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Dear Friend of the Academy,

We invite you to join us as a sponsor of our tenth Academy Season Series!

At the Academy of Music, we exist for our community. Over the past year, as we offered virtual live performances, community events and educational opportunities, more than 50,000 people attended and participated in our offerings. And this year we look forward to broadening our reach and bringing new faces through our doors.

The 2023.2024 series features **Queer Horror**, the United States' only LGBTQ+ feature length horror screening series, incorporating live drag and burlesque; the amazing **Tito Puente** with his Latin jazz rhythms, paying homage to his late father; a one-woman show bringing the life and many trials of Supreme Court Justice "RBG" tour stage in **All Things Equal**; an Academy production of Lisa Kron's ride through her family album in **2.5 Minute Ride**, a true story of humanities' humor and horrors; **Your Sext Are Shit: Older Better Letters**, a new filthy, funny show with Rachel Mars, who shares sex and love letters of long dead artists alongside recent sexts by anonymous donors; the Academy's Youth Production will stage the anarchy of childhood and power of imagination in **Matilda the Musical JR**; our ninth **Best of Valley Voices Story Slam™**, a local competition based on the art of first person narrative storytelling; the Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audience's production of **Show Way the Musical**, based on Jacqueline Woodson's award-winning story of black history, love, and resilience; the second annual **Academy Regional Youth Poetry Slam Competition**, shining a spotlight on the future voices of spoken word.

As an Academy of Music sponsor, you deliver a strong message to the community about your commitment to making sure the arts survive; to supporting artists of all races, genders, ages, and socioeconomic status; to making sure the stories of ALL people are heard and seen in the Pioneer Valley.

Your support for the 2023.2024 Academy Season Series means more than ever before. The generosity of local businesses and individuals ensure that the Academy of Music Theatre will continue to engage our community. Friends like you will allow us to once again tell the stories of the voiceless that need to be heard now more than ever.

Sponsors' names will appear on all promotional materials, including our website and our monthly e-newsletter, which reaches more than 50,000 patrons. Your ad will be seen in our season's program guide, ensuring that our patrons recognize your commitment to keeping the arts alive. Sponsorship will also include your name "in lights" on the Academy marquee, which is passed by approximately 14,000 cars daily.

On behalf of the artists, Board and staff of the Academy of Music, I thank you for playing a critical role in our community through your generosity. I look forward to welcoming you back to the Theater in September.

Sincerely,



Debra J'Anthony
Executive Director

Academy of Music Theatre
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\$7,500 - Full Season Series Sponsor Package

- Name on marquee one month before each event
- Name on our printed materials: season mailer, counter card, print ads, link on our site to your site
- 250 word company description and logo on our Sponsor page
- Full season acknowledgment (name and link) in monthly E-Newsletter, (50,000 monthly reach)
- Invitation to pre-show receptions
- Optional curtain speech at Season Series opener
- Full page advertisement in our Season Program (black and white 4" wide x 7" deep portrait orientation)
- Live on stage acknowledgment
- 4 tickets and VIP seating for each Season Series events

\$2,500 - Show Sponsor (1 show) Package

- Name on marquee for two weeks leading up to your sponsored event
- Name on our printed materials: season mailer, counter card, print ads, link on our site to your site
- 150 company description and logo on our Sponsors page
- Full season acknowledgment (name and link) in monthly E-Newsletter (50,000 monthly reach)
- Invitation to the pre-show reception for your sponsored show
- Full page advertisement in our Season Program (black and white 4" wide x 7" deep portrait orientation)
- Live on stage acknowledgment
- 8 tickets for your sponsored show

\$1,500 - Show Sponsor (1 show) Package

- Name on marquee for one week leading up to your sponsored event
- Name on our printed materials: season mailer, counter cards, print ads and your link on our site
- Full season acknowledgment in monthly E-Newsletter and show-specific E-blast (50,000 monthly reach)
- Half page advertisement in our Season Program (4" wide x 3.5" deep landscape orientation)
- Live on stage acknowledgment
- 6 tickets for your sponsored show

\$750 - Show Sponsor (1 show) Package

- Name on marquee for three days leading up to your sponsored event
- Name on our printed materials: season mailer, counter cards, print ads and your link on our site
- Full season acknowledgment(name and link) in monthly E-Newsletter (50,000 monthly reach)
- Quarter page advertisement in our Season Program (2.125" wide x 3.5" deep portrait orientation)
- Live on stage acknowledgement
- 4 tickets for your sponsored show



ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Season Series 2023-2024

Queer Horror

OCTOBER 20, 2023 ▪ 7:30PM

Queer Horror isn't just the United States' only LGBTQ+ feature-length horror screening series – it started as a short film festival incorporating live drag and burlesque acts in a riotous multimedia program asking what it means to identify with the monster. *Queer Horror: Gravest Hits* presents the silliest and most ghoulish international horror shorts by, starring, and about queers culled from four years of *Queer Horror*'s short film nights. A Q&A will follow presentation.

Tito Puente, Jr.

OCTOBER 21, 2023 ▪ 7:30PM

The comparison is inevitable. How could it be otherwise? Tito Puente Jr. carries his father with him – imprinted on his physical being and locked in his soul. It's in his looks, his joy, and his music. Tito, Jr. is on a passionate mission. The younger Puente is determined to nurture the musical legacy left by his father. He refuses to let his father become a distant memory. "He was just too vibrant, too exciting. There was magic in the music my father made. It made people happy all over the world." He has found captive audiences who echo his passion. Crowds lured to a venue by the father are returning to see the son — and to once again participate in the high voltage celebration that takes place on stage.



All Things Equal

NOVEMBER 17, 2023 ■ 7:30PM

Supreme Court Justice “RBG” welcomes a friend of the family to her cozy chambers to convey, over the course of ninety fascinating and often funny minutes, a sense of her life and its many trials: losing her mother the day before she graduated as valedictorian of her Brooklyn high school ... being one of only nine young women studying law at Harvard while also raising a daughter and helping her husband battle cancer ... fighting for women’s rights in the nineteen-seventies before condescending all-male courts ... and taking courageous stands for human rights as a voice of reason amid a splintering and increasingly politicized Supreme Court. An evening with a great and compassionate icon of straight-thinking American justice emerges ... an RBG who is not only “notorious” but victorious as she takes a stand for ordinary people facing the many challenges of a changing world. Bring your scrunchies, your hankies, your humor and your heart to this entertaining and uplifting event!



2.5 Minute Ride

JANUARY 19, 20, 27, 28
& FEBRUARY 3, 4, 2024

In *2.5 Minute Ride*, playwright Lisa Kron invites her audience on a roller coaster ride through the family album. Rising and falling between high hilarity and deep disquiet, Kron demonstrates with disarming simplicity that humor and horror can share the same human moment. The play switches back and forth between a daughter’s journey to Auschwitz with her septuagenarian father, a Holocaust survivor; her Michigan

family’s annual pilgrimage to a Sandusky, Ohio, amusement park; and her brother’s marriage to his internet bride. By moving seamlessly between these three diverse recounting, Kron creates a complex and at times startling meditation on how human beings make sense of tragedy, grief, and everyday life.

Your Sext Are Shit: Older Better Letters

MARCH 2, 2024 • 7:30PM

A new filthy, funny, and intimate solo show featuring Rachel Mars, which triangulates sex and love letters of long dead artists, contemporary sexts and a meditates on the construction of the queer female body. The show features letters from Joyce, Frida Kahlo, Georgia O'Keeffe, Mozart, Charles Bukowski, Radclyffe Hall, Eleanor Roosevelt and others. It also includes sexts sent to Rachel Mars by anonymous donation. It is a Queer Archive of longing, communication, and sex acts.



Road Dahl's Matilda the Musical, JR.

MARCH 7 & 8, 2024 • 6:30PM

Rebellion is nigh in *Matilda JR.*, a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the power of imagination! This story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have audiences rooting for the "revolting children" who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson. Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs, *Matilda JR.* is a joyous girl power romp. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.



Best of Valley Story Slam

APRIL 13, 2024 • 7:30PM

The Academy of Music Theatre and New England Public Media celebrate their ninth season of Best of the Valley Story Slam! Audience members have selected the top three stories for the four Valley Voices Story Slams held in the last year. These top stories by local storytellers will be shared on the Academy stage to compete for the top prize – Best of Valley Voices! Join us as we choose the winner of this competition based on the art of first-person narrative storytelling. It puts emphasis on content and performance and encourages storytellers to focus on what they are saying and how they're saying it. It's an exercise in crafting stories within a set time limit, without notes or props, and it's entertainment.

Show Way the Musical

Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences

APRIL 26, 2024 • 7:00PM

Soonie's great grandma was just seven years old when she was sold to a big plantation without her ma and pa, with only some fabric and needles to call her own. She began to stitch a Show Way, a quilt with secret meanings to show enslaved people the way to freedom. As each generation passes, the Show Way shines a light on the past and paves a road to the future, stitching together possibility and promise. Kennedy Center Education Artist-in-Residence Jacqueline Woodson's award-winning story of history, love, and resilience becomes a world premiere stage adaptation directed by Schele Williams with new music by Tyrone L. Robinson. This moving, lyrical account pays tribute to women in Woodson's own family whose strength and knowledge illuminate their daughters' lives over seven generations. Ages 7+



Academy Regional Youth Poetry Slam Competition

APRIL 27, 2024 ▪ 7:30PM

With a robust premiere in 2023, the Academy of Music presents the second annual Regional Youth Poetry Slam for area high school students in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties. Twenty poets are selected to compete in three elimination slam rounds with cash prizes for the top three winners. Hosted by national award-winning slam poet, Lyrical Faith, this event shines a spotlight on future voices of spoken word.

