THE GRAND

RISE

A GRAND RENEWED
2019-2020 – A BANNER YEAR FOR ATTENDANCE

Prior to the COVID-19 related closure of our three indoor theaters, The Grand’s 2019-2020 season was off to a strong start. With Broadway in Wilmington; diverse music, comedy, and variety shows; Stages of Discovery school matinees; sensory-friendly and family programming, we were on pace to exceed projections for our scheduled performances.

Furthermore, The Playhouse was on track to significantly augment attendance and revenue for the second half of FY20. This is noteworthy because when we assumed ownership of the theater, its operations were more distressed than initially thought. Over the past five years, our staff worked diligently to return The Playhouse to a position that would allow the venue to generate enough income to support the Broadway series and the organization as a whole. As we entered the third quarter of FY20, the ticket revenue from The Playhouse was finally on its way to providing that financial stability.

THE GRAND’S IMMEDIATE COVID CLOSURE

On the opening afternoon of The Play That Goes Wrong, we were informed of the need to close all performance spaces for an indeterminate amount of time to help flatten the curve in Delaware. Much like many performing arts centers around the country, The Grand was unaware of exactly how long and how severe the ripples of this closure would last. In the subsequent days and weeks, it became clear our expected short closure would turn into an extended intermission, caused by the dramatic rise in cases but also the majority of artists choosing to stay off the road.

Staff contacted all patrons to assure them that their ticket money was safe and that The Grand’s three theaters would be as well. Our team went to work pivoting our mission to a virtual medium with activities like “Color The Grand,” “Storytime with Allyson,” and rebroadcasts of 14 WHYY “On Tour” episodes that were filmed in Copeland Hall and the baby grand. We explored how to offer innovative programming that would be, under normal circumstances, outside of our usual artistic modus operandi. These activities did not go unnoticed by our patrons and we were rewarded with notes of thanks and appreciation from parents, teachers, and arts lovers alike.

THE EMERGENCE OF OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

In a year of uncertainty and adversity, The Grand experienced those hardships and yet applied the creative skills of its staff to continue to share the power of the arts, especially in a time of crisis for everyone. As the summer months approached, it became imperative that The Grand find a way to present live events to keep the organization in the forefront of our community’s thoughts as well as keep our staff employed. After noticing a number of early players in the industry, The Grand announced and presented four drive-in concerts branded “Concerts by Car” in the parking lot of Frawley Stadium. In partnership with Light Action Productions, a similarly distressed company during this time of closure, The Grand erected a large outdoor stage with video screens and presented local bands in this innovative setting that attracted approximately 800 cars (or 2,000 people). Many attendees were thrilled to have an opportunity to enjoy live music in this alternative way aimed at keeping our patrons safe.

In addition, we continued our tradition of presenting Wilmington’s Summer in the Parks series with the City’s Department of Parks and Recreation. We showcased local talent at four evening concerts in neighborhood parks and created an artist
residency program at the William “Hicks” Anderson Community Center. The summer series returned in 2021 and showcased nearly 100 artists and served nearly 1,000 Wilmington residents over the two years.

As the weather changed and hosting outdoor concerts became more challenging, Grand staff went back to the drawing board and our drive-in movies began to take shape in partnership with the staff at Bellevue State Park. Paying tribute to our Broadway in Wilmington series, this series presented beloved movie musicals through the fall and returned in the spring of 2021 for an estimated 1,300 patrons.

In the summer of 2021, The Grand, in partnership with New Castle County, presented one weekend of live outdoor entertainment at Rockwood Park. These lawn concerts (arranged in pod seating) represented another opportunity for the organization to adapt into a new outdoor location.

In total, The Grand served nearly 5,000 individuals during our drive-in concerts, parks, and movie events.

BRINGING JOY TO THE COMMUNITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Perhaps the most impactful activity of our COVID closure would be the six-week run of our Winter in Wilmington Holiday Light Show, presented with the City of Wilmington, Riverfront Development Corporation, and Light Action Productions. Conceived in October of 2020, and opening mere weeks after receiving Board approval, The Grand transformed Wilmington’s Riverfront parking lots into a winter wonderland with more than 30 lit displays. Attracting over 10,000 cars, more than 37,000 individuals were able to share this new, joyful experience in a year when their normal family activities would be disrupted.

Thanks to several generous grants from the Delaware Community Foundation, the United Way of Delaware, and an anonymous donor, we were able to provide free tickets to 800 healthcare workers and their families.

PIVOTING TO VIRTUAL

As the pandemic continued, most schools in the region were operating remotely with no field trips. In response, we created an online model of our educational series, Stages of Discovery. We presented many of the same artists who normally perform on our stages, and new ones whose work was now more accessible in a virtual manner. Over 100 classrooms participated in this unique online learning.

In the first quarter of 2021, The Grand staff focused their efforts on providing virtual live content. With support from a New Castle County Innovation grant, we acquired an impressive live-stream technology package that allows us to use a multi-camera set up to present our work globally. With this technology, we presented six local artists on the baby grand stage, providing them a rare opportunity to perform during the pandemic.

Beginning in March 2021, The Grand offered our patrons the opportunity to go behind-the-scenes with some of their favorite Broadway cast members as we signed on to the Broadway Cast Reunion Series. These Zoom-ish experiences allowed participants to hear from and engage with Broadway stars from musicals such as FROZEN, WAITRESS, and more at absolutely no cost to them. Over 20,000 patrons of our Broadway in Wilmington series were provided with access to these events.
THE RETURN TO LIVE PERFORMANCES

This pandemic has dramatically underscored the importance of The Grand to the quality of life, education, and engagement of our community. As we begin to see an encouraging decline in positive cases, a rise in vaccinations, receptive audiences, and artists on tour again, we are optimistic about our FY22 indoor programming. We continue to monitor national re-opening guidelines and trends while adopting best practices from sister venues. Our plan is to begin a gradual re-opening phase starting in fall 2021. To date, our staff has programmed about half of a conservative 40 event 2021-2022 season. The pandemic has changed how people are consuming everything, especially their entertainment. Audiences and artists do not seem to require long lead times between on-sale announcements and performance dates. As a result, we anticipate adding to our season as we are able to monitor and respond to audience reception.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND’S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Concurrent with indoor programming plans, we are in the unique position of celebrating The Grand’s sesquicentennial anniversary this December. We will celebrate this milestone with the community in meaningful ways that comply with health and safety guidelines for the time. Audiences can enjoy a three-month group art exhibit in The Grand Galleries, a day-long movie festival featuring the golden age of Hollywood, free building tours, a refreshed History Hallway, and a captivating conversation with the Delaware Historical Society.

This occasion will also serve as the announcement of the final public phase of our RISE (Rebuild, Invest, Strengthen, and Empower) campaign with a goal to raise $5 Million to help re-open and restore the financial stability we had at the beginning of 2020. A successful campaign will enable The Grand to enter the next 150 years with a strong financial foundation.

A TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT

In spring 2021, The Grand lobbied for and received a $5.75 Million grant from the Delaware State Legislature to tackle a long list of deferred maintenance projects, including the replacement, repair or upgrading of the Giacco building roof, HVAC system, carpeting, cast-iron façade, and theatrical equipment, as well as cosmetic improvements throughout the buildings.

In partnership with this grant, The Grand and The Playhouse on Rodney Square would like to acknowledge the immense generosity of Tatiana and Gerret Copeland for their transformational gift that has enabled the complete renovation of The Playhouse on Rodney Square, a well overdue capital project that now matches the quality of the performances on stage with the exquisite beauty of the building they are hosted in.
FISCAL YEAR 2020, presented another clean audit!

The financial report for the 2019-20 season is final. A copy of the Fiscal Year 2019 audit can be found on our website.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

WHERE THE MONEY GOES
Fiscal Year 2020, presented another clean audit!

The financial report for the 2020-21 season is subject to a final audit. Fieldwork for the Fiscal Year 2021 audit is scheduled to begin December 13th. A copy of the Fiscal Year 2020 audit can be found on our website.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

FY2021 RESULTS (UNAUDITED)
FY20 Payroll Protection Program  $618,560
FY20 Winter in Wilmington / Gala Night Netted  $226,261
FY21 Save Our Stages Grant $1,919,032
FY21 Playhouse Renovation - Mr. & Mrs. Copeland $1,000,000
FY21 State of Delaware Bond Bill Awarded $5,750,000
FY21 Government Funding Awarded  $750,000
FY21 Longwood Foundation Grant Award  $500,000
PANDEMIC PROGRAMMING
(MARCH 2020 – AUGUST 2021)

Grand-Produced Digital Programs:

Color The Grand online contest (March 2020)

Story Time with Allyson and Friends (March-June 2020)
- Are You My Mother? read by Allyson Sands
- It’s Okay to Be Different read by Amy Watson-Bish with Doreen Kelley, SIGNINterpreting Services
- Giraffes Can’t Dance read by TAHIRA with music by Jonathan Whitney (percussion) and Lisa Vaupel (violin, DSO)
- Grace for President produced by City Theater Company, read by a cast of actors: John Hunsicker, Allyson Sands, Kennedy Davis, Ashley SK Davis, George Tietze, Kerry Kristine McElrone, and directed by George Tietze
- Guess How Much I Love You read by Allyson Sands

Tiny Dancer with First State Ballet Theatre and The Rock Orchestra (May-June 2020)

Grand-Presented Digital Programs:

WHYY “On Tour” Concerts (April-May 2020)
- Asia
- Average White Band
- Carolina Chocolate Drops
- Chicago (parts 1 & 2)
- Dawes
- George Thorogood
- Los Lonely Boys
- Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr.
- Melissa Etheridge
- Pink Martini
- Richard Thompson
- Tower of Power
- War

Stages of Discovery – Online (January-June 2021)
- Black Violin
- Chicken Dance (ArtsPower Theatre On Demand)
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler (ArtsPower Theatre On Demand)
- Harriet Tubman: Straight Up Outta’ the Underground (The Children’s Theatre of Cincinnati)
- Hip Hop Body Rock #1 (Paige Hernandez)
- Making Magic with the Scientific Method (Bill Blagg)
- Miss Nelson Has A Field Day (Dallas Children’s Theatre)
- Pirate School! Follow Your Compass (David Engel)
- The Monster Who Ate My Peas (ArtsPower Theatre On Demand)
- Wings of Courage (Mad River Theater Works)
Broadway Cast Reunion Series [February-May 2021]

- A Bronx Tale
- Come From Away
- Dear Evan Hansen
- Frozen
- Hadestown
- Jersey Boys
- My Fair Lady
- The Lion King
- Waitress

Other Live Stream Programs

- MAR 28, 2020: Ronapalooza
- JUN 19, 2020: Juneteenth 2020: A Day of Remembrance
- SEP 17, 2020: Gaelic Storm’s Halfway to St. Pat’s Concert
- APR 26, 2021: Broadway By The Year: Cole Porter
- MAY 10, 2021: Broadway By The Year: The Kander & Ebb Years
- MAY 24, 2021: Broadway By The Year: The Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber Years

Grand-Produced Live-Audience Events:

Concerts By Car at Frawley Stadium [Summer 2020]

- JUL 3: The Rock Orchestra performs The Beatles
- JUL 17: Echoes (The American Pink Floyd)
- JUL 31: The Fuzaholics
- AUG 15: Montana Wildaxe

Summer in the Parks with City of Wilmington Parks & Recreation [Summer 2020 & 2021]

- JUL 15, 2020: Pristine Raeign at Holloway Park
- JUL 29, 2020: Jea Street Jr. at Father Tucker Park
- AUG 5, 2020: Delaware Children’s Theatre & The Music School of Delaware at Union Park Gardens
- AUG 26, 2020: CCAC presents Richard Raw & the Word Warrior Band at the Sugar Bowl Pavillion
- JUL 6-30, 2020: Residency at WHACC
  - Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education
  - Delaware Shakespeare
  - JK Percussion/DiAE
  - Pieces of a Dream/DiAE
- JUL 20, 2021: The Music School of Delaware & Opera Delaware’s Pop-Up Opera at Union Park Gardens
- JUL 27, 2021: Alfie Moss & Dexter Koonce Project at Kingswood Community Center
- AUG 3, 2021: Aziza Nailah & Company with MLK Voice 4 Youth at Father Tucker Park
• AUG 10, 2021: CCAC presents Stacey Harcum & Friends at Haynes Park
• JUL 9-AUG 20, 2021: Residency and Showcase at WHACC
  o Culture Restoration Project
  o DANCE4LIFE School of the Arts and Training Institute
  o First State Ballet Theatre

Drive-In Cinema at Bellevue State Park [Fall 2020 & Spring 2021]
• OCT 2: Pitch Perfect
• OCT 3: Mary Poppins
• OCT 17: Bohemian Rhapsody
• OCT 18: The Greatest Showman
• OCT 31: The Nightmare Before Christmas
• OCT 31: Halloween
• NOV 6: Little Shop of Horrors
• NOV 13: Hairspray
• NOV 14: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
• MAY 1: Chicago
• MAY 22: Dreamgirls
• MAY 29: Rocketman [cancelled due to weather]
• JUN 12: Newsies
• JUL 3: Mary Poppins Returns [cancelled due to weather]

Winter in Wilmington Holiday Light Show [Winter 2020-2021]
• NOV 27, 2020-JAN 3, 2021: 24 nights

Live @ 818 [Spring 2021]
• MAR 4: Dickens & Ballsworth
• MAR 18: Spokey Speaky
• APR 1: Lyric Drive
• APR 15: Richard Raw and the Word Warriors
• APR 29: Maya Belardo
• MAY 13: Jea Street, Jr.

Lawn Concerts at Rockwood Park [Summer 2021]
• JUN 25: Ryan Hamilton
• JUN 26: The Rock Orchestra performs The Who

Fundraising Events:
• AUG 27, 2020: 2nd Annual Grand Golf Classic [Matthew Hubner, Ned & Scott]
• DEC 5, 2020: The 44th Annual Grand Gala Night at the Winter in Wilmington [Winter Wonder Band]
• JUN 21, 2021: 3rd Annual Grand Golf Classic [Matthew Hubner, Ned & Scott]

IN SUMMARY
During the COVID-19 pandemic, The Grand produced 60 live-audience events (in person or live stream), 2 residencies, and 6 original videos featuring approx. 200 local artists (and 1 touring artist). The Grand also presented 39 digital programs produced by other artists and companies. Altogether, we served more than 42,000 live audiences and 30,000 online views.
2019-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian DiSabatino* - Chairman
Francis J. “Skip” Pennella* - Chairman
Joseph A. DePaulo, Jr. - Vice Chairman
Jeffrey M. Schlerf, Esq.* - Secretary
Bruce Colbourn* - Treasurer
Mark Fields* - Executive Director - ex officio

Lischele Adams
Tatiana B. Copeland*
Frederick J. Dawson
Carlos de los Ramos
Catherine Dean*
Kelly Farnan
William Farrell
Drewy Nash Fennell, Esq.
David Ley Hamilton, Esq.
LaVerne Harmon, Ph.D.
Robert V.A. Harro, Jr.
Shannon Kauffman
Roger D. Kirtley
Steven Kochie
Ellen K. Levin
Andrew M. Lubin
Paula McDermott
William S. Montgomery
Domenic Pedante
Sue Robinson
Salvatore J. “Chip” Rossi, Jr.

*Lischele Adams
Tatiana B. Copeland*
Frederick J. Dawson
Carlos de los Ramos
Catherine Dean*
Kelly Farnan
William Farrell
Drewy Nash Fennell, Esq.
David Ley Hamilton, Esq.
LaVerne Harmon, Ph.D.
Robert V.A. Harro, Jr.
Shannon Kauffman
Roger D. Kirtley
Steven Kochie
Ellen K. Levin
Andrew M. Lubin
Paula McDermott
William S. Montgomery
Domenic Pedante
Sue Robinson
Salvatore J. “Chip” Rossi, Jr.

*Lischele Adams
Tatiana B. Copeland*
Frederick J. Dawson
Carlos de los Ramos
Catherine Dean*
Kelly Farnan
William Farrell
Drewy Nash Fennell, Esq.
David Ley Hamilton, Esq.
LaVerne Harmon, Ph.D.
Robert V.A. Harro, Jr.
Shannon Kauffman
Roger D. Kirtley
Steven Kochie
Ellen K. Levin
Andrew M. Lubin
Paula McDermott
William S. Montgomery
Domenic Pedante
Sue Robinson
Salvatore J. “Chip” Rossi, Jr.

*Lischele Adams
Tatiana B. Copeland*
Frederick J. Dawson
Carlos de los Ramos
Catherine Dean*
Kelly Farnan
William Farrell
Drewy Nash Fennell, Esq.
David Ley Hamilton, Esq.
LaVerne Harmon, Ph.D.
Robert V.A. Harro, Jr.
Shannon Kauffman
Roger D. Kirtley
Steven Kochie
Ellen K. Levin
Andrew M. Lubin
Paula McDermott
William S. Montgomery
Domenic Pedante
Sue Robinson
Salvatore J. “Chip” Rossi, Jr.

2019-2022 GRAND TRUSTEES

Lischele Adams
Dick Baumbarger
Sandra Bihany-Waltz
Randall G. Burton
Michael Clement
H. Ronald Cohen
Carmen Crews-Hart
David A. Croux
Michael Czupryna
Carlos De Los Ramos
Joe del Tufo
Robert Dewey
Dr. Lanny Edelsohn
Dr. Jacqueline B. Faulcon
Kari Garratt
Kirk Noel Garratt
Larry D. Gehrike
Nicole Gracey
Areneon Harley
Dilama Henry
Marcus Henry
Clayton Hill
Karl Kadar
Shaila Kapur
Melissa Kenny
Donald R. Kirtley
Kathy Ellen Klein
Theodore Lauzen
Nikki A Lavoie
Benjamin J. Ledyard
Frank Levy
Tim Litten
Emily Locke
Andrew Lubin
Dr. Garrett B. Lyons, Jr.
Timothy Lyons
Eric Mailloux
Kate Mailloux
Carol Mayhart
Glen P. Mayhart
Bruce McCubbin
Patricia McCubbin
William J. Meakem
David Nordheimer
Denise D. Nordheimer, Esq.

Ron Ozer
Grace Paoli
Dr. David Andrew Paul
Lorraine S. Przywara
Hayes Roberts
Jean A. Rodden
Charisse L. Rodgers
Renee Simonton
Leonard Sophrin
Barbara Stein
Robert Dick Stoddard, Jr.
John A. Thomas
Julie Topkis-Nason
Beth Wells
Susanne Williams

2019-2022 GRAND STAFF

Mark Fields, Executive Director
Stephen M. Bailey, Managing Director of Programming

Terrell Bailey
Tom Beaman
Eric Berman
Maryetta Binder
Amy Watson Bish
Ernie Bouey
Patrick Byrd
Cornelius Chapman
Mark Clapp
Lucy Clemens
Kadeem Collins
Jordan Cook
Brian Crowe
Terry Cruz
Terry Cruz, Jr.
Victor Cruz
John Curall
Julia Dougherty
Shaun Dougherty
Genevieve Fanelli
Kate Baker Frawley
Jennifer French
Scott French
Howard Fulton
Will Griffith
Elaine Gropp
Joseph Hamilton
Ray Harrington
Courtney Hayes
Othell Heaney
Chaka Hollis
Casie Huber
Matthew Hubner
Javon Jackson
Kimwana Johnson
Kirk Johnson
Michael Johnson
Chris Jones
Terri Kilgoe
Melissa Leatherbury
Jessica Lewis
Paula Lockhart
James Macpherson
Christine Maiese
Pamelyn Manocchio
Stephen Manocchio
Rosalind Maxwell
Julian McCants
Kimberly Morton
Robert Parker
Eva Lynn Penn
Elaine Perkins
Taurus Pinkney
Barry Polish
Nancy Powel
Annette Rabasca
Ward Raison
Justin Reuschlein
Javone Roberts
Iving Rockmore
Adam Rodenboh
Sydney Root
Allyson Sands
Stacy Slocum
Rashunda Smullen
David Sokolowski
Natalie Stephens
Andy Truscott
Justin Vargus
Vernon Vassallo
Betty Waters
Bob Weir
Brittany Woodard
Chakiera Wright
J.C. Yeatman

Includes both full and part-time staff employed between 8/1/19 and 9/22/21
We couldn’t bring our mission to life without the support of many, many people and organizations, represented by the following: (all donors of $10,000 or more in FY2019)

**FOUNDATIONS AND TRUSTS**
- ArtCo
- Aware Foundation
- Delaware Performing Arts Center (DPAC)
- Laffey-McHugh Foundation
- Longwood Foundation
- Presser Foundation
- Nellie B. Walrath Trust

**CORPORATIONS AND BUSINESSES**
- Bank of America
- Buccini/Pollin Group, Inc.
- Capital One
- Chemours
- Community Professional Loudspeakers
- Corteva
- Delmarva Power
- DuPont Company
- Fox Rothschild, LLP
- JPMorgan Chase
- M&T Bank
- PCS
- PNC Bank
- TD Bank
- Wilmington University

**GOVERNMENT**
- City of Wilmington
- Delaware Division of the Arts/State of Delaware
- National Endowment for the Arts
- New Castle County

**INDIVIDUALS**
- Tatiana and Gerret Copeland
- Fred and Louise Dawson
- and 563 other households of loyal supporters of The Grand and its programs