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Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Announces New Dates and Programming for the 2021/22 Season including Two World Premieres, a Tony Award-winning Musical, Shakespeare and the Green Bay Packers

Milwaukee, Wis – April 7, 2021 – **Artistic Director Mark Clements** and **Executive Director Chad Bauman** are thrilled to welcome audiences back to [Milwaukee Rep](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) for the 2021/22 Season with 12 productions across four venues in the **Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex**. To ensure vaccines have time to be fully distributed and work to their optimal level, the start of the 2021/22 Season will start October 29, 2021 and run through July 1, 2022.

The 2021/22 Season features:

- Two world premieres by Pulitzer Prize finalist **Dael Orlandersmith**, *Antonio's Song / I Was Dreaming of a Son* and *New Age* in the Stiemke Studio.
- Majestic, yet rarely produced Tony Award-winning musical ***Titanic The Musical*** in the Quadracci Powerhouse.
- Shakespeare and The Beatles collide in the International collaboration ***As You Like It*** adapted by Daryl Cloran.
- ***Dad's Season Tickets***, a new musical comedy for Green Bay Packer fanatics and the people who love them.
- Emmy-nominated performance of Judy Garland classics in ***Get Happy: Angela Ingersoll Sings Judy Garland***.
- Return of Milwaukee's Favorite Holiday Tradition – ***A Christmas Carol*** in the Historic Pabst Theater with Lee E. Ernst as Scrooge.

A full list of programming with dates is listed below.

"Thanks to the brilliance of science there is a bright spotlight at the end of this dark pandemic, and we cannot wait to welcome artists and audiences alike back to our theater in the fall," said **Artistic Director Mark Clements**. "This season we are holding nothing back, and ready to produce at the highest artistic level after being dark for over a year. Soon we will be celebrating the end of the pandemic and the return to the shared experience and thrill of live theater that we have all missed so greatly."

"It is no surprise that this pandemic has proven to be the most challenging time in Milwaukee Rep's 68 year history, " stated **Executive Director Chad Bauman**. "The more businesses that reopen safely in partnership with the vaccination rollout the closer we come to be able to fulfill our mission of igniting positive change in our community. We are buoyed by our committed and talented staff, artists and trustees whose hard work is the reason we are able to bounce back with such a robust season."

The programming for the 2021/22 Season was originally announced for the 2020/21 Season, but was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the original announcement over 10,000 Subscribers renewed their season tickets and in doing so enabled **Milwaukee Rep** to keep the majority of staff and artists employed during the extended closure.

Milwaukee Rep remains fully committed to the safety of its artists, staff and patrons and will continue to follow recommendations from the CDC and local health officials throughout the 2021/22 Season. It will adjust operations as needed, which may include limiting tickets sold to allow for social distancing while prioritizing Subscribers.

Subscriptions to **Milwaukee Rep's** 2021/22 Season are now on sale and range from \$100-\$577. Packages available are the Ultimate 11-play package, which includes the entire season spanning all three of Milwaukee Rep's performance spaces; Quadracci Powerhouse/Stackner 9-play package; Quadracci Powerhouse/Stiemke Studio 7-play package; Quadracci Powerhouse 5-play package; Stackner Cabaret 4-Play package as well as a Create Your Own Season package and Flex Passes. Single Tickets will go on sale later in the summer. For additional information on Subscription offerings, please contact Milwaukee Rep's Ticket Office at **414-224-9490** or visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater

2021/22 Season

Programming, artists and dates are subject to change.

A New Musical Comedy Celebrating Family, Folly and Football

Dad's Season Tickets

Book, Music and Lyrics by Matt Zembrowski

Directed by Ryan Quinn

October 29, 2021 – January 2, 2022

Stackner Cabaret

Direct from its sold-out engagement in Door County where it became the **best-selling hit in Northern Sky Theater's 28-year history**, comes this new musical comedy for fanatics and the people who love them. Who will inherit Frank's treasured season tickets at Lambeau Field? The Kosinski sisters employ every trick in the playbook, on the way to relearning that family isn't everything – it's the only thing. With songs like "**When You Live in Green Bay**" and "**What Do You Do with a Bye Week,**" this quintessential Wisconsin musical will warm your heart and leave you rooting for the home team!

A Tenderhearted Favorite

Steel Magnolias

By Robert Harling

Directed by Laura Braza

November 9 – December 5, 2021

Quadracci Powerhouse

In Chinquapin, Louisiana everybody who is anybody gets their hair done at Truvy's beauty shop – where the women are all sass and brass. Through clouds of hairspray and over the buzz of blow dryers, six southern spitfires gather each week to gossip and support each other through thick and thin. But those bonds are tested when the ladies face a life-changing event. **Infused with heart and humor, Steel Magnolias is a hilarious story of love, loss and enduring friendship.**

A Trailblazing Spirit

Toni Stone

By Lydia R. Diamond

Directed by Tinashe Kajese-Bolden

January 4 – 30, 2022

Quadracci Powerhouse

Declared the Best New Play of 2019 by *The Wall Street Journal*, this sensational theatrical event knocks it out of the park with a high intensity glimpse into the world of the first woman to go pro in baseball's Negro Leagues. Against all odds, Toni Stone blazes a path in the male-dominated sports world, shattering expectations and creating her own set of rules. Follow Toni's journey as she fights for love, equality and a chance to do what she wants the most – play baseball. Filled with humor and the love of the game, this intimate and profoundly relevant portrait of America will have you cheering along.

From Bach to Broadway

World Premiere Event

Piano Men

January 7 – February 27, 2022

Stackner Cabaret

What happens when you put two pianos onstage, add two virtuoso piano players and throw in a limitless songbook that defies genre and decade? You get *Piano Men*! Equal parts concert and sing-along, this exhilarating and entertaining musical revue will have you clapping, laughing and calling out requests for your favorite songs. Inspired by the hard working piano players who play everywhere from bars to airports, hotel lobbies to grand concert halls, ***Piano Men* will feature a unique set list from rock, pop, classical, Broadway and everything in-between** and will leave you wanting to come back for more.

A John (Jack) D. Lewis New Play Development Program Production

Co-World Premiere

Antonio's Song/I Was Dreaming of a Son

By Dael Orlandersmith and Antonio Edwards Suarez

Directed by Mark Clements

January 26 – March 6, 2022

Stiemke Studio

Antonio's Song is a poetic journey of a dancer/artist/father questioning the balance of his passions – art, culture, family. From the streets of Brooklyn to Russia's ballet training studios, Antonio struggles to reconcile multiple ethnic identities. He wrestles with the legacy of stereotypes of masculinity while discovering the beauty of becoming a father. **Dael Orlandersmith's powerful poetry** is intermixed with **original movement, music and evocative projected imagery** to create a wholly unique and stunning performance by the breathtaking **Antonio Edwards Suarez**.

This production will feature our Act II Community Conversation series

Shakespeare with a Twist

As You Like It

By William Shakespeare

Adapted by Daryl Cloran

Conceived by Daryl Cloran and the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

February 15 – March 20, 2022

Quadracci Powerhouse

The Beatles meet the Bard in this rollicking, celebratory musical take on William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. It's 1960s British Columbia and love is in the air as a handful of cross-dressing lovers lead to mistaken identities, hilarious mishaps and loads of laughs. Interwoven into Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy, the production features over **20 Beatles songs** performed live including "**She Loves You**," "**I Want to Hold Your Hand**" and "**Let It Be**." Audiences will be rolling with laughter and singing along to some of the best songs ever written.

"The Voice" Returns to the Stackner

My Way

A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra

Created by David Grapes and Todd Olson

Book by Todd Olson

Original Production Directed by David Grapes

Directed & Choreographed by Kelley Faulkner

March 4 – May 1, 2022

Stackner Cabaret

From the king of swing to the Rat Pack, Ol' Blue Eyes charmed his way into the hearts of millions. Celebrate the pivotal moments of Sinatra's remarkable five-decade career with a journey through his greatest hits. Four performers sing classics such as "**I've Got the World on a String**," "**Fly Me to the Moon**" and "**New York, New York**." Experience the elegance of "The Chairman of the Board" as you're transported back to the era of supper clubs, vintage Las Vegas and the perfect martini.

A John (Jack) D. Lewis New Play Development Program Production

A World Premiere

Four Women Prove That Age Is Just A Number

New Age

By Dael Orlandersmith

March 22 – May 1, 2022

Stiemke Studio

Told through music, movement and lyrical storytelling, ***New Age* follows four women at different junctures in life as they contend with their sexuality, insecurities and legacies.** Cass loves art and continues to redefine herself after divorce, Lisette recounts how she became a writer as she faces health challenges, Candy has carved out a life for herself and despite struggles remains upbeat, and Liberty, the youngest of the group, begins her career as a rock musician. Edgy, joyful and authentic, Pulitzer Prize finalist **Dael Orlandersmith's** distinctive style brings the stories of these resilient women to life as they prove that they are defined by much more than age.

The Dreams She Carried Were Unsinkable

Titanic The Musical

Music & Lyrics by Maury Yeston

Book by Peter Stone

Directed by Mark Clements

April 5 – May 15, 2022

Quadracci Powerhouse

Winner of five Tony Awards, *Titanic The Musical* is a stirring and unforgettable account of the first and last days of the ship of dreams. This epic musical features real stories of people aboard the most legendary ship in the world from third-class immigrants dreaming of a better tomorrow to first class passengers living a life of fame and fortune. Rarely produced due to its size and complexity, this stunning and majestic musical sails into the intimate Quadracci Powerhouse for the theatrical event of the year!

A Star Is Born

Artists Lounge Live Presents

Get Happy: Angela Ingersoll Sings Judy Garland

May 5 – July 1, 2022

Stackner Cabaret

In an Emmy Award-nominated performance seen on PBS, **Angela Ingersoll** celebrates Judy Garland live in concert. Backed by a dynamite band, Ingersoll delivers a tour de force of virtuosic vocals, passionate storytelling, humor, and heart. Ingersoll also won acclaim starring as Garland in *End of the Rainbow*, including Chicago's Jeff Award and *LA Times* Woman of the Year in Theatre. *Chicago Sun-Times* exclaims, "*Phenomenal. Judy Garland has been reborn.*" Classic songs include "**Over the Rainbow**," "**The Trolley Song**," and "**The Man That Got Away**." Presented by Artists Lounge Live.

Eight Suspects, One Thrilling Ride

Agatha Christie's

Murder on the Orient Express

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Marti Lyons

May 31 – July 1, 2022

Quadracci Powerhouse

Board the exotic and mysterious Orient Express as it takes off into the opulence and grandeur of the 1930s with a train full of suspects – each with a motive and an alibi. This dazzling new adaptation of Agatha Christie's masterpiece is **filled with twists, turns and larger-than-life characters**. Join beloved detective Hercule Poirot as he battles the clock to figure out "whodunit" in this murder mystery that's the perfect way to close our season.

OFF –SUBSCRIPTION

Milwaukee's Favorite Holiday Tradition

A Christmas Carol

November 30 – December 24, 2021

By Charles Dickens

Adapted & Directed by Mark Clements

Pabst Theater

Make up for lost time with family and friends this holiday season as our full ensemble production joyfully returns to the historic Pabst Theater. *A Christmas Carol* is one of the best-known and loved stories in the English language. During the course of one memorable Christmas Eve the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future help Scrooge discover it is never too late to change his miserly ways. Enchanting music, dance, costumes, scenery and special effects will once again fill the theater to tell this timeless tale of love, hope and redemption. Featuring **Lee E. Ernst** as Ebenezer Scrooge, it's the perfect way for audiences of all ages to celebrate the season.

For more information, please visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com.

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About Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Milwaukee Rep is the largest performing arts organization in Wisconsin with three unique performance venues in the Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex— the Quadracci Powerhouse, Stiemke Studio and Stackner Cabaret. For over six decades, Milwaukee Rep has been a centerpiece of Milwaukee's vibrant arts and cultural scene with productions ranging from Broadway musicals to Shakespeare to American Classics and New Works that are entertaining, inclusive and impactful. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mark Clements and Executive Director Chad Bauman, Milwaukee Repertory Theater ignites positive change in the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its community by creating world-class theater experiences that entertain, provoke, and inspire meaningful dialogue among an audience representative of Milwaukee's rich diversity.