

Theatre & Performance Within Reach of Northfield **Summer 2025**

Introduction: A New and Better Normal

I started this listing in 2014 with the intent of including every theatre production in the valley for the entire summer. Some of my favorite theaters have folded and I miss them. In the meantime, many theaters have become multi-arts organizations so that this listing now includes a much wider variety of events and activities. Cell phones have made us all less dependent on lists like this for details as long as it helps point us in the right direction and gives us a “lay of the land”. That means that this is still a listing of theatre events and dates but it has become a listing of where to go to get current information about what is going on in the Pioneer Valley in 2025. It is important to check the websites to get up to date information about the events that interest you.

Note: Free Passes

If you are looking for non-theatre/music 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 (pools and lakes), parks, historical sites, art museums, etc. They have even had passes for things out of the area like the ship Constitution (“Old Ironsides”) in Boston.

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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 other locations.

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.silvertorntheatre.com

Information & reservations: 413-213-2435

Productions:

The Amateurs – June 13-22, Theatre at Hampshire College, Amherst

The Comeuppance – July 18-27, Theatre at Hampshire College, Amherst

Turners Falls – Shea Theatre:

Multi-Arts Performance Organization.

The Shea aims to be a part of this area's cultural revival. It is truly Multi-arts, presenting local talent to big names like Judy Collins and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. 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 for young people and summer camp workshops.

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 from free to a more usual \$20-50

www.sheatheatre.org

Productions

June 9 - Open Mic

June 13 - Greenfield Police Comedy Night

June 15 - Customers from Hell

June 27 - Karla Bonoff (singer, songwriter)

June 28 - Two Car Garage (local band)

July 9 - Troy Ramey (singer, songwriter)

July 13 - Judy Collins

July 18 - The Samples (rock, reggae, and folk)

July 19 - Ladysmith Black Mambazo

July 26 - Extensions Cords II (electronic music)

Aug 22 - Heartwood Trio (song and story)

Aug 23 - Iris Dement (singer)

Aug 24 - Eddie 9V (Blues)

Sept 11 - Eilen Jewell

Sept 27 - King Kyote (Rock and Blues)

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:

Twelfth Night - July 11 & 12

Chicago - Aug 8-16

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

The Vermont Theatre Company is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting theatre 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:

June 26 - 29 - Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare in the Park), Living Memorial Park, 61 Guilford St, Brattleboro, Vt 05301 (rain dates June 30, July 1 or 2)

Summer 2025 (TBD) - A Play for the Whole Family (Children's Classic)

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. This 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).

Web: info@nextstagearts.org

Tickets: \$10-25

Productions:

The current calendar lists multi-arts events through October. A great line-up and variety. This is a partial listing.

June 11 - The Song Remains the Same (rock)

June 13 - Aura Shards and Compass Trio

June 15 - The Emily Margaret Band

June 20 - Vermont Comedy Stand Up

June 20 - Free children's musical by Weston Theatre - Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus

June 21 - Christine Ohlman and Rebel Montez

June 22 - Film - Eat Drink Man Woman

June 27/28 - Yellow Barn - The Other Mozart (classical)

June 29 - The Stockwell Brothers etc into Sept

Sept 19 - Ordinary Elephant (folk duo). I heard this duo at our Springville Center for the Arts and they are great so I had to give them a shout out!

etc into October

Keene, NH- The Colonial Theatre

Multi-Arts Cinema/Performance Organization:

The Colonial Theatre tradition of nearly a century has been presenting films and touring, performing artists for the Keene community. Whether it is providing a stage for singers that inspire, evenings that take us down memory lane, physical performances that make jaws drop, or the sly wit of a comedian, the most important part of what happens here is sharing those experiences together. There is a lot of cinema between guest performances.

Information:

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

Web: www.thecolonial.org

Tickets: free to \$25-50 (student rush available)

Productions:

June 20 - Free Film - Jumanji

June 21 - Music - Steep Canyon Rangers (Bluegrass)

June 27 - Film - The Terminator

June 28 - Sorry Po' Boys (New Orleans music)

July 9 - Film - Dial M for Murder

July 11 - Film - Sixteen Candles

July 18 - Film - Star Trek II, The Wrath of Khan

July 25 - Film - Raising Arizona

End of their listings at this time, June 12, 2025

Keene, NH- The Edge Ensemble Theatre

Community Theatre:

Information:

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

603-352-5657

Web: www.edgeensemble.org

Tickets: \$20/18 senior/student

Productions:

Missed Opportunities (a collection of 6 short stories adapted for the stage)

June 20,21,26,27,28 at 7:30 pm and June 22,29 at 2 pm

An additional production is being developed but has not been determined at this point.

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 theatre tours to cities like London, Dublin, and Chicago.

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:

Magdalene - June 19-29

A Hundred Words for Snow - July 3-13

Bill Bowers, Stories With and Without Words - July 17 & 18

A Case for the Existence of God - July 24 - Aug 3

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 (office hours M-F 10am - 4pm)

Tickets: \$25/40/75

Productions:

The Heron's Flight -

Previews July 11-12 at 8 pm, Performances July 16-31 at 8 pm and August 1-3 at 7:30
The 2025 Summer Spectacle, The Heron's Flight, is a performance which travels through the gardens, barns, and waterways of DE's Farm Center. A great blue heron perches silently in a tree, then breaks the surface of the cool green water. Familiar and mythological creatures gather for a Midsummer Feast – an explosive celebration of love, dance, and flight. Walk with them toward transformation in an impossible world as we embrace the knowledge of the land – that each season of life is beloved.

Sept 20 & 21 at 8pm “again the water carriers: Ceremonies from in the name of the m/other tree”

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 premiers 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: \$60 plays/\$67 musical

PeterboroughPlayers.org/

Box Office: (603) 924-7585

Productions:

Boeing Boeing – June 18-29

Dial M for Murder – July 2-13

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee – July 16-27

Native Gardens – July 30 – Aug 10

Hay Fever – Aug 13 - 24

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)

www.atplayhouse.org

(877) 666-1855

Tickets: \$17

Thurs, Fri, Sat performances 7:30 pm, Sundays at 2:00 pm

Productions:

Ten Minute Play Festival – June 6-21

Collected Stories – July 11-13, 18-20, 24-26

A Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay about the Death of Walt Disney -

Aug 2, 3, 9

The Night Alive – August 22-24, 29-31 , Sept 4-6

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. A traveling children’s production is one of the productions. Special events include pre-show talks, post-show talks, and hootenannies that as well as special events that 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:

Almost Heaven, John Denver’s America - June 11 - July 6

Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus - (a traveling children’s show) – June 17-29

(Weston, North Bennington, Manchester, Putney, Brownsville, Rutland, Springfield, Weston). NOTE: I took my granddaughter to their production of “Junie B. Jones” last summer and it was an outdoor delight. So well done.

White Christmas – July 16 – Aug 10

A Distinct Society – Aug 20-31

The Twelfth Night Show – Sept 26 - October 12