



THEATER BUS

For the "Over 55s"



May-June 2022

Theater Bus, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to enriching the quality of life for all adults over 55 residing in the greater Madison community by providing safe, affordable, escorted outings to theatrical, cultural and social events.

An Important message from The Board or Directors

Theater Bus is a nonprofit group with the goal of providing trips for everyone at an affordable price. This has become a challenge. As you have realized, the trip prices are now often over \$100 (our historic target maximum price). We are now looking at our entire operation to see how we can adapt while maintaining our goal of affordability. We would like to take this opportunity to explain why and the possible next steps.

As you all know, we are living in a strange time. First it was Covid 19, then the Omicron Variant, supply chain problems, inflation, and now the war in the Ukraine.

We have been affected by the following:

- It has become difficult to find venues to attend. A lot of the Community Theater groups have not reopened. These groups have been the backbone of our trips and usually have the lowest priced trips.
- Other venues, that have opened, have raised their prices as their expenses have risen.
- Restaurants are facing supply and staffing problems.
- Bus companies are having difficulties finding drivers & are still limiting capacity on buses. The cost of fuel is increasing weekly due to the war in the Ukraine.

Bus companies and restaurants are reluctant to guarantee prices months in advance due to food and rising fuel costs. We print newsletters 2 -4 months in advance. There have been some add-ons and surcharges that have been unexpected.

One example of the challenge Ruth, our director and your board are facing is that we have realized our traditional model of calculating trip costs, is not working. We have historically been able to price trips based on 37 participants. This means that on a typical trip, additional participants have helped cover the cost of office overhead. Now, to keep trip prices down we have started using 47 participants to determine the trip price. This makes the viability of trips fragile. We have no margin to run a trip that will lose money.

We have had to increase our administration fee, which covers about 40% of our cost to run the office. Office operations include rent, payroll, insurance, telephone, mailing labels and office supplies. The balance of money needed to cover operations comes from donations, grants, gifts, estate gifts, gifts from IRA's (Required Minimum Distributions), fundraisers, and corporate sponsorships etc.

We are surveying participants in March and April to determine how Theater Bus should handle these situations. We are eager to hear from you. Please understand it may be necessary to cancel trips if we do not have a minimum of 47 participants, so we are encouraging you to bring a friend along on trips, and know we continue to work for and seek out affordable trips.

Thank you for listening.

Theater Bus Board

12 Getting Sarah Married

Date: Sunday, May 1 2022

Price: \$94 tips included

Place: Bell Tower

Dubuque, IA

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

Deadline: April 22nd, 2022

Pickup Points & Times (*Badger Bus pickup*):

9:00a.m. - East Marshall's

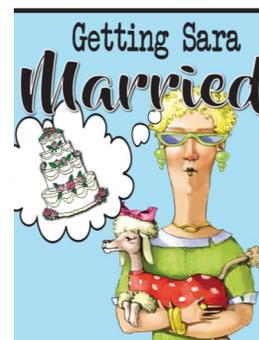
9:30a.m. - West Oakwood Village

9:45a.m. - West Theater Bus

Estim. Return to West side: 6pm

Aunt Martha has decided to get her reluctant niece married at any cost. In this case it amounts to bopping the prospective groom over the head and having him brought to her apartment. Unfortunately, Aunt Martha's choice is someone already engaged to be married.

Lunch at Hotel Julien. Your choice will be *Chicken Mac n Cheese * Hot open faced roast turkey sandwich w/smashed potatoes and Veggies, * Paradise Salad (Vegetarian) and cookies for dessert.



13 Hogwash

Date: Saturday, May 14th, 2022

Price: \$104 tips included

Place: Memories Ballroom

Port Washington, WI

Time: Lunch/Show: 12:30

Deadline: April 29th, 2022

Pickup Points & Times (*Badger Bus pickup*):

8:45am—West Theater Bus Office

9:00am— West Oakwood Village

930am—East Marshall's

Estim. return to East side: 6:00pm

Louie Baxter is an incorrigible troublemaker and Maryn Baxter doesn't know where to turn when Louie is expelled from the Sunny Hill Day Care Center for a variety of behavioral offenses, not the least of which is smoking in the bathroom and setting off false fire alarms. Mary has no alternative, but to take Louie to work on the most important day of her professional career. Called out of her office for an emergency meeting, Mary returns only to find that the office building has caught on fire and Louie has disappeared.

Lunch will be oven roasted turkey breast, apple cranberry dressing, mashed potatoes, steamed veg blend, dinner salad, dinner rolls and Memories famous fluff for dessert.



14 Murder on the Orient

Date: Sunday, June 5th 2022

Price: \$105 tips included

Place: Milwaukee Rep Theater

Milwaukee, WI

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

Deadline: May 20th, 2022

Pickup Points & Times (*Badger Bus*):

9:45am West –Theater Bus

10:00am - West Oakwood Village

10:30am East –Marshalls

Estim. Return to East side: 6:00p.m.

Board the exotic and mysterious Orient Express as it takes off into the opulence and grandeur of the 1930s, with a train full of suspects, each with a motive and an alibi.

This dazzling new adaptation of Agatha Christie's masterpiece is **filled with twists, turns and larger-than-life characters**. Join beloved detective Hercule Poirot as he battles the clock to figure out "whodunit" in this murder mystery that's the perfect way to close our season.

Lunch at Mader's Restaurant. Your choices are:

*Franconian Chicken (Chicken breast topped with mushrooms, onions, tomato and lemon butter sauce) served with spatzle and vegetables *Hungarian Style Goulash (braised beef sirloin in sauce) served with spatzle and spinach *Stuffed Portabella Mushroom. All meals include salad, bread, coffee and apple strudel.



We thank the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation for their generous donation to underwrite the cost of printing this newsletter.

This newsletter is printed by Thyse Printing Service.



15 Mama Mia

Date: Saturday June 11th, 2022
Price: \$ 95 tips included
Place: Racine Theater Guild
Racine, WI
Time: Lunch/Show: 11:30/2:00 p.m.
Deadline: May 23rd, 2022
Pickup Points & Times (*Badger Bus pickup*):
9:45 am—West Theater Bus
10:00am—West Oakwood Village
10:30—East Marshall's
Estim. Return to East side: 5:45

Sophie invites three men who could be all be her father to her wedding in the hit ABBA musical celebrating love, laughter, family, and friendship.



Lunch at Infusino's . Choices are *Broiled Chicken Breast with potatoes and vegetable *Lasagna *Vegetarian Chef's Choice. All meals come with bread, coffee, salad and Sherbet for desert.

16 Celebration Belle Cruise—Moline

Date: Tuesday, June 14th, 2022
Price: \$ 103 tips included
Place: Moline Ill
Time: Lunch/Cruise 11:30-1:30p.m.
Deadline: May 27th, 2022
Pickup Points & Times (*Badger Bus pickup*):
8:00 Marshall's East
8:30 Covenant Church West
8:45 Oakwood Village West
Estim. Return to East side: 4:30 p.m.

Join us for our special Captain's Narrated Lunch Cruise on the Mississippi River, featuring our hot lunch buffet which is prepared fresh onboard.

Our excursion will take in some of the historical sights of the Quad City Area. We will cruise by the Rock Island Arsenal, located on a 946 acre island, and Lock and Dam #15 with the largest roller dam in the world. Our Captain will tell you about the history and facts of these two sights plus many more.



Enjoy a delicious, hot buffet lunch of Baked Cranberry Glazed Boneless Breast of chicken; Alfredo Pasta with vegetables; Homemade Garlic Mashed Potato; Chicken Gravy; Green Beans with Sauted Bacon and Onions; 2 Cold Salads; Tossed Spring Salad with Dressing; Rolls and Butter; Dessert; Coffee and Iced Tea included with your meal.

17 Sound of Music

Date: Sun, June 26th, 2022
Price: \$98 tips included
Place: Grand Opera House
Time: Lunch/Show: 11:30/2:00 p.m.
Deadline: June 6th, 2022
Pickup Points & Times (*Badger Bus pickup*):
9:00—East Marshall's
9:30—West Oakwood Village
9:45—West Theater Bus West
Estim. Return to West side: 6:00 p.m.

The final collaboration between Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II, *The Sound of Music*, has become a musical beloved around the world. This spirited musical story of Maria and the von Trapp Family will thrill audiences with its multiple award-winning songs, including "My Favorite Things," "Do-Re-Mi," "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," "Edelweiss" and the title song. Audiences will leave reminded that with high-spirited hope, heartfelt compassion and unwavering determination, life's mountains can always be climbed.



Lunch at Hotel Julian. Choices are *Spaghetti Bolognese *Chicken Piccata, Also a Vegetarian chef's choice option. Includes coffee, salad and rolls and dessert.

Getting Sarah Married**12**Date: **Sun., May 1st 2022** Cost: \$ **94** Deadline: **4/22**

Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ # of people

1. Name & Address (Use a return address label)

2. Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

3. Pick-up location:

- East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.
 West—Oakwood Village, 6205 Mineral Point Rd.
 West—Theater Bus 437 S Yellowstone Dr

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone number

6. Meal Choice: Chicken Mac N Cheese Open Faced Hot Turkey Sandwich Vegetarian Paradise Salad**Murder on Orient Express****14**Date: **Sun, June 5th, 2022** Cost: **\$105** Deadline: **5/20**

Check # _____ Additional contribution: \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ # of people

1. Name & Address (Use a return address label)

2. Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

3. Pick-up location:

- West—Theater Bus 437 S Yellowstone Dr
 West—Oakwood Village, 6205 Mineral Pt Rd
 East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone number:

6. Meal Choice: Franconian Chicken Hungarian Goulash Stuffed Portabella**Celebration Belle Cruise****16**Date: **Tue, June 14th, 2022** Cost: **\$103** Deadline: **5/27**

Check # _____ Additional contribution: \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ # of people

1. Name & Address (Use a return address label)

2. Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

3. Pick-up location:

- East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.
 West—Covenant Church 326 S. Segoe Rd
 West—Oakwood Village, 6205 Mineral Pt RD

4. Emergency Contact Name & Number _____

Hogwash**13**Date: **Sat. May 14th, 2022** Cost: **\$104** Deadline: **4/29**

Check # _____ Additional contribution: \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ # of people

1. Name & Address (Use a return address label)

2. Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

3. Pick-up location:

- West—Theater Bus 437 S. Yellowstone Dr.
 West—Oakwood Village, 6205 Mineral Point Rd.
 East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone number

Mama Mia**15**Date: **Sat. June 11th, 2022** Cost: **\$95** Deadline: **5/23**

Check # _____ Additional contribution: \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ # of people

1. Name & Address (Use a return address label)

2. Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

3. Pick-up location:

- West—Theater Bus - 437 S Yellowstone DR
 West—Oakwood Village 6205 Mineral Point Rd
 East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone number

6. Meal Choice: Broiled Chicken Vegetarian Chef's Choice Lasagna**Sound Of Music****17**Date: **Sun. June 26th, 2022** Cost: **\$98** Deadline: **6/6**

Check # _____ Additional contribution: \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ # of people

1. Name & Address (Use a return address label)

2. Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

3. Pick-up location:

- East—Marshalls, 2117 Zeier Rd.
 West—Oakwood Village 6205 Mineral Pt Rd
 West—Theater Bus 437 S Yellowstone Dr

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone number:

6. Meal Choice: Spaghetti Bolognese Chicken Piccata Vegetarian

Theater Bus Annual Meeting

May 11th, 9:30-11:00am

Please **RSVP** if you plan on attending.

Call Ruth @ (608) 257-0003

Email: info@theaterbus.org

NEW! Follow us on Facebook @Theaterbus55plus



Theater Bus has a need for a few volunteers interested in data entry, phone calls, trip preparation, and filing.

Call or email Ruth if you have a few hours a week to donate!

Masks are now optional on the bus however, some theaters are still requiring mask wearing. Please bring a mask along with you on Theater Bus trips.



Thank you!



OAKWOOD VILLAGE

UNIVERSITY WOODS

The Theater Bus mission is supported by Oakwood Village University Woods. We thank them for their belief in our organization.

Participant Policy

In order to assure a safe and pleasant experience for all participants, those attending our trips must be mobile and able to perform, without assistance, activities of daily living which include boarding and exiting the bus as well as navigating the venues, restaurants, bathrooms, boat docks etc. We cannot accommodate wheelchairs. Some trips may not be advisable for those with mobility issues requiring a walker. All coach buses have storage space and one seat for each passenger. If you take up more than one seat, you must pay for a second seat. We retain the right to refuse service to anyone exhibiting what we consider to be unacceptable behavior.

Cancellation Policy

Your request for a refund must be received prior to the deadline date for the trip. Refunds will be issued for refundable expenses only, less a \$17 administrative fee. After the deadline date, you may find a replacement to fill your spot. Please let us know who that person will be. If you are unable to find a replacement and there is a wait list for the event, Theater Bus may be able to assign a substitute and issue you a refund less the administrative fee.

Instructions for Completing the Reservation Forms

Note: Some events fill well before the deadline. If more than two weeks have gone by after the bulletin mailing, please call the office before registering to ensure that there is still space available. Register early to ensure that you have a space. Registrations will not be taken over the telephone or spaces held unless payment has been received.

1. Select the form for the event you wish to attend. Please complete providing the following information:
 - **Name and address**—Please use a return address label if you have one to ensure that we capture your information accurately. Otherwise, print your name and address clearly.
 - **Telephone number**—Your phone number is necessary in case we have questions. Our volunteers will call you prior to the event to confirm your attendance, pickup location and time. Please provide Emergency Contact name and phone number.
 - **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, of any others attending on the reverse side of the form.
 - **Additional contribution**—As a nonprofit organization, we provide scholarships for participants in need. We depend upon donations to keep costs down and to include everyone. Thank you so much!
 - Indicate your preferred **pickup location**. Please be at the pickup location 15 minutes prior to the designated time.
 - If you wish to sit with a **friend** or group of friends, indicate the name(s) on line 4.
 - If you have special dietary needs, please call the office **in advance** to make accommodations.
 - If **meal selections** need to be made prior to the event, please indicate your meal preference on the form.
2. Theater Bus accepts checks, but not credit cards, as **payment**. **Separate checks should be written for each event**, although you may include registration fees for more than one person attending a single event on a single check. Checks should be made payable to **Theater Bus**.
3. **Mail** your registration form(s) and payment to: **Theater Bus, Inc., 437 S. Yellowstone Dr. #214, Madison, WI 53719** (Please note that we do not notify you of our receiving your reservation, but you can call to verify. Your cancelled check is your confirmation.)

Note: All tips are included in the cost of the trip, to include a tip for the bus driver and wait staff.

Please bring your cell phone on a trip and keep it turned on. Silence the ringer during theater performances. There are times in which we may need to contact you before a trip, during a trip, or after a trip.

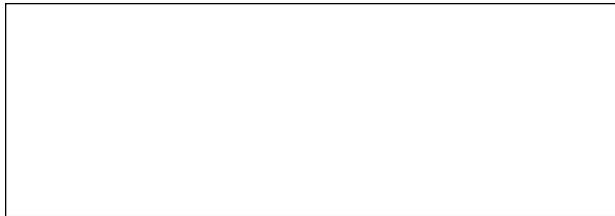


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THEATER BUS

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

Our trips fill quickly.
Mail your
reservation today or
stop in the office!



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

Reasons to Go with Theater Bus

Premier Seats: We obtain main floor seats whenever possible. **Round Trip Transportation:** We pick up from convenient Madison locations and return you to your car. **Escorts:** Escorts will be at each event to provide direction.

Reminder Call: We will call you with your pickup times and locations several days before each event.

Tickets: Escorts distribute tickets at all events.

Smoke-Free Events: Smoking is prohibited.

Fun: Great venues, great food and great people!

Pickup Locations

Theater Bus provides the following convenient Madison pickup locations. Please arrive 15 minutes early.

West—Oakwood Village University Woods at 6205 Mineral Point Road (enter at Island Drive, stay left, turn right at first stop sign, entrance on right), Covenant Presbyterian Church located at the corner of Mineral Point & Segoe Roads (weekday events), 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.

WE do check messages before each trip. Please call the office 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
Website: www.theaterbus.org
Hours: Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
After hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

*Theater Bus is working to come up with new ideas to keep prices low . We are asking for your input. This is completely anonymous. **Thank you** for taking a few minutes to complete this survey. Please complete the front and back. Turn in the survey as you exit the bus.*

- 1 Average number of TB trips I take a year is: _____
- 2 I'd sign up for an **evening** trip: Y N (circle one)
- 3 I'd take a trip with **no meal**, just a show: Y N (Circle one)
- 4 Would you take a trip that included one of the following:
___ no meal
___ a box lunch
___ just a snack
___ Buffet meal
___ pizza
- 5 Would you take a trip with TB if it cost \$115 \$120 (circle one)

We are gathering some demographic information to help us write grants. We do not need your name.

Your Zip Code _____

Age _____

Your estimated annual income _____

Number in your household _____

Race: African American

American Indian

Asian

Caucasian

Latin X

Comments/Suggestions

Thank you for your input!