


# THE LEGACY THEATRE 2025 SEASON



## JOHN MCDANIEL AND THE SUNDAY BROADWAY CONCERT SERIES

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## EUAN MORTON





## Founder's Corner



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Legacy Theatre's FIFTH SEASON in operation! As I look back over the last four years, I am filled with pride at the variety of quality productions and events we have shared with our community. In such a short time, Legacy Theatre has become a destination where audiences love to visit, artists love to perform, and students love to learn. In 2024, audiences from over 5 countries and 27 states were dazzled by Broadway and TV legends and talented local professionals. We were the recipient of seven BroadwayWorld CT awards, and we were named the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year. As if these thrills were not enough, we were honored to host the one and only Julie Andrews as guest director for *The Great American Mousical!* Indeed, these last four years have been memorable, and we could not have done it without you, our loyal audience and patrons.

On behalf of our staff, volunteers, and trustees, I thank you for joining us and for supporting our vision to nurture the next generation of theatre-makers as we inspire a lifelong love for the arts in audiences of all ages. Enjoy the show!!

Stephanie Stiefel Williams  
*Co-Founder and Trustee Chair*  
 Legacy Theatre

### Welcome to Legacy!

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Legacy Wi-Fi

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*Gift Certificates and Merchandise are Available at the Box Office!*



# Letter from the Executive Artistic Director



Every year that goes by is marked by such awed reflection on what has taken place in these four walls: amazed at the teams of talented people who have restored the theatre to such beauty, endeared of the staff, volunteers, crew and talent who provide their all to make this a wonderful experience for you, and ceaseless gratitude for you- the audiences who fill these seats and make what we have hoped to achieve, a reality. Without your anticipation, enjoyment, and applause at the last note, we would not exist. And I deeply, deeply thank you.

Happy 5th Season, our beloved audience! Thank you for making Legacy a part of *your* 2025!

Warmly,  
Keely Baisden Knudsen  
*Executive Artistic Director and Co-Founder*  
Legacy Theatre



Photo: Wyeth Architects



Photo: Sam Bibbins



# Letter from the Associate Artistic Director



Since Legacy Theatre opened its doors to the public, The Broadway Concert Series has truly been my pride and joy. Producing over 30 concerts with some of Broadway's brightest stars in such an intimate setting, right here in my hometown, has been nothing short of a dream come true. Some of the incredible talent gracing our stage have been friends of mine for over two decades, while others I'm meeting for the first time. Every time I walk through Legacy's stage door, I can't help but pinch myself. This is the theatre scene I dreamed of as a child!

I've known John McDaniel, Grammy and Emmy Award Winner, for 25 years, and I'm thrilled to announce that he will be our Music Director for every concert this season. His passion for musical theatre, love of our theatre in Branford and the way he has become part of our family fills me with joy. Every year, I find myself asking, "Is this real life?" The fact that we're now celebrating the fifth season of bringing Broadway's brightest stars to Branford at Legacy Theatre is truly incredible.

I have been fortunate to work with some of my childhood idols, and I'll always be a musical theatre kid at heart. This year's lineup is something I can't wait for you to experience—it's packed with incredible talent.

So sit back, relax, and prepare for an unforgettable artistic journey!

Thank you for supporting the arts!

Colin Sheenan  
*Associate Artistic Director*  
Legacy Theatre

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# LEGACY THEATRE

KEELY BAISDEN KNUDSEN, Executive Artistic Director

COLIN SHEEHAN, Associate Artistic Director

present



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# At This Theatre



c. 1890s



c. 1930s



c. 1930-1940s

- 1866 A small, non-denominational church was built at 128 Thimble Islands Road in the village of Stony Creek in Branford.
- 1900 A fire damaged the property.
- 1914 The land is sold to William Howd and the foundations were laid for a silent movie theater called Idle Hour Moving Pictures.
- 1923 A theater group belonging to the Stony Creek Church of Christ called the Parish Players was forming.
- 1928 The Parish Players purchased the movie theater space, and repurposed it to “live” theater for the first time. Productions included the world premiere of *Death Takes a Holiday* as well as *Private Lives*, *Merrily We Roll Along* and *Pygmalion*.
- 1938 Orson Welles wrote and directed a silent film to accompany his direction of William Gillette’s 1894 comedy *Too Much Johnson* at what was now the Stony Creek Theatre.
- 1946 The theater building became home to Panix/Materna-Line, Inc., a designer and manufacturer of corsets and the like.



Stony Creek Theatre production of *Too Much Johnson* (1938)

# At This Theatre



1946



c. 1980s - 2010s



2021

1961 Grace Weil established the space as the Stony Creek Puppet Museum with life-sized Sicilian puppets direct from performances in Italy. Grace Weil's son, Jim, and Italian Salvatore Macri, were the next to put their mark on the theater. With their rare and cherished skills of puppetry, the Italian puppets came to life.

1970s-

2010s Classes and theater were in abundance under Jim Weil, Barry Fritz, the Alliance Theatre, Joe Davis and others. Passing on the legacy of theatre to others is a stronghold of the Legacy Theatre, which purchased this theater in 2013--and now you are part of its ongoing Legacy.

2021 Legacy Theatre, a repertory company with a conservatory arm, opened the restored theatre for performance and training. From nothing but a dream and a vision to now teams of committees, boards of directors and advisors, actors and teachers, this shoreline gem has been restored and revitalized. We at Legacy invite you to continue with us as we commemorate the past and spotlight the future of this special stage.



Jim Weil  
(1960s-1970s)

Explore more about  
**AT THIS THEATRE**  
on the Legacy website!

*Photos, video and more!*

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[LegacyTheatreCT.org/history](https://LegacyTheatreCT.org/history)





# The Power of Theatre Anchored by You

Theatre is more than entertainment. **It's a lifeline.** It sparks imagination, fosters connection, and reminds us of our shared humanity.

But **without philanthropic support, stories go untold.**

**At Legacy Theatre, ticket sales cover just a fraction of what it takes to create transformative theatre experiences.** That's why we invite you to be part of something extraordinary:

**Join The Anchor Giving Society.**

Your generosity keeps the arts **alive, accessible, and impactful** in our community.

## **Your Gift's Impact:**

- **Ignites Creativity** – Supports scholarships and arts education for students who wouldn't otherwise have access.
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- **Expands Access** – Ensures affordable ticket prices so theatre remains for everyone, not just a few.
- **Provides Joy** – Creates moments of laughter, wonder, and pure delight when we need them most.
- **Strengthens Community** – Uses storytelling to foster empathy and bring people together in meaningful ways.

## **Your Gift Will Be Matched – Double Your Impact!**

Thanks to a generous matching challenge, every gift received by August 31 **will be matched up to \$250,000**—meaning your impact doubles today.

## **Will You Be the Reason a Story is Told?**

Join **The Anchor Giving Society** today and help us light the way for future generations of artists and audiences.

Give now at [legacytheatrect.org/donate](https://legacytheatrect.org/donate)  
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# **Anchoring the Arts. A Legacy of impact.**



# LEGACY THEATRE

KEELY BAISDEN KNUDSEN, Executive Artistic Director  
COLIN SHEEHAN, Associate Artistic Director

present

## JOHN McDANIEL AND THE SUNDAY BROADWAY CONCERT SERIES

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Sound Design by  
JP QUEENAN

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# Who's Who

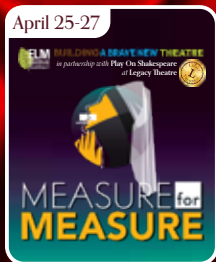


**EUAN MORTON**, a native of Scotland, received an Olivier Award nomination for originating the role of Boy George in the musical *Taboo*. He moved to New York in 2003 to reprise the role on Broadway, earning Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Drama League Award nominations, as well as the Theatre World Award (for Outstanding Broadway Debut). He earned a 2006 Obie Award for his appearance in *Measure For Measure* at the Public Theatre. Most recently Euan was seen on Broadway in *Hamilton* playing King George. Euan was also seen on Broadway in *Cyrano De Bergerac* and *Sondheim on Sondheim*. His other stage appearances include title roles in: Tony Kushner's adaptation of *Brundibár* at the New Victory Theatre and Berkeley Rep; *The Who's Tommy* at the Bay Street Theatre; and *Caligula* for the inaugural season of the New York Musical Theatre Festival (2004 NYMF Award for Outstanding Individual Performance). Off-Broadway, Euan appeared opposite Alfred Molina in *Howard Katz* at the Roundabout Theatre.



**JOHN McDANIEL** (*Musical Director*) is a Grammy and Emmy Award-winning Music Director, Composer, Director, Arranger, Orchestrator, and Producer and is an Artistic Director at the Tony Award-winning Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. Most recently, John music directed and orchestrated *Carol Burnett's 90th Birthday Special* on NBC. John participated in a live Playbill concert event in Times Square welcoming back Broadway, featuring Brian Stokes Mitchell, Jessica Vosk and Chuck Schumer. McDaniel produced and directed a virtual concert of *Sticks & Stones*, for which he is also the composer, starring Audra McDonald & Javier Muñoz. He is also a camp director of Kristin Chenoweth's Broadway Boot Camp. John directed *Into The Woods* and *Hair in Concert* at the historic Patchogue Theater, *Sondheim Originals* at 54 Below and *Piano Men* at Birdland. Broadway music credits include *Bonnie and Clyde* (Drama Desk Nomination, Best Orchestrations), *Catch Me If You Can*, *Brooklyn* (Producer and Orchestrator), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Grammy Award), *Taboo*, *Chicago*, *Grease*, *Patti LuPone on Broadway* and *Company – the Original Cast in Concert* at Lincoln Center. On Television: *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* (two Emmy Awards and eight nominations). John has collaborated with Cab Calloway, Shirley MacLaine, George Burns, Joel Grey, Carol Burnett, Betty Buckley, Bette Midler, Shirley Jones, and Katy Perry and has guest conducted at 15 Symphony Orchestras across America, including five concerts with his hometown St. Louis Symphony. John received a BFA in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University.

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# Legacy Who's Who

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## LEGACY THEATRE STAFF

Co-Founder & Trustee Chair .....	STEPHANIE STIEFEL WILLIAMS
Co-Founder & Executive Artistic Director .....	KEELY BAISDEN KNUDSEN
Associate Artistic Director .....	COLIN SHEEHAN
Development Director .....	ANNE RUNOLFSSON
General Manager .....	JEFF ZEITLIN
Director of Marketing and Community Outreach .....	MARY LEE WEBER
Sales Associate .....	ALIZA TING
Development Associate .....	ELAINE CAPIELLO
Master Carpenter .....	RICH BURKAM
Resident Set Designer .....	JAMIE BURNETT
Front of House Alternate .....	NICK FETHERSTON
Graphic Designer .....	JOE LANDRY

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## Contact Legacy Theatre

Box Office: (203) 315-1901  
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# Legacy Who's Who



## **STEPHANIE STIEFEL WILLIAMS**

(Co-Founder & Trustee Chair) is an active and versatile performer in musicals, concerts, and plays and has appeared in numerous locations throughout the Northeast. A member of Actors' Equity Association, she has

appeared professionally in a variety of roles at venues such as Broadway's Marriott Marquis, Legacy Theatre, Hartford Stage Company, Foxwoods' Fox Theatre, Atlantic City's Tropicana, and the Garde Arts Center. Among these roles, her favorites include Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha*, Anita in *West Side Story*, Lola in *Damn Yankees*, Maria in *The Sound of Music*, and Guenevere in *Camelot*. Although her professional focus has been in musical theatre, she also has been engaged frequently as a concert soloist, as well as an a cappella ensemble singer. Locally, Stephanie is a proud founder, repertory member, and trustee president at Legacy Theatre where she has starred in the critically-acclaimed productions of *DRACULA: A Comedy of Terrors*, *The Musical of Musicals (the Musical!)*, *I Do! I Do!*, and *Barefoot in the Park*. She also appeared as a featured vocalist in the wildly popular *Mack is Back!*.

In addition to her work with Legacy, Stephanie sits on the Performing Arts Advisory Council at the University of Notre Dame and has been a member of the Board of Trustees at the Goodspeed Opera House. She has become involved on a producing level with critically-acclaimed productions of *Gypsy* and *Showboat* in London's West End, the Off-Broadway revival of *Sweeney Todd* in New York, and Broadway's *Escape to Margaritaville*. As a former Miss Connecticut, she represented our state at the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City. She holds a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from Fairfield University and a Juris Doctorate with honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Stephanie is the proud mother of two adult children, Valerie and Rick, and lives in Guilford with her wonderful husband, Luke.



## **KEELY BAISTEN KNUDSEN**

(Co-Founder & Executive Artistic Director) An award-winning director, Keely has performed, directed, and choreographed internationally in plays, musicals, operas, and dance companies in hundreds of theatrical productions

and has performed in 48 of the United States and in the UK. Realizing her vision of a new theatre company on the Connecticut Shoreline, Keely's ideals of inspiring, inclusive work that uplifts the human spirit and connects communities formalized in the creation of the Legacy Theatre with Co-Founder Stephanie Stiefel Williams, a performing colleague and dear friend.

Keely has directed, choreographed, and taught a myriad of performing arts courses at such institutions as Quinnipiac University, Yale University, Fairfield University, Hartt School of Drama, Southern Connecticut State University, Westminster College, and was the Director of Education of New Haven's acclaimed Elm Shakespeare Company for several years. Additionally a composer/lyricist and playwright, she is a member of ASCAP and a writer/curator for Rewls Productions ([www.rewlsproductions.us](http://www.rewlsproductions.us)). Her directing has been heralded by the *Arts Paper* as "...visually striking, emotionally moving" and "captivating" and of her direction of *Hamlet* it was said, "Knudsen has made the notoriously difficult Shakespearean language accessible." Her creation of the Wheel Life Theatre Troupe has been an especially rewarding program as she acts and directs with those who ambulate with crutches and wheelchairs.

Her BFA is from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, at which she graduated first in the class, and she received her master's degree in Drama on full scholarship from The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. Keely, her husband Brian, and five children (Saviah, Liviana, Wynter, Emery, and Reeves) reside in Guilford, CT.



## **COLIN SHEEHAN** (Associate Artistic Director)

is a local arts enthusiast and serves as the Arts, Culture & Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Branford, Director of The Branford High School Performing Arts' Spring Musical, and Co-Founder and Co-

Artistic Director of Branford Parks and Recreation Shoreline Theatre Company. He graduated from Branford High School and continued his studies at Wagner College with a B.A. in Theatre and Speech Performance. In 2003, he made his Broadway debut in the closing night production of *Les Misérables*. In '99, Colin appeared numerous times on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* and worked for three seasons on *The Wendy Williams Show*. Colin has produced, directed, hosted, and performed in the tri-state area and abroad with Broadway Cruises, Nickelodeon Cruises, and R Family Vacations Cruises. Colin is a philanthropist and has hosted, produced and raised funds and awareness for many organizations in Branford and beyond.



## **ANNE RUNOLFSSON** (Development Director)

has worked professionally in the theater for the past 40 years, a career path driven by passion and a fierce belief in the importance and value of the arts. Having spent much of her career onstage with starring roles on Broadway, Off-Broadway, National Tours, Regional theaters, and as a soloist with symphony orchestras all over the

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# Legacy Who's Who

world, she has also produced, written and directed for the theater. Fueled by a fervent desire to help secure funding opportunities for live theater, theater education and theater artists, Anne joined the Legacy Theatre part-time in the role of Development Manager in 2022. While serving in that position, which included the launching of the Annual Giving Society, overseeing the annual appeal (surpassing the annual fundraising goal), securing institutional giving, grant writing, major gift cultivation, donor stewardship, CRM management, and the planning and execution of all fundraising events, she realized that her passion had shifted from being onstage to one of raising money for the arts. Anne is greatly honored to serve in the role of Development Director for Legacy Theatre and would love to meet you and hear YOUR story of why the arts matter.



**JEFF ZEITLIN** (*General Manager*)

A long-time resident of Guilford, CT, Jeff's love of theatre was taken to the next level in 2016 when his daughter joined the Guilford High School Theatre Arts program. Jeff served as a Board Member of the school's Theatre Arts Parents Support. He then became the GHSTA Box Office Manager and Front of House Advisor for GHSTA students. He continues in that volunteer role today. Prior to joining Legacy, Jeff was an usher at The Ivoryton Playhouse, as well as a House Manager at The Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center ("The Kate") in Old Saybrook. Upon learning of the development of The Legacy Theatre, he was taken by the plans for the historic building and the prospect of bringing high-quality Broadway productions and performers to the shoreline in our intimate setting. He joined Legacy in 2021, prior to the start of our inaugural season. Jeff's community involvement also extends to Guilford A Better Chance where he is a member of the Board of Directors, and as the Box Office partner for Guilford High School's music department for their annual Holiday Concerts by the Green. In his Legacy role, Jeff loves to meet and greet patrons from nearby and far-away. From Jeff Z: "The complete theater experience starts when we welcome you to our theatre and doesn't end until we have a chance to say thank you for coming and hope to see you again!"



**MARY LEE WEBER** (*Director of Marketing and Community Outreach*) is thrilled to be a part of history in the making since Legacy Theatre brought live theatre back to Stony Creek. She helps with Community Relations at Legacy, in addition to being the Director

of The Stony Creek Museum. She is the field producer for the weekly *What's Right With Schools* TV segment on WTNH 8. She is currently working on a documentary on the Stony Creek Quarry. She was the Director of Marketing for

CAS- CIAC, ABC News 8, and started her media career as General Manager for Nantucket Island Television. Living in the Creek is a wonder and she loves meeting audiences and performers while walking labs Norie and Poppy.



**ALIZA TING** (*Sales Associate*) is an honor student at Purdue Global University, pursuing a major in business and a minor in social media marketing. Aliza has a keen interest in the world of special effects makeup. Fascinated by the artistry and creativity involved, she

spends her free time experimenting with makeup techniques and studying the latest trends in the industry. With a strong foundation in business coupled with her passion for makeup artistry, Aliza aims to carve out a unique career path where she can blend her analytical skills with her artistic flair.



**ELAINE CAPPIELLO** (*Development Associate*) joins the Legacy Theatre team after being an active member of the Madison, CT community, where she volunteered in the schools for several years. Prior to moving to CT, Elaine worked at New York Public Library, both

in their Theatre and Performing Arts Archive (TOFT) and Development and Government Affairs offices; as well as the Alumni Relations offices at Parsons School of Design and Columbia College at Columbia University. She earned a B.A. in English from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, PA, and attended the Arts Administration Program at the University of Akron in Akron, OH before moving to New York City. Elaine's interests outside of Legacy Theatre include genetic genealogy and supporting her children in the various music programs at Daniel Hand High School and along the Shoreline.



**JOE LANDRY** (*Graphic Designer*) has had the pleasure of being part of the Legacy family for the past number of years. He has designed for several theatres, including MTC, Westport Country Playhouse, Fairfield Theatre Company and Pantochino Productions.

As a playwright, his plays have been produced throughout the world, including right here at Legacy, where his adaptation of *The Great Gatsby: A Live Radio Play* was staged. [www.joelandry.com](http://www.joelandry.com)



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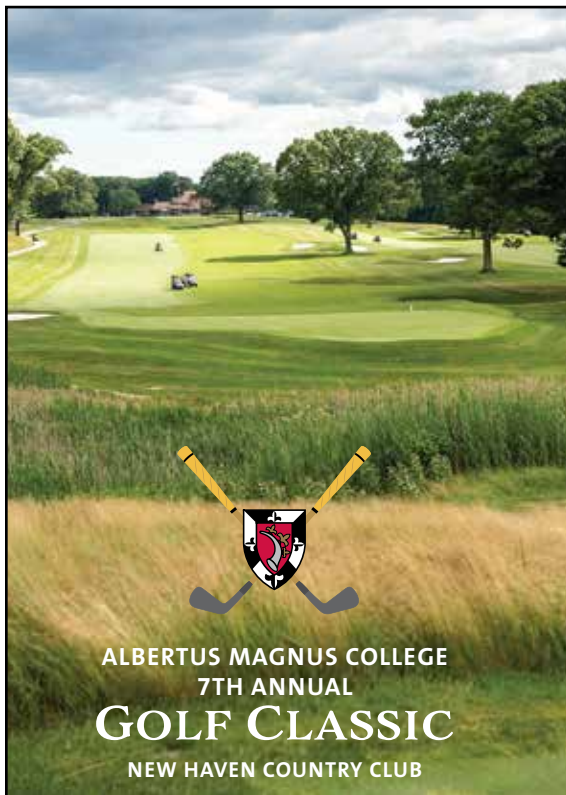


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# NEWS 8

## CONNECTICUT'S NEWS LEADER

# 2025

## MAINSTAGE SEASON

*5 Years and Counting...*

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June 12-29



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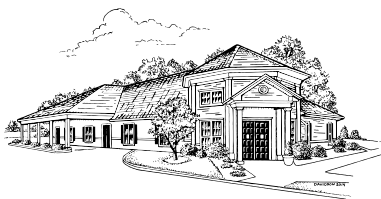
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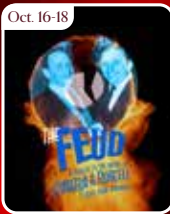
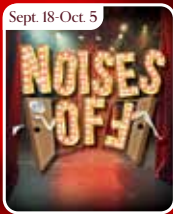
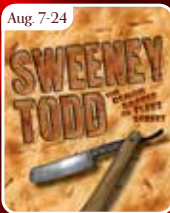
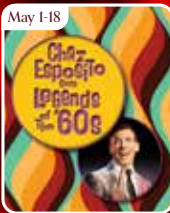
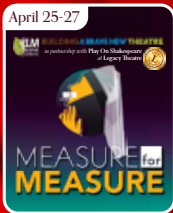
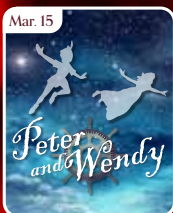
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