

## JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025

Theater Bus, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to enriching the quality of life for all adults over 55 by providing safe, affordable, volunteer led outings to theatrical, cultural and social events.

### NEW for 2025!

We have made changes to the newsletter. Newsletters will now be mailed 4 times a year instead of 6! This newsletter includes trips through March 2025.

Please note: all newsletters will now cover 3 months.

Our website does have extra printable, generic registration forms now.

## Let's Celebrate 50 Years!

This is Theater Bus's 50th year & we are going to celebrate 50 BIG! Watch your newsletters and email for exciting ways to celebrate with us.

Turn to page 6 and answer the Theater Bus trivia questions, then mail your answer page in with your registration for an entry into a drawing for ONE free registration on a trip from our next newsletter.

### Winter Weather Policy

(Effective Nov—March)

Our winter office hours will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10-1pm. If the weather is bad and/or driving conditions poor, our volunteers will **not** open the office. My hours, working remotely, will continue to be Monday- Thursday from 9am-3pm. You can leave a voicemail or email and it will be returned.

In the RARE event that we must cancel a trip due to weather or other unforeseen last minute circumstances, we will make every effort to reschedule. Typically, Theater Bus does not receive refunds from our venues or bus companies for last minute cancelled trips, so please understand we are not able to offer refunds to our attendees. If you cannot go on the rescheduled date, or if we are unable to reschedule a cancelled trip, refunds will not be issued. Thank you!

Happy New Year! ~Ruth

# 2 JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH SHOWS AND REGISTRATIONS

THEATER BUS

## 1. Godspell

Date: Saturday, January 25th, 2025

Price: \$109/118

Place: Janesville Performing Arts Center

Time lunch/show: 12:00/2:00pm

10:30am — (West) Theater Bus

10:45am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

11:00am — (East) Marshall's

Return approx. 5:30pm

Led by the international hit, "Day by Day," *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side." Boasting a score with chart-topping songs, a book by a visionary playwright (John-Michael Tebelak) and a feature film, *Godspell* is a sensation that continues to touch audiences.

Lunch will be at the Butterfly Club in Beloit. Meal choices are Broiled Cod, Parmesan Chicken or Butterfly Club's delicious Prime Rib (**there is an extra \$9 charge for the Prime Rib.**) All dinners include house salad and baked potato and dessert. Coffee service is also included.

## 2. Odd Couple

Date: Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

Price: \$117

Place: Sunset Playhouse, Elm Grove

Time: Lunch/Show 11:30/2:00

Approx. return to Theater Bus 6:00pm.

9:45am—(West) Theater Bus

10:00am—(Monona) South Towne Mall

10:15pm (East) Marshall's

10:45am—Johnson Creek

Approx. Return time to Madison 6:00pm

Yes, we have seen the Odd Couple, but never at the Sunset Playhouse! Felix Unger, a neurotic, neat freak newswriter, and Oscar Madison, a sloppy, easygoing sportswriter, are the best of friends. As Oscar and the guys gather for a card game, Felix arrives late, tense and very depressed. His wife has just thrown him to the curb and Oscar offers him a place to stay. Oscar's a mess but thoroughly enjoys life. Felix seems incapable of enjoying anything. From the pen of beloved playwright Neil Simon, this hysterical comedy about mismatched roommates was a Broadway smash, followed by a successful film and television series.

Lunch buffet at the Machine Shed in Pewaukee.

## 1. Godspell

Date: Saturday, January 25th, 2025

Price: \$109 or \$118

Deadline: January 6th, 2025

Check: # \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount encl \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ # people

1. Name/address

2. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pick-up Location:

\_\_\_ West—Theater Bus

\_\_\_ Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor and Décor)

\_\_\_ East—Marshall's, 2117 Zeier Rd.

4. I wish to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Emergency Contact/number \_\_\_\_\_

6. (circle one per person) **broiled cod**

**Chicken Parm**

**Vegetarian**

**Prime Rib (\$9 extra)**

## 2. Odd Couple

Date: Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 2025

Cost: \$117

Deadline: Jan. 6th, 2025

Check: # \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount encl \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ # people

1. Name/address

2. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pick-up Location:

\_\_\_ West—Theater Bus 437 S. Yellowstone Dr

\_\_\_ Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor N Décor end)

\_\_\_ East—Marshall's, 2117 Zeier Rd.

\_\_\_ Johnson Creek Park N Ride

4. I wish to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 SHOWS AND REGISTRATIONS CON'T

#### 3. Miss Holmes Returns

Date: Sunday, Feb. 9th, 2025

Price: \$116

Place: Falls Patio Players, Menomonee Falls

Time lunch/show: 12:00/2:00pm

10:30am — (West) Theater Bus

10:45am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

11:00am — (East) Marshall's

11:30 Johnson Creek Park N Ride

Return approx. 6:00pm

Miss Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Dorothy Watson are back! After a string of successes in assisting Scotland Yard, an apparently clear-cut murder case finds itself at the detective's feet. Can they find the truth before the authorities catch and convict their suspect? Based on the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, this thrilling mystery abounds with surprising plot twists, courageous characters and suspicious scoundrels.

Lunch buffet at Hot House Tavern.

#### 3. Miss Holmes Returns

Date: Sun, Feb. 9th, 2025

Cost: \$116

Deadline: Jan. 13th, 2025

Check: # \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount encl \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ # people

1. Name/address \_\_\_\_\_

2. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pick-up Location:

\_\_\_ West—Theater Bus 437 S Yellowstone Dr

\_\_\_ Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor N Décor end)

\_\_\_ East—Marshall's, 2117 Zeier Rd.

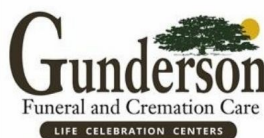
\_\_\_ Johnson Creek Park N Ride

4. I wish to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## 50 years of fun with Theater Bus, Inc

A very SPECIAL Thank you to the  
**Pleasant T Rowland Foundation**  
for their continued support.



Madison/East - Stoughton - Oregon  
Fitchburg - Middleton - Mt. Horeb  
Black Earth - Cross Plains and Lodi

Advance Funeral Planning...  
One of the Greatest Gifts, We Can  
Leave for Those We Love

- Comfort & Peace of Mind
- Cost Protection & Guarantee
- Write Your Own Wishes
- Payment Options for All Families
- Portability in Product Offering



Heather Holy  
Advance Planning Specialist  
608-206-5588  
hholy@gundersonfh.com

#### Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for a few more **GROUP LEADERS**  
Please call RUTH at 608-257-0003 or  
e-mail [info@theaterbus.org](mailto:info@theaterbus.org) for more information.

It's unusual to hear of a small, local nonprofit lasting 50 years, but here we are. Fifty years ago, Theater Bus began as an idea of Ralph Sandler of the Wisconsin Union Theater and Miriam Boegel, Community Arts Administrator. They wanted to bring older adults to Union Theater performances, and they approached the West Side Senior Coalition (now part of New Bridge, Madison) to see if they wanted to partner.

By 1976, Theater Bus became an experimental project of the Wisconsin Union Theater and the West Side Senior Coalition. The goal was to increase attendance at the "Young Artists in the Performing Arts" series and to encourage older adults to enjoy events they might not otherwise have access to. The program was an immediate success and per participants requests, other area theater events were added. Ultimately, the Union Theater decided to drop out of the project. In 1977, The Dane County Council of the Arts became a large sponsor. Supporting agencies also included Independent Living, Madison Housing Authority, the Coalition on Aging, the Jewish Community Council, Methodist Retirement Center and Oakwood Village.

In 1979, the Theater Bus board voted to become an independent non-profit organization and incorporation was completed in September of that year. Attic Angel Association provided much of the funding for many years and for a long time Attic Angels residents, served on Theater Bus board. In 1999, Theater Bus received a gift from a participant that enabled Theater Bus to become more financially sound and continue to grow.

The first Theater Bus outing was to the Union Theater to hear the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra on a Saturday morning in February. By 1977, Theater Bus had expanded to serving almost all of Dane county. Though Theater Bus has looked very different through the years, one thing remains the same, the core mission of assisting older adults in having access to theatrical productions in the area.

Fifty years ago, you could see a show and have lunch for \$9.25. Thirty years ago, you could see a Fire-side performance for \$44.00 and for \$2 more you could request pick up at your home. Today, Theater Bus offers pick up locations on the West, South and East sides of town. We travel to at least 36 shows a year and we offer a wide variety of events to appeal to a broader audience.

Theater Bus has always had paid staff. In the beginning it was a full-time Director and a part-time administrative support person. Over time, that became a regular part-time director with volunteers filling in where and when needed. Volunteers continue to handle a lot of the office work, including telephoning, mailing and board decision making. A committee of participants selects the shows that Theater Bus attends. Over 1500 hours are recorded by volunteers annually, though it is certainly much more in reality.

The participants are the core of Theater Bus. They are the reason for Theater Bus's 50 years of success. They are the great encouragers, the primary financial supporters, and the champion volunteers. We look forward to celebrating with you in 2025.

So CHEERS to 50 years of travels and here's to another 50!



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

## 4. Elvis...Back in the Building

Date: Friday, February 14th, 2025

Price: \$150

Place: Fireside Theater

Time lunch/show: 11:30/1:30pm

9:00am — (West) Covenant Church

9:15am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

9:45am — (East) Marshall's

Return approx. 5:30pm

In honor of Elvis' 90th birthday, The Fireside and Legends in Concert kick off the 2025 season with jumpsuits, black leather, swiveling hips, and leg-shaking, presenting their newest retrospective of Elvis' life in music told through the eyes of the world's best tribute artists. Being an Elvis tribute artist means more than just donning a jumpsuit and singing classic songs. It's about capturing the essence of Elvis Presley, honoring his legacy, bringing joy to fans who still adore the King of Rock 'n' Roll, and keeping his spirit alive for new generations. Whether on stage or off, these artists live and breathe Elvis' charisma, talent, and timeless appeal.

Grilled Pork Ribeye with a honey mustard sauce, Rainbow Trout seasoned in herbs and lemon butter, Sliced Roast Beef Tenderloin glazed with red wine sauce, or vegetarian Pesto Orecchiette with broccolini. Flourless Chocolate Cake for dessert. Bread, Cream of Asparagus Soup and coffee, tea and milk included.

## 5. Stepcrew

Date: Sunday, March 9th, 2025

Price: \$126

Place: Schuaer Arts Center, Hartford wi

Time: Lunch/Show 12:30/2:00pm

10:45am — (West) Theater Bus

11:00am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

11:15am — (East) Marshall's

Estimated return to Madison 5:00pm

The StepCrew is a dynamic dance production combining three percussive dance styles—Irish, Tap, and Ottawa Valley—in a fully realized theatrical setting. This amazing company is led by Cara Butler and Pilatzke brothers Jon and Nathan. Soloist Cara Butler is best known as The Chieftains' top Irish dancer for the last three decades, while Jon and Nathan Pilatzke are undoubtedly Canada's leading and most exciting Ottawa Valley Step dancers. Accompanied by some of the most virtuosic musicians from the Celtic, traditional, and rock genres, The StepCrew achieves the ultimate balance of respecting traditional forms of dance and creating exciting modern fusions never seen or heard before. The show will have the audience literally on its feet!

Lunch will be a pizza buffet at the Mineshaft in Hartford. Soda and coffee included as well as dessert.

## 4. Elvis

Date: Fri. Feb. 14th, 2025 Cost: \$150

Deadline: January 20th, 2025

Check: # \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount encl \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ # people

1. Name/address

2. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pick-up Location:

\_\_\_ West—Covenant Church (Mineral Point and Segoe)

\_\_\_ Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor N Décor end)

\_\_\_ East—Marshall's, 2117 Zeier Rd.

4. I wish to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number:

6. Circle one per person:

Pork Ribeye Rainbow Trout Beef Tenderloin

Vegetarian Pesto Orecchiette

## 5. Stepcrew

Date: Sunday, March 9th, 2025 Cost: \$126

Deadline: Feb. 19th, 2025

Check: # \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount encl \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ # people

1. Name/address

2. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pick-up Location:

\_\_\_ West—Theater Bus 437 S Yellowstone Dr

\_\_\_ Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor N Décor End)

\_\_\_ East— Marshall's 2117 Zeier Rd

4. I wish to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number:



## 6. Don't Hug Me

Date: Sunday, March 16th, 2025

Price: \$133

Place: Memories Ballroom, Port Washington

Lunch/Show: 12:30/1:45pm

10:15am — (West) Theater Bus

10:30am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

10:45am- (East) Marshall's

11:15am—Johnson Creek Park N Ride

Approx. return to Madison 5:30pm

It's Fargo meets The Music Man (without the blood or the trombones). Oh, for cryin' in yer snowshoes! It's the coldest day of the year in Bunyan Bay, Minnesota when a slick karaoke salesman arrives at the bar and turns the locals' lives upside down with his promise to bring romance into their lives through the "magic" of karaoke. With its over the top songs and crazy characters, this Minnesota love story with singin' and stuff will have you laughing until the spring thaw! Featuring the musical stylings of world-famous Sven Yorgensen, including: I'm a Walleye Woman in A Crappie Town, My Smorgasbord of Love, and I Wanna go to the Mall of America.

Tator Tot Casserole (GF) Vegetable Blend (GF) Dinner Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette, Warm Dinner Rolls, Memories Famous Fluff and Chocolate Mint Dream Torte

## 7. Where Are you?

Date: Sunday, March 30th, 2025

Price: \$115

Place: Belle Tower, Dubuque

Time: Lunch/Show: 11:30-2:00pm

9:00am — (East) Marshall's

9:15am — South Towne Monona

9:30am — (West) Theater Bus

10:00—Mt Horeb Cenex

Estimated return to Madison 6:00pm

Sisters Glenda and Suzanne have lived together since Suzanne arrived single, penniless and pregnant 33 years earlier, moving in with Glenda and her late husband. When Suzanne's daughter Beth arrives for a visit, things get complicated. Amid a busy week that includes a wild wedding, medicinal experimentation and a budding romance, the sisters are eventually forced to confront truths that will change their lives forever. *Where You Are* is a hilarious and heart-warming exploration of family, forgiveness and falling in love.

Sunday Brunch at Timmerman's in East Dubuque.

What doesn't this brunch buffet have? The list goes on and on. Included is coffee and tea.

## 6. Don't Hug Me

Date: Sunday, March 16th, 2025

Cost: \$133

Deadline: Feb. 21st, 2025

Check: # \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount encl \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ # people

1. Name/address

2. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pick-up Location:

\_\_\_ West—Theater Bus 437 S. Yellowstone Dr

\_\_\_ Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor & Décor)

\_\_\_ East—Marshall's, 2117 Zeier Rd.

\_\_\_ Johnson Creek Park n Ride

4. I wish to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number:

## 7. Where Are You?

Date: Sunday, March 30th, 2025

Cost: \$115

Deadline: March 5th, 2025

Check: # \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount encl \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ # people

1. Name/address

2. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pick-up Location:

\_\_\_ East—Marshall's, 2117 Zeier Rd.

\_\_\_ Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor N Décor end)

\_\_\_ West—Theater Bus 437 S. Yellowstone Dr

\_\_\_ Mt. Horeb, Cenex

4. I wish to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number:

Return this to Theater Bus for an entry to win a free trip from our upcoming spring 2025 bulletin!

1. On average, how many trips does Theater Bus offer each year? (circle one)      24      36      48

2. Name at least 2 (past or present) Directors of Theater Bus: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What year did YOU take your 1st trip with Theater Bus? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What was the 1st show Theater Bus saw? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What's the farthest distance Theater Bus has traveled for a show? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many years has Theater Bus been around? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone \_\_\_\_\_

2 free trips will be given out. One entry per person. Board members cannot participate. NO cash value.

### Please review these important tips:

- We will not contact you to tell you we have received your check. We will only contact you if the trip is full and you are on a waitlist or if the trip is cancelled. If you are on a waitlist, your check will be returned immediately.
- Checks are deposited after the deadline listed in the newsletter. No refunds after the deadline.
- You will get a reminder call from us 2-3 days before the trip.
- Sometimes we have to adjust trip pick up times/locations for construction, weather, etc. PLEASE pay attention when you get your reminder call so that you are aware of any changes. The volunteers that call have the most up to date info. Please listen to your phone messages. If we can't speak to you when we call, we will leave a message with all the information.
- It is **important** that you are able to get up and down the bus steps on your own. Our volunteers are not trained to give any care assistance.
- Registrations will **not** be taken over the telephone or spaces held unless payment has been received.
- Select the form for the event you wish to attend. Please complete all of the information. (Use a return address label if you have them) Otherwise, print your name and address and telephone number clearly. Please do not assume we will get your information from your check. Sometimes, checks get separated from the registration form. Please complete your name and address. Print CLEARLY.
- Number attending—If you are registering just yourself, enter "1." If you are registering more than one person, write the number attending and then write the name, address, phone number, pickup location, and meal choice, if required, for EACH person.
- The deadline listed on the registration form is the date all checks will be deposited and you no longer will get a refund for cancellation.
- Theater Bus accepts checks, but not credit cards, as payment. **Separate checks must be written for each event.** Checks should be made payable to Theater Bus.
- Mail or drop off your registration form(s) and payment to: Theater Bus, Inc., 437 S. Yellowstone Dr. #214, Madison, WI 53719. If you want to drop off your registration after office hours, we do have a mail slot you can use.
- All tips are included in the cost of the trip, including a tip for the bus driver and wait staff.
- It is *very important* that you bring your cell phone on the trip and keep it with you. We do need a cell phone number on file.
- Please park away from the church and businesses. (Park at the far end of the church lot, etc) We do not want to disrupt funerals at the church or businesses that are open.



# Jan, Feb & Mar 2025

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MADISON, WI  
PERMIT NO. 2895

437 S. Yellowstone Dr. Suite 214  
Madison, WI 53719

Our trips fill quickly,  
Mail your reservation today!

*If you no longer wish to receive this mailing, please let us know. Call 608-257-0003 Thank you!*

## Pickup Locations

Theater Bus provides the following convenient Madison pickup locations. **Please arrive 15 minutes earlier than listed in the newsletter.**

**West** - *Covenant Presbyterian Church* located at the corner of Mineral Point & Segoe Roads (weekday events), Park at far end of lot *Theater Bus Office*, 437 S. Yellowstone Dr. (weekend events.)

**East** - *Marshalls*, 2117 Zeier Rd., park in stalls at far end of lot, away from the entrance of the store.

**Monona** - *South Towne Mall*, Broadway Dr, near Floor and Décor end of parking area.

**Note:** Before each trip, we check messages at (608) 257-0003. *Please let us know if your plans change.*



## Contact Info

**Ruth Hellenbrand**

**Director**

**Theater Bus**

**437 S. Yellowstone Dr. #214**

**Madison, WI 53719**

**(608) 257-0003**

**Email:** [info@theaterbus.org](mailto:info@theaterbus.org)

**Website:** [www.theaterbus.org](http://www.theaterbus.org)

After hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned during regular business hours. After office hours, we do have a mail slot in the door for dropping off registrations.

## WINTER OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Wednesdays

10am-1:00pm

Office closed on

Thursdays and Fridays!