

Theatre & Performance Within Reach of Northfield

Summer 2024

Mia Culpa!!

For 10 years I have failed to include two close by performance spaces in Keene, NH; The Colonial Theatre (Multi-Arts) and The Edge Ensemble (Community Theatre). Look them over because they are both worth your attention.

Introduction: A New and Better Normal

Our phones are now how we get up-to-date information.

I started this listing in 2014 with the intent of including every theatre production in the valley for the entire summer. Cell phones have made this partially irrelevant and much improved. That means that this is no longer a listing of specific theatre events and dates but rather a listing of where to go to get current information about what is going on in the Pioneer Valley in 2024. I still list some productions to give an idea of what is going on. I have tried to concentrate on web addresses so that you can see for yourself what is going on and get other relevant information.

Note: Free Passes

If you are looking for non-theatre things to do while on “The Ridge” then be sure to check out the Dickenson Library (or other area libraries) because they have free passes for lots of things to do in the area; swimming, parks, historical, art museums, you name it.

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Theatre Companies:

Greenfield & Amherst- Silverthorne Theatre Company:

High Quality Theatre

Silverthorne Theater Company's mission is to present adventurous, thought-provoking theatrical experiences, including productions of classic, contemporary and new works for diverse audiences. Located in the heart of Greenfield and beyond.

Information

Location: Arts Block Building, Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, 289 Main St, Greenfield, but now also doing productions at a variety of locations including Hampshire College, Amherst, Ma

Greenfield location: (14 miles/19 minutes)

Tickets: about \$25

www.silverthorntheatre.com

Information & reservations: 413-213-2435

Productions:

The Broken Machine – June 7-15, Hampshire College Theatre

Bulrushier – July 5-14, Hampshire College Theatre

Smart People – Aug 2-11, touring

Turners Falls – Shea Theatre:

Multi-Arts Performance Organization.

The Shea aims to be a part of this area's cultural revival. It provides performance space for a variety of attractions designed to appeal to a wide range of tastes. Musical offerings include folk, pop, rock, swing, jazz, country and traditional. Theatrical productions encompass musical comedy, drama, comedy, and political satire. In addition, there may be magic shows, children's shows or silent film revivals. There is a popular program of drama classes and summer camp workshops. They do not schedule very far in advance so check for what is currently happening.

Information:

Location: Shea Theatre Arts Center, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Ma 01376 (10miles/15 minutes) (Avenue A is the main street of Turners Falls)

413-648-7432

Tickets vary but from free to \$20-50

www.sheatheatre.org

Productions:

Too much to list here. The website has a calendar to see what is scheduled.

Brattleboro, Vt. - New England Youth Theatre:

Outstanding Youth Theater.

It is hard to figure out what is happening from the website. This is a young actors program that operates throughout the year and produces up to 20 plays every year. They do student-directed and original works and are always handicapped inclusive for actors as well as audience. The website is aimed at informing community youth about what is happening rather than selling tickets. There is a calendar of events on the website but it is not user friendly. If you want to see and support quality productions by young actors then this is a great place to do it so it is unfortunate that it is hard to figure out what is going on. I have been attending for over 10 years and have been astounded by the quality of their performances over and over again.

Information:

Location: Performance space with ample parking at 100 Flat St, Brattleboro (18 miles/22 minutes)

www.neyt.org

Email: michelle@neyt.org

Box office: 802-246-6398 ext (Tickets: \$15.00, Seniors \$13.00, Students \$11.00)

Programs & Productions:

12 Angry Jurors – April 5-7

Bright Young Things – May 3-5

Legally Blonde The Musical – July 26-28

Brave Young Vaudvillians 1 & 2 – July –August

Drag exploration – August 2 & 3

Melodrama 1 & 2 – July - August

The Cherry Orchard – August 16 & 17

Clown Camp – August 23 & 24

Brattleboro, Vt. – Vermont Theatre Company:***Outdoor Shakespeare***

The Vermont Theatre Company is committed to promoting the arts in the Brattleboro area. They produce an annual summer Shakespeare production as well as productions during the rest of the year and operate in a variety of locations.

Information:

Various locations: (about 20 miles/23 minutes)

<http://www.vermonttheatrecompany.org/>

Email: vttheatreco@gmail.com

Productions:

Julius Caesar – June 20 - 23 at Living Memorial Park

Theatre for Kids (Cyrano) – Aug 9-11 at The Retreat Farm

Putney, Vt.- NXT Stage Arts Project:***Multi-Arts Performance Organization:***

In 2016 Next Stage completed the renovation of the Putney Church. The result is a 200 seat performance venue. Next Stage is an organization that explores music, dance, film, theatre, spoken word and the visual arts. They have an extensive full year calendar that schedules frequent one night events as well as working with local “creative partners”; Sandglass Theater, Twilight Music, Wild Goose Players, and Yellow Barn.

Information:

15 Kimball Hill Rd, Putney (an old but renovated building right in Putney) (29 miles/30 minutes). See website for directions as GPS can take you to the wrong village.

Web: www.nextstagearts.com

Tickets: \$10-25

Productions:

The current calendar lists multi-arts events through October. A great line-up and variety.

Keene, NH- The Colonial Theatre

Multi-Arts Performance Organization:

Information:

95 Main St, Keene, NH (21 miles/30 minutes)

Web: www.thecolonial.org

Tickets: \$50-100

Productions:

The current calendar lists many multi-arts events.

Keene, NH- The Edge Ensemble Theatre

Community Theatre:

Information:

310 Marlboro St, Suite 112, Keene, NH (21 miles/30 minutes)

Web: www.edgeensemble.org

Productions:

The calendar is not up to date and does not list summer productions at this time.

Chester, Ma - Chester Theatre:

Professional Theatre

“The Chester Theatre Company is committed to presenting intelligent, contemporary, language-rich, thought-provoking plays produced by world class Equity theatre professionals.” They also organize a London theatre tour and Dublin theatre tour.

Information:

Location: 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, Ma (56 miles/75 minutes)

Tickets: \$55 (Students and Chester residents \$10)

ChesterTheatre.org

Box Office: (413) 354-7771

Productions:

The Thin Place – June 20-30

Unreconciled – July 4-14

It Goes Without Saying – July 18 & 19

Will Sacrifice – July 25 – August 4

Big Big Sky – Aug 8- 18

Ashfield, Ma – Double Edge Theatre:

Very different theater, usually outdoors.

“An international center for performance, collaboration, and training.”

“What we attempt to create in our theatre is a living culture, a rebuilding of the fragments into an admittedly utopian integrity of human existence. We do this for ourselves, but also with the belief that we can share and transmit this experience to the people we meet. We must be committed to transforming our dangerous flirtation with extinction to the reality of a living and sustainable culture.” — Stacy Klein, Founder & Artistic Director

Information:

Location: 948 Conway Rd, Ashfield, MA 01330 (32 miles/40 minutes)

www.doubletreetheatre.org

Box Office: (413)-628-0277

Productions:

See the website.

Peterborough, NH - Peterborough Players:

Professional Summer Stock Theater

Established in 1933, this is one of the oldest summer stock companies in the country. The Players have staged more than 300 different plays over the years. They have presented a variety of world and regional premieres and works by contemporary playwrights as well as the classics. During the "off" season, (October - May), The Metropolitan Opera and London's National Theatre is broadcast onto their "big screen".

Information:

Location: 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough, NH (42 miles/62 minutes)

Tickets: about \$50

PeterboroughPlayers.org/

Box Office: (603) 924-7585

Productions:

Noises Off – June 19-30

Death Trap – July 3-14

Pride & Prejudice – July 17-28

Ben Butler – July 31 – Aug 11

Man of LaMancha – Aug 14-25

West Chesterfield, NH – Actors Theatre Playhouse:

The Actors Theatre Playhouse offers “unique productions in a beautifully renovated church”.

Information:

Location: corner of Brook & Main Streets, West Chesterfield, NH (19 miles/30 minutes)

Tickets: about \$20

www.atplayhouse.org

(877) 666-1855

Productions:

Ten Minute Play Festival – June 6-22

Pygmalion (staged reading) – June 29 & July 6

The Lifespan of a Fact – July 11-27

An Inspector Calls – Aug 8-24

Spotlight – Sept 7 & 14

Under Milk Wood – Sept 20-28

Weston Vermont - Weston Playhouse:

Professional Theatre

For over 85 years, Weston has flourished as a home for exceptional theater in an exceptional community. Professional summer stock in two beautiful theatres. There are special events in addition to the play schedule, these are listed on the website.

Information:

703 Main St, Weston, Vt (62 miles/95 minutes)

Tickets: about \$60

<http://www.westonplayhouse.org>

802-824-8167

Productions:

Jersey Boys – June 12-July 7

Junie B. Jones – June 20 – July 7

Pippin – July 24 – Aug 17

The Porch on Windy Hill – Aug 22 – Sept 1

The Woman in Black – Oct 2-20