



Elizabeth Ann Clune Center For Theatre
Leary Theatre



NIAGARA
UNIVERSITY
THEATRE

2024-2025 Season

company
/'kʌmp(ə)nē/
noun

- the fact or condition of being with others, especially in a way that provides friendship and enjoyment; *synonyms: companionship, friendship, fellowship, closeness, amity*
 - a person or people seen as a source of friendship and enjoyment
 - the person or group of people whose society someone is currently sharing
synonyms: group, crowd, body, party, band, collection, assembly
 - a visiting person or group of people
synonyms: guests, visitors, callers, people
 - a number of people gathered together, especially for a particular purpose
 - a group of actors, singers, or dancers who perform together

So, I was thinking about our final show, *Company*, recently and it hit me that the word's definition resonates across our entire season in really significant ways. For each production, there's a meaningful thematic connection. After all, why shouldn't there be? Art imitates life, right? But then I started thinking about you. Our audience.

The word *company* reinforces an integral truth. We are – all of us – necessary for the communal storytelling that is theatre. We can't do it without you, because we do it for you. The collective efforts of performers, directors, designers, technicians and, yes, the audience ... culminate in the creation of art speaking to the human condition.

So please join us for each of these splendid plays and musicals. Be part of our company. The company we keep defines us and makes us better. And for that, we're most grateful.

Steve Braddock | Artistic Director, NU Theatre

A DOLL'S HOUSE OCTOBER 3-6
RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 3
EIGHT WOMEN AND A MURDER NOVEMBER 21-24
SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL JANUARY 24-26
A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2 FEBRUARY 20-23
MOTHERS AND SONS FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2
SEAGULL MARCH 27-30
COMPANY APRIL 24 - MAY 4



KEY
PSD POST-SHOW DISCUSSION
FG FRIENDS OF NU THEATRE GALA

OCTOBER 3-6

Thursday October 3 7 p.m.

Friday October 4 7:30 p.m.

Saturday October 5 2 p.m.

Saturday October 5 7:30 p.m.

Sunday October 6 2 p.m. psd

\$20 General Admission

\$15 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

By Henrik Ibsen
Newly adapted by Kirsten Brandt and
Anne-Charlotte Hanes Harvey
Directed by Steve Braddock

A DOLL'S HOUSE

Nora Helmer is a high-spirited young housewife, and her life is on the upswing. Her husband, Torvald, has just received a promotion, and their financial struggles are over at last. But when an old acquaintance reappears, threatening to bring a dangerous secret to light, everything changes: her marriage, her family, even her relationship to the world around her. As the illusions behind her marriage are exposed, Nora wakes to feelings of self-awareness for the first time in her life.



OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 3

Thursday October 31 7 p.m.

Friday November 1 7:30 p.m.

Saturday November 2 2 p.m.

Saturday November 2 7:30 p.m.

Sunday November 3 2 p.m. psd

\$25 General Admission

\$20 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

Book, Lyrics and Music by Bob Carlton
Directed Stephen Vaughan
Music Direction by Joe Isgar
Choreography by Terri Filips Vaughan

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

Return with us to the 1950s, when sci-fi movies echoed the American post-war fear of the Russians, fear of the atomic bomb, fear of nefarious mad scientists whose experiments could result in giant monster bugs or mutated humans. And the one thing Americans feared more than all of the others: Rock and Roll ...

Loosely inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, this high-energy jukebox musical is packed with rock classics that will have you dancing in your seats, including "Great Balls of Fire," "Good Vibrations," "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood," "Young Girl" and "Gloria."



NOVEMBER 21-24

Thursday November 21 7 p.m.

Friday November 22 7:30 p.m.

Saturday November 23 2 p.m.

Saturday November 23 7:30 p.m.

Sunday November 24 2 p.m. psd

\$20 General Admission

\$15 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

By Robert Thomas
Transadapted by C. Henrik Borgstrom, Ph.D.
Directed by C. Henrik Borgstrom, Ph.D.

EIGHT WOMEN AND A MURDER

Eight women are stranded in an isolated manor house during a harrowing snow storm. When a grisly murder is discovered, they all fall under suspicion. As the twisting drama unfolds, we learn that each woman harbors a secret vicious enough to kill for. But only one of them is guilty. Which one?



JANUARY 24-26

Friday January 24 7:30 p.m. Cycle A
Saturday January 25 2 p.m. Cycle A
Saturday January 25 7:30 p.m. Cycle B
Sunday January 26 2 p.m. Cycle B

- \$20** General Admission
- \$15** NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)
- \$0** NU Students (w/NU ID)

All Student-Directed

SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL

Life in ten minutes. Snapchat for theatre-goers.

Comedies, dramas and everything in between – a smorgasbord of ten-minute plays. If one is not to your taste, you only have to wait 10 minutes until the next one.

Caution: some of the plays contain adult situations and language.



FEBRUARY 20-23

Thursday February 20 7 p.m.

Friday February 21 7:30 p.m.

Saturday February 22 2 p.m.

Saturday February 22 7:30 p.m.

Sunday February 23 2 p.m. psd

\$20 General Admission

\$15 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

By Lucas Hnath
Directed by Robyn Lee Horn

A DOLL'S HOUSE PART 2

Henrik Ibsen's original *A Doll's House* is followed by Lucas Hnath's 2017 sequel of sorts, *A Doll's House, Part 2*. Many years after Nora Helmer's shocking action, there's a knock on the door. Nora has returned. But why? And what will her sudden return mean to those she left behind? *A Doll's House Part 2* is both a continuation of Ibsen's complicated examination of traditional gender roles, as well as a smart modern take on human relationships. Clever, insightful, and deeply satisfying drama.

Caution: adult situations and language.



FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2

Friday February 28 7:30 p.m.
Saturday March 1 2 p.m. psd
Saturday March 1 7:30 p.m.
Sunday March 2 2 p.m.

\$10 All tickets. Proceeds to benefit the NU Players Club

By Terrence McNally
All Student-Produced | Studio Production

MOTHERS AND SONS

By turns humorous and powerful, *Mothers and Sons* reveals a woman who pays an unexpected visit to the New York apartment of her late son's partner, who is now married to another man and has a young son. Challenged to face how the world has changed around her, generations collide as she revisits the past and begins to see the life her son might have led.

Caution: adult situations and language



March 27-30

Thursday March 27 7 p.m.

Friday March 28 7:30 p.m.

Saturday March 29 2 p.m.

Saturday March 29 7:30 p.m.

Sunday March 30 2 p.m. psd

\$20 General Admission

\$15 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

By Anton Chekhov
Translated by Curt Columbus
Directed by David Peterson, Ph.D.

SEAGULL

When a famous actress and her entourage, consisting of family, staff, and admirers, take up residence at her lakeside summer estate, everyone finds themselves in pursuit of attention and unconditional love. Chekhov's first major play stages a vital argument about the theatre that still resonates today. Capturing the power of art, romance, and family, *Seagull* is a witty and soul-stirring masterpiece is a map of the human heart.



APRIL 24 - MAY 4

Thursday April 24 7 p.m.
Friday April 25 7:30 p.m.
Saturday April 26 2 p.m.
Saturday April 26 7:30 p.m.
Sunday April 27 2 p.m. psd
Thursday May 1 7 p.m.
Friday May 2 7:30 p.m.
Saturday May 3 4 p.m. fg
Sunday May 4 2 p.m.

\$25 General Admission

\$20 NU Employees/NU Alumni/
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/
Seniors (62 and over)

\$0 NU Students (w/NU ID)

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by George Furth
Directed by Steven Braddock
Choreographed by Amanda Benzin
Music Direction by Bridget Moriarty

COMPANY

"It's using things like force together, yelling till you're hoarse together, getting a divorce together, that make marriage a joy..."

Winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score, Best Lyrics, and Best Book, *Company* is largely regarded as a trailblazer of the dark-comedy, modern-musical genre. The revival in 2022 garnered an additional five Tonys.

On the night of his 35th birthday, confirmed bachelor Bobby contemplates his unmarried state. Over the course of a series of dinners, drinks, and even a wedding, his friends – “those good and crazy people [his] married friends” – enlighten Bobby about the pros and cons of taking on a spouse. The habitually single Robert is forced to question his unyielding hold on bachelorhood through a hilarious array of exchanges with his friends.

Caution: adult situations and language



DIRECTIONS AND MAP



The Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre in Clet Hall

From Buffalo, follow the New York State Thruway across Grand Island. Continue on I-190 to Exit 24, Witmer Road. Turn left (aka Route 31). At first traffic light, turn right.

At first stop sign (Hyde Park), turn right. Go through the first traffic light (Niagara gorge will be on your left; campus will be on your right). Turn right just before NY Power Authority. Park on right in Butler parking lot. Clet Hall is the first building on the right on Vincentian Drive.

If needed, use the circular drop-off driveway that leads directly to the lobby.



Elizabeth Ann Clune

THREE WAYS TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Online we offer one of the lowest service fees online. To purchase tickets, select seat locations, and print tickets, simply go to: <http://theatre.niagara.edu/>.

Ticket packages make it simpler, you only need to input your personal information one time. Also, your preferred seat locations can be assigned to all ticket purchases (or the closest seats available). Commit to seven productions (all but *Mothers and Sons*) with a season subscription and earn a 10 percent discount.

Multiple productions in one transaction. Order two productions or more and only input your personal information one time.

Visit our box office in person in the lobby of the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall (Monday-Friday) 2:30-5:30 p.m. and one hour prior to curtain.

Call or email us at 716.286.8685 or boxoffice@niagara.edu. Voicemail messages and emails are returned as soon as possible.

Please be prompt. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of theatre management.

NU students with a current undergraduate NU ID will gain student access to one performance of each theatre production (with the exception of *Mothers and Sons* and the summer performances). Tickets may not be used for other students or patrons. At the time of reservation, the NU ID will be swiped for verification and eligibility, then the ticket will be held in WILL CALL for pick-up one hour to 15 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets not picked up within 10 minutes of the curtain will be made available to waiting patrons. If you would like to see a production more than once, then a discounted youth ticket may be purchased.

Persons with disabilities have full accessibility with the lobby elevator and circular driveway drop off. The front row is held for wheelchair patrons and their companions until the rest of the seats are sold, so please make your reservations sooner than later.

Ticket refunds are not allowed; however, exchanges prior to a performance are allowed whenever seats are available.

Student rush policy for any non-NU student, 21 or younger, with an ID, may be admitted free of charge when seats are available (with the exception of *Mothers and Sons*). Such tickets will be distributed five minutes prior to curtain. If you would like to guarantee a ticket, then a discounted youth ticket may be purchased.

Editor-in-Chief Steven Braddock

Graphic Designer Suzanne Karaszewski

Contributing Photographers Mark Duggan, Dede Hatch, Brian Rock, Keirsten Thomas, and Terri Vaughan



Membership Levels

Your donation is 100 percent tax deductible.

- Archangel \$1,000
- Angel..... \$750
- Producer \$500
- Co-Producer \$250
- Backer \$200
- Director..... \$150
- Assistant Director..... \$100
- Stage Manager \$75
- Production Assistant \$50
- Rising Star \$25
(29 years old and younger)
- Annual Friends of NU Theatre Gala
(Patron)..... \$175

A special evening of great theatre, fine food, auctions and fabulous Friends to support the NU Theatre program. For more information, please call 716.286.8483.

Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Niagara University Theatre**

To pay by credit card, please visit friendsofnutheatre.ejoinme.org/membership

MEMBER INFORMATION:

New member Renewal Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Area code and phone number _____

Email _____

NU AFFILIATION:

Alumni - Grad Year _____

Family - Name _____

Grad Year _____

For further information, call 716.286.8483.
Mail to: Friends of Niagara University Theatre,
P.O. Box 1851, Niagara University, N.Y. 14109-1851

SUMMER

N.U.R.T.

A rotating 45-minute repertoire of children's stories is performed for free during the months of July and August:

- On stage at the Leary Theatre in Clet Hall –
Dates and times in the Leary Theatre to be announced.
- Artpark Family Saturdays in July –
Check the website for more details.



Main Stage Production

NU Theatre traditionally offers a summer musical or play on our main stage. Often it is a Theatre for Young Audiences piece, such as last summer's Schoolhouse Rock Live! In past years, it has been a production for older audiences, though still appropriate for all ages, such as Musical of Musicals (The Musical) or A Sondheim Review.

Be on the lookout for another delightful production in the summer of 2025.

