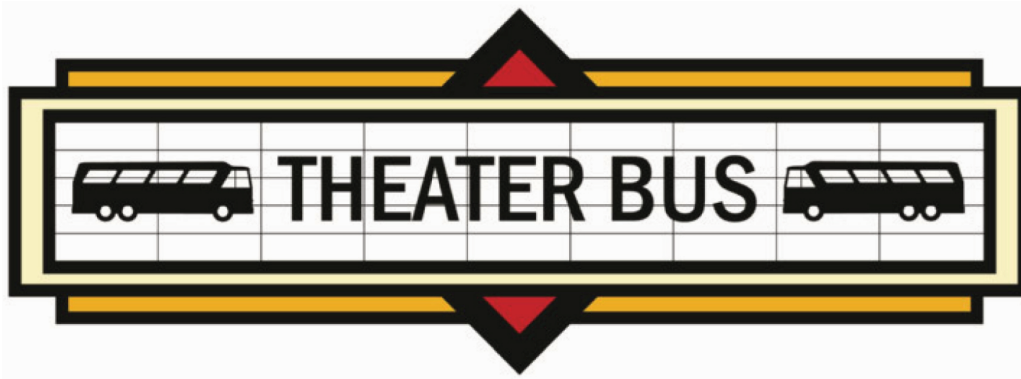




SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2026

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.

A note from the Director:

I just wanted to touch base on a few items.

1. **BUFFETS.** It seems that 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;

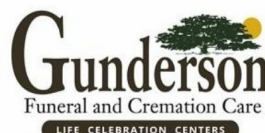
 **Two** means moderate walking. **Three**  means there is a lot of walking required.

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

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

25. Rick Wilcox Magic Show

Date: Wednesday, September 9th, 2026

Deadline: August 20th, 2026

Price: \$132

Place: Rick Wilcox Theater Wis. Dells

Lunch/Show: Noon/2:00



10:00am- (West) Theater Bus

10:15am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

10:45am- (East) Marshall's

Approximate return to Madison 6:00pm

We visited this show as a Mystery Trip last year and people LOVED it! We will start with a delicious pizza buffet lunch at Moosejaw and then head over to the show. *How did he do that?* is what you will ask yourself numerous times! Since opening their 550-seat Wisconsin Dells theater in 1999, master illusionists Rick & Suzan Wilcox have entertained & amazed thousands. This magic show plays to packed audiences year-round and represents the best in Wisconsin Dells live entertainment that combines magic & comedy with their exceptional grand illusions and delightful on-stage chemistry. **Updated every year**, their Wisconsin Dells live magic show features original fast-paced illusions that keep this awe-inspiring show fresh and fun. After getting to know Rick & Suzan on stage with their easy charm, quick wit and amazing illusions, you'll have a chance to actually meet the stars after the show. Autographs and photos are a nightly routine at their magic fireplace next to the lobby and magic shop at the Rick Wilcox Theater. *This is a not to be missed trip!*

25. Rick Wilcox Magic Show

Date: Wed, Sept. 9th, 2026

Deadline: August 20th, 2026

Price: \$132

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/number** _____**26. Ten Chimney's**

Date: Tuesday, September 15th, 2026

Deadline: August 20th, 2026

Price: \$129

Place: Genesee Depot, WI

Tour/Lunch: 8:45/11:30



6:30am- (West) Theater Bus

6:45am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

7:15am- (East) Marshall's

7:45am— Johnson Creek Park N Ride

Approximate return to Madison 4:00pm

Ten Chimneys is the estate lovingly created by Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. Those who visit, like guests of the Lunts, are welcomed into their extraordinary home without the fuss of ropes or barriers.

Tours of Ten Chimneys not only celebrate the one-of-a-kind collection the Lunts amassed during their lifetimes, but also honor the values found in every corner of their lives, both on the stage and in the house they called home for more than half a century.

We will have boxed lunch on the estate. Please note—this tour does require a lot of walking. There will be time for the museum store and enjoying the grounds.

Box lunches include sandwich, chips, pickle spear, cookie and bottled water. Sandwich Choices include: The Signature Turkey with cranberry chutney, blue cheese and walnut's; Fresh spinach and feta wrap with hard boiled egg, radishes, cucumbers and currents; Ham and Cheese Sandwich with tomato and lettuce; Chicken Salad or Egg Salad.

26. Ten Chimney's

Date: Tues., Sept. 15th, 2026

Deadline: Aug. 20th, 2026

Price: \$129

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/number** _____**6. Sandwich Choice (Circle one per person)**

Turkey Spinach/Feta wrap Ham and Cheese

Chicken Salad Egg Salad

Choose one: Wheat Bread Wrap

27. The Play That Goes Wrong

Date: Saturday, September 19th, 2026

Deadline: August 25th, 2026

Price: \$143

Place: Racine Theater Guild

Lunch/Show: 11:30/2:00



9:15am — (West) Theater Bus

9:30am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

10:00am- (East) Marshall's

10:30am—Johnson Creek Park N Ride

Approx. return to Madison 6:00pm

A smashing success where everything, quite literally, comes crashing down as the curtain attempts to rise on the Cornley Drama Society's ill-fated opening night of "The Murder at Haversham Manor." Throughout the night, things go from bad to catastrophically disastrous as the leading lady is knocked unconscious, the corpse can't play dead, the crew are thrown into battle, and the actors trip over everything - including their own lines. It's nothing you want in a show—and everything you want in a show as anything that can go wrong, absolutely will with theatrical flair. Chaos ensues in one of the funniest play-within-a-play productions ever to gloriously fail in full view of any audience.

Buffet lunch at Meyer's Restaurant in Greenfield including coffee, tea and milk and dessert.

28. The Quilt Shop Trip

Date: Tuesday, October 6th, 2026

Deadline: Sept. 15th, 2026

Price: \$125

Place: Several quilt stores and Bailey's Run Winery

Time : Lunch approximately 12:30pm at Bailey's Run



8:15am- (East) Marshall's

8:45am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

9:00am- (West) Theater Bus

9:30—Mt Horeb Cenex

Approximate return to Madison 5:00pm

Only 36 seats but lots of room for shopping bags and bolts of fabric!

This year we are heading to Dodgeville, New Glarus and Brodhead! The stops include: White Rose Silver Thread, The Happy Little Stitch Shop, Bailey's run for Lunch, The Duke's Stash and Keeping up with the Jones.

Lunch at the winery will be a Taste of Switzerland Lunch with a Fondue Tasting and brownies and cookies for dessert. Water and Soda are included. You will have time to shop or tour the winery. Any tasting or alcohol purchases are at your own expense.

27. The Play That Goes Wrong

Date: Sat., Sept. 19th, 2026

Price: \$143

Deadline: Aug. 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.

___ Johnson Creek Park n Ride

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number:

28. Quilt Shop Trip

Date: Tues., Oct 6th, 2026 Price: \$125

Deadline: Sept. 15th, 2026

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 and Décor)

___ West—Theater Bus (559 D'Onofrio Dr)

___ Mt. Horeb Cenex

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number: _____

6. ___ I need vegetarian, please.

4 SHOWS AND REGISTRATIONS CON'T

29. Celebration Belle Fall Cruise

Date: Thursday, October 8th, 2026

Deadline: Sept 9th, 2026

Price: \$146

Place: Dubuque, IA

Boarding: 9:30

7:00am — (East) Marshall's (Bus One)

7:30am — (Monona) South Towne Mall (Bus One)

7:00am — (West) Theater Bus (Bus two)

7:30am-Mt Horeb Cenex (Bus two)

Approx. return to Madison 6:30pm

Two buses will be heading to Dubuque for a fall cruise down the Mississippi. Enjoy a delectable lunch and great musical entertainment on this relaxing 3 hour journey while searching for eagles and fall colors. There is a bit of walking from the bus to the boat and boarding the boat.

Buffet lunch includes Marinated baked Boneless Breast of chicken, Alfredo Pasta with Vegetables, Homemade Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Chicken Gravy, Vegetable, Salad (chef's choice), Rolls and Butter, Dessert, Coffee and Iced Tea included with your meal.

Menu Subject to Change

Attention: If you have travel companions, please get on at the same location if you want to sit together on the bus.



30. The World Goes Round

Date: Sunday October 18th, 2026

Deadline: Sept 18th, 2026

Price: \$159

Where: Mil. Rep Stackner 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 N Ride

Approx. return to Madison 6:00pm

This high-energy musical revue brings to life the legendary songs of John Kander and Fred Ebb, the iconic duo behind *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

Featuring 36 unforgettable songs, five dynamic performers deliver beloved favorites with heart and show-stopping style. The music moves seamlessly from sizzling showstoppers to intimate, moving moments that reveal the depth of the duo's remarkable collection of songs. From razor-sharp humor to powerful storytelling, this celebration is pure Broadway joy from start to finish. If you love musicals, this show is for you!

Lunch Buffet at Machine Shed includes Old Fashion Pot Roast, Fried Chicken, Cheddar Hash Brown Casserole, Grandma's Green Bean Casserole and a Garden Salad. Coffee is included.



29. Celebration Belle

Date: Thurs., Oct. 8th, 2026 Price: \$146

Deadline: Sept 9th, 2026

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 and Décor)

___ West—Theater Bus (559 D'Onofrio Dr)

___ Mt. Horeb Cenex

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone

Number: _____

30. The World Goes Round

Date: Sun. Oct 18th, 2026 Price: \$159

Deadline: Sept 18th, 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.

___ Johnson Creek Park n Ride

4. I wish to sit with: _____

5. Emergency Contact Name & Phone

Number: _____

31. Come From Away

Date: Friday, October 23rd, 2026

Deadline: Sept. 20th, 2026

Price: \$ 158

Place: Fireside, Ft Atkinson

Lunch/Show: 11:00/1:30pm

8:45m — (West) Theater Bus

9:00am — (Monona) South Towne Mall

9:30am- (East) Marshall's

Approximate return to Madison 5:00pm



The exhilarating Tony Award-winning musical that was born out of the tragedy of September 11, 2001. In the remarkable true story, what started as an average morning in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland turned into an international sleepover, when 38 planes carrying 7,000 people from around the globe were diverted to their airstrip. Undaunted by culture clashes and language barriers, the people of Gander cheered the stranded travelers with music, an open bar, and the recognition that we're all part of a global family.

Lunch Choices include chicken Picatta, Sliced Pork Tenderloin, Seared Halibut., or Vegetarian Penne Alfredo. Blueberry Crisp for Desert. All meals include Roasted Sweet corn Chowder, Milk, coffee or tea and bakery fresh bread.

32. Sanfillippo Estate

When: Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

Deadline: Oct, 1st , 2026

Price: \$141

Where: Barrington, Ill

Lunch, Show, Tour : Noon-5:00pm

8:30am — (West) Theater Bus

8:45am — (Monona) South Towne

9:15am- (East) Marshall's

Approx. return to Madison 7:30pm (yes, later than usual)



Seasonal lunch in the carousel pavilion, with wine. Touring of the pavilion collection with Dance organs and carousel demonstrations. 90-minute Wurlitzer Concert with a Silent Movie (filmed at the Estate) called RUMOR HAS IT..., with accompaniment by the Wurlitzer Organ. This custom written movie was filmed at the Sanfillippo Estate with real actors, and mimics a classic silent film style. The Wurlitzer Organ accompaniment will make it feel like you've stepped back in time to the early 1920s. It is not gory, no one dies, and only maybe a little scary. It's mostly fun and highlights some of the collection in the home, and is about a group of tour guests exploring the Sanfillippo home and collection. 45-minutes to tour house collections after the concert.

Lunch is a Fall salad, rolls & butter, chicken entre', potatoes, green beans, Fall dessert. Water, Ice Tea, Coffee, Red & White wine on the table.

31. Come From Away

Date: Fri., Oct. 23rd, 2026 Price: \$ 158

Deadline: Sept. 20th, 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 on per person:

Chicken Picatta

Pork

Halibut

Vegetarian

32. Sanfillippo Estate

Date: Tues., Oct. 27th, 2026 Price: \$141

Deadline: Oct. 1st, 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: _____

Please complete the 2026 survey and return with your registration.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this survey.

Average number of TB trips I take a year is: _____

What prevents you from taking MORE trips with Theater Bus?

_____ personal budget _____ the price _____ do not like trip choices
_____ food choices _____ other

IF other, please explain:

I'd sign up for an **evening** trip: Y N (circle one)

I'd take a trip with **no meal**, just a show: Y N (Circle one)

Would you take a trip with TB if it cost over \$160? Yes No (circle one)

I would like to receive text messages with trip reminders? Yes No

If so, name and cell number _____

Where would you like Theater Bus to go? _____

Comments: _____

Please help us keep our records up to date:

Name: _____

Address where you receive mail: _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Emergency Contact: _____ phone _____

Where do you want messages left: (circle one) home phone cell phone

7 THEATER BUS INFORMATION

THEATER BUS

**Please read the info below. Even if you have read it once before.
We have added 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 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 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 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 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



Sept-Oct 2026

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Madison, WI 53719
608-257-0003

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 - 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