



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

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.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the RARE event that we must cancel a trip due to weather or other unforeseen last minute circumstance, 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 can not go on the rescheduled date, or if we are unable to reschedule a cancelled trip, refunds will not be issued. *Thank you for your understanding.*

THANK YOU!

If you have already submitted a 2023 donation to Theater Bus, Thank you so much. There is still time to submit a donation before the end of the year for 2023 tax Purposes. Donation acknowledgement letters will be mailed in early January. The donation button is also up on our website all year round.

We will acknowledge donors in the next newsletter.



1. Jersey Boys

Date: Friday, Jan 19th 2024
 Price: \$140 tips included
 Place: Fireside, Fort Atkinson
 Time: Lunch/Show 11:00/1:00pm
 8:30am - (West) Covenant Church
 8:45am (Fitchburg) - AMC Theater
 9:00 am - (Monona) South Town Mall
 9:15am - (East) Marshalls
 5:00 pm approximate return to Marshall's

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical, JERSEY BOYS takes you behind the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons to discover the secret of a 40-year friendship as the foursome work their way from the streets of New Jersey to the heights of stardom. Enjoy electrifying performances of chart-topping hits including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," and "My Eyes Adored You," which took The Four Seasons to the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. ***(Contains explicit adult language. Not recommended for children.)***

Choice of Creole Chicken, Seared Pork Rib eye, Or Vegetarian. NY Cheesecake for dessert.

2. Forbidden Broadway

Date: Saturday, January 27th, 2024
 Price: \$130 tips included
 Place: Marcus Performing Arts Center, Milwaukee
 Time: Lunch/Show 11:30/2:00pm
 9:15am - (West) Theater Bus
 9:30am - (Fitchburg) AMC Theater
 9:45am - (Monona) South Town Mall
 10:00am - (East) Marshalls
 10:30am - Johnson Creek Park N Ride
 6:00 pm approximate return to Marshall's

This all-new fall-down funny, satirical roast of over 30 Broadway hits features outrageous costumes, silly spoofs of the songs you know by heart, and madcap impressions by a stellar cast!

Lunch at Mader's Restaurant, Milwaukee. Meal choices are Weiner Schnitzel (boneless pork cutlet), Sauerbraten (marinated beef with gingersnap sauce), or Vegetable Primavera. Salad, bread, coffee, soda and dessert included.

1. Jersey Boys

Date: Jan. 19th, 2024 Cost: \$140

Deadline: Dec. 23rd, 2023

Check # _____

Additional contribution: \$ _____

Amount encl \$ _____ for _____ # people

1. Name/address

2. Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-Mail _____

3. Pick-up location:

___ West—Covenant Church Mineral Pt & Segoe Rd

___ Fitchburg - AMC Theater 6091 McKee Rd

___ Monona - South Town Mall (near the old McDonald's)

___ East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone number

6. ___ This is my 1st trip with Theater Bus

7. Circle one meal choice per person:

Chicken Pork Vegetarian

2. Forbidden Broadway

Date: Jan. 27th, 2024 Cost: \$130

Deadline: Jan. 5th, 2024

Check # _____

Additional contribution: \$ _____

Amount encl \$ _____ for _____ # people

1. Name/address

2. Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-Mail _____

3. Pick-up location:

___ West—Theater Bus 437 S Yellowstone Dr

___ Fitchburg - AMC Theater 6091 McKee Rd

___ Monona - South Town Mall (near the old McDonald's)

___ East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.

___ Johnson Creek Park N Ride

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Circle one meal choice per person:

Weiner Schnitzel Sauerbraten Veg Primavera

3. Mystery Trip!

Date: Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2024
Price: \$ 120 tips included
Place: ??????????????????
Time: Lunch/Show: 11:30/2:00pm
Pickup Points & Times (Bus Pickup):

10:00AM - (West) Theater Bus
10:15 AM - (Fitchburg) AMC Theater
10:30AM - (Monona) South Town Mall
10:45AM - (East) Marshall's
5:30pm approx. return to Marshalls

Do you enjoy a good mystery? Like a fun surprise?
Then this is the trip for you!

Will it be a comedy, mystery or a musical? Will it be
dinner theater or lunch buffet and a show?
Will you be sorry if you don't go... definitely!

4. Baggage

Date: Sunday, Feb 11th, 2024
Price: \$120 tips included
Place: Bell Tower Theater, Dubuque
Time: Lunch/Show 11:30/2:00pm
Pickup Points & Times (Bus Pickup):

9:00AM - (East) Marshall's
9:15AM - (Monona) South Town Mall
9:30AM - (Fitchburg) AMC Theater
9:45AM - (West) Theater Bus
10:15AM- Mt. Horeb Cenex
6:00pm approx. return to Theater Bus

Two demanding, single strangers get their
luggage mixed up at the airport. After a
disastrous first meeting, they decide to force a
friendship to help each other heal their past
heartbreaks. These two are too difficult for
everyone else to date, but are they perfect for
each other? This witty romantic comedy is great
for Valentine's Day!

Sunday Brunch at Timmerman's

3. Mystery Trip!

Date: Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2024 Cost: \$ 120
Deadline: January 12th, 2024

Check # _____
Additional contribution: \$ _____
Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ # of
people

1. Name/address

2. Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-Mail _____

3. Pick-up location:

_____ West—Theater Bus 437 S Yellowstone Dr
_____ Fitchburg - AMC Theater 6091 McKee Rd
_____ Monona - South Town Mall (near the old
McDonald's)
_____ East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone number

4. Baggage

Date: Sunday, February 11th, 2024 Cost: \$120
Deadline: January 15th, 2024

Check # _____
Additional contribution: \$ _____
Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ # of people

1. Name/address

2. Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-Mail _____

3. Pick-up location:

_____ West—Theater Bus 437 S Yellowstone Dr
_____ Fitchburg - AMC Theater 6091 McKee Rd
_____ Monona - South Town Mall (near the old
McDonald's)
_____ East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone number

6. _____ This is my 1st trip with Theater Bus

5. ScareCrow

Date: Sunday, Feb 25th, 2024

Price: \$123 tips included

Place: Next Act Theater, Milwaukee

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

8:45am - (West) Theater Bus

9:00 am - (Fitchburg) AMC Theater

9:15am - South Town Mall

9:30am - (East) Marshall's

10:00am- Johnson Creek Park and Ride

6:00pm approximate return time to Marshall's

A big-city actress lands back at her family's Wisconsin dairy farm to grieve herself back to life. But can she ever make enough meatloaf to feel a sense of purpose again now that her most important person is gone? A look at loss and survival. Resilience and renewal. Broadway's Heidi Armbruster pens and performs a rip-roaringly hilarious and unbelievably touching one-woman journey of roller coasters, kittens and cows.

Buffet Lunch at Machine Shed in Pewaukee

5. ScareCrow

Date: Sunday, Feb. 25th, 2024 Cost :\$123

Deadline: Feb. 1st, 2024

Check # _____

Additional contribution: \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ # of people

1. Name/address

2. Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-Mail _____

3. Pick up point:

____ West- Theater Bus 437 S Yellowstone Dr

____ Fitchburg - AMC Theater 6091 McKee Rd

____ Monona - South Town Mall (Near the old McDonald's)

____ East—Marshall's, 2117 Zeier Rd.

____ Johnson Creek Park N Ride

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone number

6. _____ This is my 1st trip with Theater Bus

Jersey Boys Show Trivia!

Send your trivia answers back with your registration forms and your name will go in for a drawing for gift basket!

1. Who did Frankie Vallie write the song "Fallen Angel" for?

2. Where are all 4 of the Jersey Boys From?

3. Who directed the movie version of Jersey Boys?

4. Who's picture was on the wall of Frankie Vallie parents home?

5. How tall is Frankie Vallie?

Name: _____ Phone: _____

NEW Bus Pickup point for 2024!

We are adding a pick up point in **Fitchburg** at 6091 McKee Rd - the AMC Theater. Please park away from the theater near the gas station.



Just FYI:

The McDonald's at South Town Mall has closed. If that is your pick up point and you are looking for a bathroom, the nearest one is the Kwik Trip across the street. Parking is at the Monona South Town Floor and Decor in the corner near the old McDonald's.

REMINDERS:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- All tips are included in the cost of the trip, including a tip for the bus driver and wait staff.
- **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.**

We cannot plan for all diets. We DO NOT offer gluten free options nor do we allow for ordering off a menu. If you do not like the food choices, please do not sign up for the trip. Thank you for understanding.

Frequently Asked Questions about Theater Bus

- 1. Can I get a special meal or order off the menu?** Vegetarian meals are usually available if you let me know when you register for the trip. Unfortunately, you may NOT order off the menu or make other dietary requests. There are too many types of diets and we can not accommodate all of them.
- 2. Do I need to tip?** All tips including the restaurant and bus driver are included. However, if you would like to leave an extra tip, you may.
- 3. Are meals always part of Theater Bus events?** Usually, yes. However, we may have an occasion when that is not the case. Read the show information carefully.
- 4. Does Theater Bus own the busses?** No, we do not. We contract mainly with Badger Coaches but if they are not available we have used other companies.
- 5. Why do the prices differ between shows?** The price for trips include the meal, bus, show/event, tip and a small administrative fee. Some trips cost less or more depending on the day of the week, how far we travel, gas prices at the time of booking, food costs, theater price, etc.
- 6. Why can't I get a full refund?** There is a deadline listed on every trip (on the registration form). That is the deadline for getting any refund. After that deadline, IF we are able to find someone to take your spot, you will get a refund less the admin fee. You can give or sell your ticket to someone else as well.
- 7. Who chooses the shows or events?** We have a Selection Committee that meets with the director 4 times a year to review trips and make suggestions. Trips are decided by much discussion and vote.
- 8. Why doesn't TB go to local theaters and events in Madison or Sun Prairie?** We find that it is hard to fill trips that are easily accessible locally. People look for ways to see trips and eat at restaurants that they can not normally get to.
- 9. Why does TB fund raise?** Trip fees do not cover all the costs of running events and the administration of the organization. We fundraise to cover the cost of a part-time employee, rent, internet, lights, office supplies, etc.
- 10. Can I drink alcohol on a trip?** Yes, at your own expense and within reason. We reserve the right to refuse anyone who is disrespectful, drunk or disorderly.
- 11. Can I sit with a friend?** Yes! We do our best to seat parties together IF you have let us know in advance.
- 12. Can I eat on the bus or bring a small cooler for restaurant left overs?** Yes, you can bring food to enjoy on the bus. (Just clean up any mess and remove your trash) And yes, you can bring a SMALL cooler for leftovers. However, no leftovers can be taken from buffets.

FAQ's Continued

13. **Why does TB not take credit cards?** There are many fees involved. We have not yet found a system that would allow us to do so safely and inexpensively.
14. **Why does TB go to shows with mature themes and language?** Often times, we do not know that explicit language will be used. We do not prescreen or censure theater productions. Sometimes actors improvise. If we do know about mature language and themes, we will post that in the newsletter.
15. **Why isn't my check cashed right away?** Checks are cashed at the time of the deadline posted on the registration form. It's easier to return your check if there is a cancelled event. We ask for one check per show again, making it easier to return a check if you cancel attendance.
16. **Why do we leave so early or why do times change from what's originally posted?** Sometimes we have to change pick up times because of weather or road construction or we just plain made a mistake. We arrange times to be sure everyone is on the bus and ready to go. If someone is late to a pick up point, it can throw off the schedule. We add extra time in to be sure we aren't late to the restaurant or theater. Arriving early is better than being late.
17. **Do volunteers get discounted or free tickets?** No. Everyone pays the same amount. No one gets priority tickets or reservations.
18. **Why can't I be guaranteed an aisle seat?** There aren't enough aisle seats in the theater to accommodate all the requests. Our group is not the only one in attendance. Same on the bus. We can not guarantee aisle seats or front of the bus seats.
19. **Why doesn't Theater Bus have a sign outside the office building so it's easier to find?** It's not our building and the landlord does not allow it. **Why is TB on the 2nd floor if the participants are older adults?** There is a working elevator. We have great rent for a large office space because we are on the 2nd floor. It's another way to keep costs down.
20. **Can I take an oxygen tank/wheelchair/walker/cane/care giver, etc ?** We can not guarantee that you can plug in oxygen tanks on the bus. The bus has steps that you must be able to climb. Most of the Theaters have a few steps as well. Caregivers are welcome but must have a full price ticket like all others on the trip. Walkers go under the bus for the trip. The bus driver will take care of it for you but again, you must be able to get up and down the steps on your own. Our volunteers are not trained to assist.

All GREAT questions. We hope this has been helpful and we look forward to a successful 2024!

THANK YOU!

January - February 2024

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.)

Fitchburg - at the *AMC Theater* 6091 McKee Rd . Park near the road, close to the gas station.

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

Monona - *South Town Mall*, Broadway Dr, near the Old McDonalds in the Floor and Decor lot.

Contact Info:

Ruth Hellenbrand

Director

Theater Bus

437 S. Yellowstone Dr. #214

Madison, WI 53719

(608) 257-0003

Email: info@theaterbus.org

Website: www.theaterbus.org

After hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned during regular business hours. Note: Before each trip, we check messages at (608) 257-0003. Please let us know if your plans change.

OFFICE HOURS:

Office closed on Fridays!

Office open Mon - Thurs 9:00am-3:00pm.

Happy New Year!