THEATER BUS

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2026

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.

As 2026 comes to a close, we are wrapping up an incredible year that included 37 trips—several of which were so popular they required two buses! With the holiday season upon us, we want to take a moment to reflect on everything we've experienced together over the past twelve months.

This season was packed with fun, sunshine, and new adventures. We launched several fresh itineraries that quickly became fan favorites, including a city tour of Greendale, an excursion to Ten Chimneys, and numerous summer boat cruises. To make planning easier, we also introduced a new walking activity scale, helping everyone choose trips that best match their mobility and comfort levels.

We also experienced a few wonderful surprises along the way:

- **A Growing Community:** An unexpected surge in social media attention brought over 700 new members to our group. A warm welcome to all of you—we can't wait to see you on a bus soon!

- **An Inspiring Legacy:** We received a remarkably generous gift from the estate of Sharon Owen, a longtime volunteer who passed away two years ago. Sharon devoted years of service to Theater Bus and our broader community. Gifts like hers are vital to keeping our mission alive and thriving. Anyone can leave part of an estate to a charity like Sharon did. Ask you financial planner.

- **Official Recognition:** In October, Governor Tony Evers issued an official proclamation designating October 20th as **Theater Bus Day in Wisconsin**. *We will be marking the milestone with a festive open house on this October 20th from 2-4* and plan to celebrate every October 20th going forward.

- **Sponsorship**: A big **thank you** to *Gunderson Funeral and Cremation Care* for sponsoring our trip to San Filippano! Sponsorships help keep our prices lower.

None of this would be possible without your continued support and enthusiasm. **Don't miss the 2026 annual meeting on Oct. 21st at 9:30am.** On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, thank you for being part of our community. We wish you a joyous holiday season and look forward to traveling together in 2027!

Warmly, **Ruth**

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

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

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2026 SHOWS AND REGISTRATIONS

THEATER BUS

33. Clyde's

Date: Sunday, November 1st, 2026
Refund deadline: October 20th, 2026
Price: $131
Place: Waukesha Civic Theater
Lunch/Show: 11:30/2:00

9:30am- (West) Theater Bus
9:45am — (Monona) South Towne Mall
10:15am- (East) Marshall's
10:45am Johnson Creek Park and Ride

Approximate return to Madison 6:00pm

At a humble truck stop sandwich shop, the heat is high and the stakes are even higher. The kitchen crew, all formerly incarcerated and hungry for a fresh start, are given one more shot to prove themselves. But beneath the watchful eye of a hard-edged owner, redemption won't come easy. As orders fly and tensions simmer, the staff channel their struggles, humor, and heart into an unexpected shared mission: crafting the perfect sandwich. What begins as a job becomes something more - a space to reclaim dignity, rediscover purpose, and dare to dream again. Rich with warmth, grit, and sharp wit, this soulful drama celebrates resilience, community, and the power of second chances. In a place where good food is gospel, hope rises — one sandwich at a time.

Lunch buffet at Machine Shed in Pewaukee .

33. Clyde's

Date: Sun., Nov. 1st, 2026
Refund deadline: Oct., 20th, 2026
Price: $131
Check: #_____
Additional Contribution: $_____
Amount encl $_____ for _____# people
1. Name/address

2. Home Phone:_____
Cell Phone:_____
Email:_____
3. Pick-up Location:
___West—Theater Bus (559 D'Onofrio Dr)
___Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor and Décor)
___East—Marshall's (2117 Zeier Rd)
__Johnson Creek Park N Rde
4. I wish to sit with:_____
5. Emergency Contact/number _____
_____

34. Annie

Date: Saturday, November 7th, 2026
Refund deadline: October 20th, 2026
Price: $133
Place: Sunset Playhouse, Elm Grove, WI
Lunch/show: 11:30/2:00

9:45am- (West) Theater Bus
10:00am — (Monona) South Towne Mall
10:30am- (East) Marshall's
11:00am— Johnson Creek Park N Ride
Approximate return to Madison 6:00pm

With her boundless optimism, red curls, and unforgettable voice, Little Orphan Annie has charmed audiences for generations. Set in 1930s New York City, this beloved Broadway classic follows Annie's journey from the tough life at Miss Hannigan's orphanage to the lavish home of billionaire Oliver Warbucks. Along the way, she proves that hope, heart, and a little bit of courage can change lives—even during the hardest times.Featuring iconic songs like "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard Knock Life", Annie is a joyful, family-friendly musical reminder that brighter days are always just around the corner.

Lunch is a delicious buffet at one of our favorite places—Thunder Bay in Pewaukee.

34. Annie

Date: Sat., Nov. 7th, 2026
Refund deadline: Oct. 20th, 2026
Price: $133
Check: #_____
Additional Contribution: $_____
Amount encl $_____ for _____# people
1. Name/address

2. Home Phone:_____
Cell Phone:_____
Email:_____
3. Pick-up Location:
___West—Theater Bus (559 D'Onofrio Dr)
___Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor and Décor)
___East—Marshall's (2117 Zeier Rd)
___ Johnson Creek Park N Ride
4. I wish to sit with:_____
5. Emergency Contact/number _____
_____



NOV—DEC. SHOWS AND REGISTRATIONS CON'T

THEATER BUS

35. Christmas in the Dells

Date: Saturday, November 14th, 2026
Refund deadline: Oct. 25th , 2026
Price: $126
Place: Wis. Dells Dinner Theater
Lunch/Show: 12:15/1:00

10:30am — (West) Theater Bus
10:45am — (Monona) South Towne Mall
11:00am- (East) Marshall's
Approx. return to Madison 4:30pm

An award winning Christmas dinner show featuring singing, dancing, live animals, largest live Nativity, comedy and dazzling effects. A delicious 3 course dinner includes vegetable soup, dinner rolls, herb roasted chicken, green beans, Christmas corn, creamy mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry salad and red velvet cake for dessert. Coffee, milk and tea included.

Kick off the Holiday season with this fantastic trip!

35. Christmas in the Dells

Date: Sat., Nov. 14th, 2026 Price: $126
Refund deadline: Oct. 25th , 2026
Check: #_____
Additional Contribution: $_____
Amount encl $_____ for _____# people
1. Name/address

2. Home Phone:_____
Cell Phone:_____
Email:_____
3. Pick-up Location:
___West—Theater Bus (559 D'Onofrio 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. _____ I need Vegetarian, please.

36. Boys From Baraboo

Date: Sunday, December 6th, 2026
Refund deadline: Nov. 15th, 2026
Price: $149
Place: Next Act Theater, Milwaukee
Time: Lunch/Show 11:30/2:00

9:00am- ((West) Theater Bus
9:15am — (Monona) South Towne Mall
9:45am—(East) Marshall's
10:15am Johnson Creek Park N Ride
Approximate return to Madison 6:00pm



Comedy! Songs! Entertainment! Step right up as Heidi Armbruster chronicles the rise and fall of the Ringling Brothers: five boys from Baraboo, Wisconsin. The story of their circus—the greatest show on Earth—is bookended by the brothers' scrappy beginnings and difficult ends. THE BOYS FROM BARABOO tells the uniquely American story of a death-defying entertainment empire: music, storytelling, grit and charm create a tale that's equal parts vaudeville revue and prestige drama.

Lunch buffet at Mader's German Restaurant in Milwaukee. Coffee Service and dessert included.

Step right up and enjoy this fantastic day!

36. Boys From Baraboo

Date: Sun., Dec 6th, 2026 Price: $149
Refund deadline: Nov. 15th, 2026
Check: #_____
Additional Contribution: $_____
Amount encl $_____ for _____# people
1. Name/address

2. Home Phone:_____
Cell Phone:_____
Email:_____
3. Pick-up Location:
____West—Theater Bus (559 D'Onofrio Dr)
___Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor and Décor)
___East—Marshall's (2117 Zeier Rd)
___Johnson Creek Park N Ride
4. I wish to sit with:_____
5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number:_____
_____
6. _____ I need vegetarian, please.

37. A Christmas Story

Date: Friday, December 11th , 2026
Refund deadline: Nov. 9th, 2026
Price: $149
Place: Fireside Theater, Fort Atkinson
Lunch/Show: 11:00/1:00
8:30am — (West) Theater Bus
8:45am — (Monona) South Towne Mall
9:15am—(East) Marshall's
Approx. return to Madison 5:30pm

Ralphie wants only one thing for Christmas: An Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action 200-shot Range Model Air Rifle. A CHRISTMAS STORY The Musical is the hilarious account of Ralphie's desperate quest to ensure that this most perfect gift ends up under his tree. Based on the classic 1983 movie, the musical features a funny and heartfelt score by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul who wrote music for the hit movies LA LA LAND and THE GREATEST SHOWMAN and the hit Broadway show DEAR EVAN HANSEN. A CHRISTMAS STORY The Musical captures holiday wonder with such deliciously wicked wit that it is sure to delight children and grown-ups alike!

Lunch choices include Chicken Parmesan, Grilled Salmon, Sliced Roast Beef Tenderloin, Vegetarian Pot Pie. Also includes cream of Lobster Soup, fresh baked bread, coffee, tea and milk and Black Forest Cake for dessert. (full meal description available on their website firesidetheatre.com)

37. A Christmas Story

Date: Friday, Dec.11 2026 Price: $149
Refund deadline: Nov. 9th, 2026
Check: #_____
Additional Contribution: $_____
Amount encl $_____ for _____# people
1. Name/address

2. Home Phone:_____
Cell Phone:_____
Email:_____
3. Pick-up Location:
___West—Theater Bus (559 D'Onofrio Dr)
___Monona—South Towne Mall (near Floor and Décor)
___East—Marshall's (2117 Zeier Rd)
4. I wish to sit with:_____
5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number:_____
_____ _____

6. Circle one per person: Chicken Parm

Roast Beef **Veg. Pot Pie** **Salmon**

A note from the Director:

If you have seen a different number show up when we call you, it's our 2nd phone line and it shows up as 608-203-5610. This is our OUTGOING number only. Please do not call this number. We continue to use 608-257-0003 as our main number.

1. **BUFFETS**. It seems that some people go to a buffet, pile their plates and then not eat it all. We are seeing a lot of food going straight to the trash. We pay for food based on the number of people in attendance. We have had a few trips where there was no meat or dessert for the last people in line. PLEASE, one dessert per person. And remember, you *can* go back for 2nds if there is food left. Typically, for buffets we are not allowed to take the extra food to go, but that doesn't mean being wasteful and causing shortages.

2. The new Walking Scale. If you see ***one*** of these in the trip description means minimal walking;

Two means moderate walking. ***Three*** means there is a lot of walking required.

Please watch for this and make decisions on trips based on the amount of walking you can do. We cannot guarantee there are places to rest or shady spots or good weather. Our volunteers are not trained to help you safely up the steps or lift you off the ground. Please make sure your mobility is steady enough for independence on these trips. Canes and Walkers are allowed, and may be stored under the bus if needed during the bus ride.

We appreciate all of you and we want to continue safe and fun trips for all for the next 50 years!

Thank you, Ruth

THEATER BUS INFORMATION

Please read the info below. Even if you have read it once before. We may add a few things...

- 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. We will make 2 attempts to contact you. It's important that you check your voicemail **or call in to verify if you didn't receive a call**.
- 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. Please DO NOT leave this blank!
- 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. While many trips fill quickly, even with waitlists, there may still be openings. Please call the office to verify***.
- Theater Bus accepts checks, and cash, 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 , 559 D'Onofrio Dr, Suite 17, Madison, WI 53719. If you want to drop off your registration after office hours, we do have a mail slot in the door for your 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 office and businesses. (Park at the far end of the office lot, etc) We do not want to disrupt parking for businesses that are open.
- **Meals are subject to change from what was indicated in the newsletter without notice.** Occasionally, we do need to change restaurants or menus at the last minute. We try to avoid this , but occasionally it is necessary. Thank you for understanding this.

Thank you for continuing to be part of the Theater Bus community!

Do you have special computer skills?
Do you LOVE working with social media?
We NEED YOU to volunteer!
We are looking for a special volunteer who enjoys creating social media posts and writing creative emails. Time commitment varies week to week but we are flexible with your schedule.
If that's you, contact Ruth at info@theaterbus.org

559 D'Onofrio Dr. Suite 17
Madison, WI 53719
608-257-0003

Nov.-Dec. 2026

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Mail your reservation today!

TO:



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 - All WEST side trips will now start at the *Theater Bus Office*, 559 D'Onofrio Dr. any day of the week.

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
559 D'Onofrio Dr
Suite 17
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. After office hours, we do have a mail slot in the door for dropping off registrations.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—THURSDAY 10am-1:30pm
Office is closed on Fridays!
(email and voicemail will be checked)
(608) 257-0003 info@theaterbus.org
Please remember our office is staffed by volunteers and hours are subject to their schedules.