



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO LIVE THEATRE AT SYRACUSE STAGE MADE POSSIBLE BY NEW GIFT FROM M&T BANK**



*From L to R: Bob Hupp, artistic director, Syracuse Stage; Steve Gorczynski, Central New York regional president, M&T Bank; and Joann Yarrow, director of community engagement and education, Syracuse Stage*

SYRACUSE, NY – Central New Yorkers now have more opportunities to access live theatre at [Syracuse Stage](#) thanks to support from M&T Bank. With a \$20,000 grant, the theatre will be able to substantially increase the number of pay-what-you-will performances for each show remaining in its 2022/2023 season and will also bring back the Stage for All program. The two programs help ensure all community members have access to high quality live theatre while removing cost as a barrier.

“There’s nothing like the joy that live entertainment brings. It’s a chance to join with family and friends, to unplug from our screens and to celebrate our vibrant arts community. We are proud to help bring that shared experience to as many members of our community as possible,” said Steve Gorczynski, Central New York regional president, M&T Bank.

According to Americans for the Arts, the nation’s leading nonprofit organization for advancing arts and arts education, improving access to the arts not only provides benefits to the individual, such as decreased stress levels and social isolation, but research shows that the arts have benefits for communities as a whole. Art consumption provides a common bridge that increases friendship, empathy and mutual trust by bringing generations together, encouraging partnerships and intercultural

understanding. A five-year study of low-income Chicago neighborhoods by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation showed that access to the arts brought 5-10 percent increases in housing, population and school test scores, along with decreases in crime.

The M&T Bank Pay-What-You-Will Performance Program allows 76 tickets over the course of five days for each production to be available for whatever price patrons wish to pay. The pay-what-you-will performances are available on the following dates:

- “Disney’s The Little Mermaid”: Nov. 30 – Dec. 4
- “Espejos: Clean”: Feb. 15 – 19
- “Our Town”: March 29 – April 2
- “Tender Rain”: May 3 – 7
- “Clue”: June 7 – 11

Since the pay-what-you-will program’s inception in the 2017/2018 season, more than 1,100 tickets have been purchased at a price point that community members are able to pay. The grant from M&T Bank subsidizes the gap between the actual ticket price and the amount paid for a pay-what-you-will ticket, which averages between \$7 and \$8.

“At Syracuse Stage, we believe theatre should be accessible to all,” said Bob Hupp, artistic director, Syracuse Stage. “Regardless of the barrier to attendance, each of us should be able to enjoy the communal and transformational experience of sharing the intimacy of live theatre. This grant goes a long way in breaking down the barrier of price to our neighbors, and we’re grateful to M&T Bank for its generosity.”

Pay-what-you-will tickets must be claimed in person at the Box Office, 820 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, or by phone, (315) 443-3275, on the day of the desired performance. The Box Office opens at 10 a.m. and remains open through the start of the show. There is a limit of two tickets per person, and they are subject to availability.

In addition to the pay-what-you-will performances, the M&T Bank Stage for All program connects Syracuse Stage to local community organizations. Deeply reduced ticket vouchers are provided to other local nonprofits to distribute to community members they serve. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

#### ABOUT SYRACUSE STAGE

Founded in 1974, Syracuse Stage is the nonprofit, professional theatre company in residence at Syracuse University. It is nationally recognized for creating stimulating theatrical work that engages Central New York and significantly contributes to the artistic life of Syracuse University, where it is a vital partner in achieving the educational mission of the University’s Department of Drama. Syracuse Stage’s mission is to tell stories that engage, entertain and inspire people to see life beyond their own experience. Each season 70,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays, and bold interpretations of classics and musicals, featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves more than 21,000 students from 16 counties. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA), the University Hill Corporation and the East Genesee Regent Association. Syracuse Stage is a member of The League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the largest professional theatre association in the country.

## ABOUT M&T BANK

M&T Bank Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T's principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, provides banking products and services in 12 states across the eastern U.S. from Maine to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Trust-related services are provided in select markets in the U.S. and abroad by M&T's Wilmington Trust-affiliated companies and by M&T Bank. For more information about M&T Bank, visit [www.mtb.com](http://www.mtb.com).

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Syracuse Stage | Artistic Director: Robert M. Hupp | Managing Director: Jill A. Anderson  
820 E. Genesee St. | Main: [315-443-4008](tel:315-443-4008) | Box Office: [315-443-3275](tel:315-443-3275) | [www.SyracuseStage.org](http://www.SyracuseStage.org)

