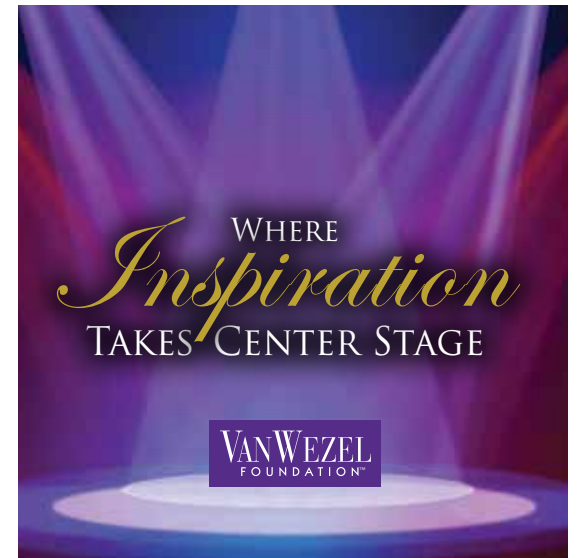


- Best Seats: Special notice to purchase two tickets to any of the Van Wezel sponsored programs.
- Participation in the ticket return program and the ticket donation program
- Reserved parking area
- Special event invitations
- Van Wezel program book listing, approximately 100,000 distributed each season!
- Access to the Founders Lounge one hour prior to curtain and during intermission for all Van Wezel sponsored programs.

If you're not a Friends Society Program member already, why not join for the new season? With all the fabulous upcoming shows and perks – it's a great time to be a donor!

FOUNDERS SOCIETY: WHERE INSPIRATION TAKES CENTER STAGE

For those who dare to dream about making a difference. This elite level of giving at \$25,000 or above, grants initiation into the Founders Society in perpetuity and rewards generous donors with membership benefits and recognition in many ways. Renew or begin your Annual Friends Society Program membership at this level and know that your donation will go a long way towards supporting Van Wezel Foundation initiatives including the Schooltime Performance program. Call 941-366-5578 to learn more.



VAN WEZEL'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY



On February 24th, the Van Wezel Foundation hosted a celebration of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall's 45th Anniversary in conjunction with the Sarasota Premiere of the legendary Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band.

This exclusive evening featured a cocktail reception by the bay, live and silent auction, dinner catered by Mattison's Bayside, and a spectacular performance by Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLIFF ROLES



45th Anniversary Cake featuring Ringo Starr (courtesy of A Slice of Heaven)



Check out Ringo receiving the "Key to the City" from Commissioner Suzanne Atwell



Vice Chairman of the Van Wezel Foundation Board, Phil Delaney and his wife, Julie Delaney



Monica Van Buskirk, President e3 CEO Van Wezel Foundation and Mary Benschel, Executive Director, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

SAVE THE DATES! FRIDAY FEST SHOWS ANNOUNCED!

June 19 Kettle of Fish | July 10 Kim Betts and the Gamble Creek Band | Aug. 21 Yesterdayze
Sept. 18 Reverend Barry and the Funktastic Soul featuring the Hellacious Horns

If you wish to attend, please RSVP to the Foundation office at 941-366-5578.

14TH ANNUAL VAN WEZEL FOUNDATION GALA



On Friday, March 27th, The Van Wezel Foundation hosted its 14th Annual Gala featuring Sarah McLachlan. More than 400 guests were treated to a cocktail reception, live and silent auctions, dinner catered by Michael's on East, a sold out performance by Sarah McLachlan, and a fun filled After Party. A very special thanks to the Gala Committee and the three time Gala Chairs; Brenda Maraman, Kathy Martella, and Lucille Smith for all they did to help make the evening such a success! **To see more photos from this event, visit www.vwfoundation.org.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLIFF ROLES



Dr. Richard Van Buskirk, Monica Van Buskirk and Gabrielle Slater



Tent Decor by Mary Kenealy Events



Wendy & Shaun Merriman



Co-chairs: Kathy Martella, Lucille Smith, Brenda Maraman



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 CT200H LEXUS WINNER!

Congratulations to Edmund (Ed) & Patricia Morrissey, the winners of the 2015 Lexus CT200h. Thank you to all who participated!

AN EVENING ON THE BAY FOR HALL BEAUTIFICATION

In early April the Van Wezel Foundation co-hosted a private fundraiser at a donor's home to kick-off a campaign to raise funds for a new private restroom in the Founders Lounge. For more information on how **YOU** can help contact us at 941-366-5578.

CORPORATE GIFT MATCHING PROGRAMS

Did you know, your gift could have twice the impact? Many people don't realize that their companies will match donations made by their employees to an organization. In fact, it's reported that only 9% of the population takes advantage of this program. To find out if your company will match your donation, just email us the name of your employer. We will send you the appropriate forms, guidelines and instructions and help with the matching gift request. Gifts from spouses and retirees may also be eligible. **For questions, please contact us at 941-366-5578.**

Slappyjon Jones Snow What
A Theatreworks USA Production
Oct 27 @ Van Wezel
Oct 28 @ North Port

DOKTOR KABOOM!
Nov 3

LIVE WIRE!
THE ELECTRICITY TOUR
Nov 16

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Nov 3

AESOP'S BOPS
Dec 15

BLACK VIOLIN
Jan 12

CHICKEN DANCE
An ArtsPower Production
Jan 15

THE IMPROVISED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
Feb 22

THE SCIENCE OF PIRATES
May 10

Barbara Park's Junie B. Jacobson Survival Guide to School
A Theatreworks USA Production
April 27 @ North Port
May 5 @ Van Wezel

Performances, Dates, and Times are subject to change without notice.

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCES

The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and the Van Wezel Foundation are excited to present the 2015/2016 Schooltime Performance schedule, posted left. Without the help of our valuable donors, we could not bring over 25,000 children to our theatre each year!

VAN WEZEL FOUNDATION STAFF

Monica Van Buskirk, President and CEO
Barbara Brosius, Chief Financial Officer
Michele Strauss, Director of Development
Erin Guzzo, Marketing and Events Manager
Elsie Merrill, Donor Relations Manager
Jeff Granston, Donor Relations Assistant
Cathleen Mai, Database Coordinator

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Philip Delaney, Vice Chair
Karl Newkirk, Secretary
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Mark P. Famiglio, Executive Committee
Martin Rappaport, Executive Committee
Sharyn Weiner, Executive Committee
Michael J. Wilson, Legal Counsel
Mary Bensel, Ex-Officio

Ali Bahaj
Sandra Dietrich
Darrell Huntley
Joan Bradbury Kayser
Margie Lee
Jackie Lewis
Delia Smith-Orth
Camber Pecor, Star Student

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