



THE  
GRAND  
THEATER

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## Press Release

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## The Grand announces its 2024/25 Season!

WAUSAU, WI – June 3, 2024 –The Grand Theater is proud to present its newly announced 2024/25 Season, which features the biggest lineup of shows in recent history and its most acclaimed series of Broadway musicals. While The Grand has always brought nationally touring Broadway shows and large ensemble spectacles to Wausau, the upcoming 24/25 Season expands this tradition by offering two nights each of six major hit productions:

- The Tony Award-winning Best Musical **Dear Evan Hansen** (Dec. 9-10), declared “one of the most remarkable shows in musical theater history” by the Washington Post.
- The innovative, mythic musical **Hadestown** (Jan. 6-7), winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album.
- **Ain’t Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations** (April 15-16), the electrifying musical nominated for 12 Tony Awards in 2019 and winner of Best Choreography.
- **Pretty Woman: The Musical** (Feb. 13-14), called “irresistible” by The Hollywood Reporter, with an original score by Grammy winner Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance (“Summer of ’69”, “Heaven”), and a book by the movie’s legendary director Garry Marshall and screenwriter J. F. Lawton.
- **Cirque Dreams Holidayze** (Dec. 18-19), returning to The Grand for the first time since 2019 with its dazzling and whimsical family spectacular wrapped in a Broadway-style production and contemporary circus arts.
- **Riverdance** (May 14-15), returning with its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tour that features new innovative choreography and costumes and state of the art lighting, projection and motion graphics.

In total, the 24/25 Season features 37 shows between September 2024 and late-May 2025.

(The entire Grand Theater schedule also includes add-on shows, plus outside promoter and local production rental events).

“The Grand is for everyone,” says Executive Director Sean Wright, “and the 24/25 Season lineup truly embodies our on-going effort to offer a fantastic variety of performances and events that appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds.”

Audiences will find, for example, incredible music from all genres. The Grand is especially proud to offer the rare opportunity to see one of the world’s most renowned chamber orchestras, the London-based **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields** (March 1). Part of their limited U.S. spring tour, this concert features award-winning pianist Bruce Liu performing Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 9.

There’s masterful jazz celebrating the New Orleans Songbook and Spirit of Mardi Gras by **Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents** (March 21). The legendary **Ozark Mountain Daredevils** (Sept. 13) performs for their farewell tour “When It Shines” in The Grand’s season opener. **Leonid & Friends** (Oct. 1), the charismatic, jaw-dropping tribute to the band Chicago, makes an encore appearance after their highly acclaimed debut at The Grand last year.

And Wausau will be treated to one of the major music influencers of our generation, **Ben Folds** (Oct. 8), when this famed pop music artist and composer takes the stage in Wausau for his Paper Airplane Request Tour.

Some of the most beloved and popular touring acts on the road today will also grace The Grand’s stage this season, including “Funny Mother” comedian **Dena Blizzard** (Nov. 23); **Whose Live Anyway?** (Sept. 21) improv comedy show; country music star **Terri Clark** (Nov. 16); and the #1 Michael Jackson tribute show in the world, **Invincible** (May 3).

In addition to Cirque Dreams Holiday, families will enjoy a wide range of other performances that captivate all ages, including **The Magic of Rob Lake** (Feb. 23), the dance and storytelling sensation **Step Afrika!** (April 22), the violin and DJ pop/reggae concert by **Sons of Mystro** (Oct. 29), and Wausau favorite **Yamato: Drummers of Japan** (March 7).

And there are plenty of performances audiences will love for sheer fun and the joy of popular music, such as: the return of **Mania: The ABBA Tribute** (Oct. 11); **Celebrating Meat Loaf** (Oct. 25) the only tribute officially endorsed by Meat Loaf himself and featuring a Halloween season bonus of songs from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*; the rockin' bagpipe group **Red Hot Chilli Pipers** (March 28); and the new **Dirty Dancing in Concert** (Feb. 8) the beloved movie's first film-to-concert experience with a live band and dancers performing the soundtrack as the movie plays on a cinema-sized screen on stage!

Tickets to all of the 24/25 Season shows are available with a subscription order (four or more shows) starting 5:30 pm Tuesday, June 4 at The Grand's Season Preview Party.

Order a season subscription starting Wednesday, June 5 online at [www.grandtheater.org](http://www.grandtheater.org), by calling the Ticket Office at 715-842-0988, or visiting in person at 401 4th Street in Downtown Wausau.

Those who purchase a season subscription receive priority seating before single shows go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, July 9.

## **2024/25 Season Lineup**

### **Ozark Mountain Daredevils – September 13, 2024**

After five decades as one of the most decorated country rock bands of all time, the Ozark Mountain Daredevils are out on their "When It Shines" farewell tour that promises an electrifying experience, showcasing the band's classic hits, fan favorites, and a retrospective journey through their illustrious career.

### **Daniel O'Donnell – September 20**

You've watched his incredible specials on PBS for years and now you can see famed Irish singer Daniel O'Donnell perform live at The Grand for the first time! The Donegal-based singer is one of the most prolific and successful recording artists in the UK. He has been inducted into Ireland's Music Hall of Fame, and received multiple Entertainer of the Year/Person of the Year Awards in Ireland and the UK – to mention but a few of the many accolades earned by this charming, one-of-a-kind performer.

### **Whose Live Anyway? – September 21**

The current cast members of the Emmy-nominated TV show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* come to The Grand with their new improv tour. A returning Wausau favorite, this 90-minute show of hilarious improvised comedy and song is all based on audience suggestions. Cast members Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops, Jeff B. Davis, and Joel Murray invent the hilarious scenes right before your eyes! *Whose Live Anyway?* showcases the improv games made famous on the long-running TV show as well as exciting new ones, featuring musical direction by Laura Hall.

### **Leonid & Friends – October 1**

Few shows garnered as much buzz at The Grand as Leonid & Friends did with its debut concert last year. Prepare to be amazed again by the authentic sound of this Chicago tribute band with multiple sold-out U.S. tours under its belt and hundreds of thousands of online fans. Leonid & Friends astound live audiences with their uncanny ability to capture the spirit, musicality, and fire of American supergroup Chicago. Comprised of the finest musicians in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus, Leonid & Friends replicate the band's complex arrangements note for note.

### **Little River Band – October 4**

The Eagles founding member, the late Glenn Frey, dubbed Little River Band "the best singing band in the world." The band claimed their place as one of the great vocal bands of the 70s and 80s with chart-topping hits including "Reminiscing," "Lady," "Cool Change," "Lonesome Loser," "Take It Easy On Me," and many more. LRB continues to deliver distinctive harmonies and vocal abilities under the direction of 41-year LRB veteran, lead vocalist and bass player Wayne Nelson.

### **Ben Folds – October 8**

Widely regarded as one of the major music influencers of our generation, this Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter-composer has created an enormous body of music that includes his early success with Ben Folds Five, whose acerbic, genre-bending take on piano pop helped define an entire era of alternative rock. For the past three decades, he's toured as a pop artist, releasing multiple solo albums and collaborative records while also performing with some of the world's greatest symphony orchestras.

### **Mania - The ABBA Tribute – October 11**

The world's #1 touring ABBA tribute returns to The Grand for another stellar concert party, this time to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the legendary Swedish band. Featuring an extraordinary cast of musicians and performers, Mania: The ABBA Tribute delivers stunning visuals and impeccable musicianship to recreate the magic of ABBA's music in all its glory. "Dancing Queen," "Waterloo," "Mamma Mia," "Take a Chance on Me" and many more of ABBA's greatest hits will transport you back to the joyful disco era of the 1970s and the best music ever!

### **Celebrating Meat Loaf –October 25**

This stunning concert is the only authentic reimagining of the legendary Meat Loaf and Jim Steinman songbook, performed brilliantly by world-class alumni of Meat Loaf's official band, The Neverland Express and featuring American Idol winner Caleb Johnson as lead vocalist with his powerful interpretations and electrifying stage presence. As a Halloween season bonus, this show at The Grand includes hit songs from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, in which Meat Loaf starred as luckless delivery driver Eddie and sang the showstopper "Hot Patootie, Bless My Soul."

### **Sons of Mystro – October 29**

Rising stars in the music world, Sons of Mystro will fill The Grand with exciting modern sounds and charisma that will have all ages jumping in their seats! Critics hail brothers Malcom and Umoja as "innovators of sound" and "masters of musical fusion." Together, they use their violins to interpret reggae classics, American pop songs and their own originals, accompanied by a talented DJ and a powerhouse drummer.

### **Don McLean – November 1**

Hear a true music legend when Don McLean returns to The Grand after a sold-out show in 2019! For over 50 years, Don McLean has established himself as one of America's most enduring singer-songwriters, forever known for classic hits like "Vincent (Starry Starry Night)," "Crying," and one of the biggest songs of the century "American Pie." Still writing and recording music to this day, McLean presents a night of classic hits performed by a master of the craft of song.

### **The Fab Four – November 14**

It's a night for Beatles fans of all ages with this ultimate tribute, featuring their all-new show celebrating The Beatles' first visit to the USA. You'll hear performances from the Ed Sullivan show and the *Meet The Beatles* album, as well as the greatest hits of every era. See why this Emmy Award-winning, loving tribute has amazed audiences around the world

### **Terri Clark – November 16**

From humble beginnings playing for tips at Tootsie's Orchid Lounge in Nashville to holding the honor of being the only Canadian female member of the Grand Ole Opry, superstar Terri Clark has solidified her place in the history books of country music. The multi- JUNO Award winner boasts over 5 million albums sold, 13 top ten singles including six number ones! With hit singles like "Better Things To Do," "Poor Poor Pitiful Me," "Girls Lie Too," "Northern Girl," and "I Just Wanna Be Mad," this will be a night of great country you'll always remember.

### **Dena Blizzard – November 23**

One Funny Mother comedian Dena Blizzard's new show "I Love You, Get Away From Me!" is a three-generation comedy show about finding the funny in life's transitions, with Dena's mom, Diana, and her son, Dean. Whether it's becoming a widow at 75, divorcing and empty nesting at 50 or trying to act like a grown up at 23...there's plenty to laugh (or cry) about!

### **Dear Evan Hansen – December 9 & 10**

This Tony and Grammy Award-winner is the first musical to take a groundbreaking look — from the point of view of both the parents and young people — at our complex, interconnected, and social media-filled lives. Evan Hansen is a high school student who always feels like he's on the outside looking in. Evan finally gets what so many of us are searching for—the chance to finally fit in. What follows is a poignant, funny, and powerful musical about how even though it can be hard, we can find each other—and ourselves—along the way. The beloved score of *Dear Evan Hansen* includes some of the most iconic musical theatre songs from the last decade, including "You Will Be Found," "Waving Through A Window," and "For Forever."

### **Altenburgh Christmas Extravaganza – December 13**

With decades of sold-out shows, John Altenburgh returns once again with this true Wisconsin Christmas tradition. This has long been the hottest holiday ticket in town, with a lineup of some of the finest and most fun musicians in the state performing jazz, blues, country, and Christmas classics.

### **Cirque Dreams Holiday – December 18 & 19**

It's the longest-running cirque holiday theatrical event in the U.S. that dazzles with a brilliant and whimsical family holiday spectacular. This show wraps a Broadway-style production around an infusion of contemporary circus arts, as a fantastical cast of holiday storybook characters come to life on stage. With an original musical score, twists on holiday classics sung live, and with new sets, scenery, and storylines, Cirque Dreams Holiday is the ultimate gift for the entire family!

### **Hadestown – January 6 & 7, 2025**

Winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album, this acclaimed show is a love story for today and always. *Hadestown* intertwines two mythic tales — that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone — on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. Beguiling melodies and imagination pit industry against nature, doubt against faith, and fear against love. This haunting and hopeful theatrical experience grabs you and never lets go. Come see how the world could be...

### **Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis – January 25**

The show combines hypnosis and improv — art forms that have mystified and entertained fans and skeptics worldwide — for a unique comedy experience. World-renowned hypnotist Asad Mecci welcomes 20 volunteers on stage to be hypnotized. The most receptive to hypnosis then join Colin Mochrie (*Whose Line Is It, Anyway?*) to improvise the rest of the show, while hypnotized. In the hands of two experts, and solely crafted from the volunteers' uninhibited, unconscious minds and audience suggestions, each show is an original and unforgettable theatrical experience.

### **The Simon & Garfunkel Story – January 30**

Returning to The Grand after two sold-out shows, *The Simon & Garfunkel Story* is a critically-acclaimed, concert-style show about two boys from Queens, New York who became the most successful music duo of all time. Using state-of-the-art video projection, original film footage, incredible lighting, and a live band, this moving and powerful show features all the hits: "Mrs. Robinson," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "Scarborough Fair," "The Sound Of Silence," and more.

### **Dirty Dancing in Concert – February 8**

Audiences are loving this new show, the classic movie's first live film-to-concert experience. Enjoy the digitally remastered hit film like never before on a full-size cinema screen, with a live band and singers performing the film's iconic songs. With a soundtrack that marked a generation, Dirty Dancing in Concert promises a thrilling new experience to the 1980s classic. Directly following the film, the band and singers throw an encore party that takes you back to the time of your life as you sing and dance along to your favorite *Dirty Dancing* songs.

### **Pretty Woman: The Musical – February 13 & 14**

Based on one of Hollywood's most beloved romantic stories, *Pretty Woman: The Musical* springs to life with a powerhouse creative team led by two-time Tony Award-winning director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell, an original score by Grammy winner Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance ("Summer of '69", "Heaven"), and a book by the movie's legendary director Garry Marshall and screenwriter J. F. Lawton. "If you love the movie, you'll love the musical!" raves BuzzFeed News.

### **Ailey II – February 16**

The dancers and performances of Ailey II have been described by critics as "spectacular beings," "sparkling," "gifted, talented, and thrilling." For more than 50 years, Ailey II – The Next Generation of Dance has merged the spirit and energy of the country's finest early-career dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding and emerging choreographers.

### **I am... He said – A Celebration of the Music of Neil Diamond – February 20**

Matt Vee & The Killer Vees' celebration of the amazing music icon Neil Diamond is selling out across the Midwest. Matt, Jeff and Tommy Vee, nephew and sons of the legendary Bobby Vee, respectively, come together with an all-star band to perform the timeless catalog of Neil Diamond. With songs like "Cracklin Rosie," "Song Sung Blue," and "Sweet Caroline," Neil Diamond's music became the soundtrack to one generation after another, spanning five decades "This is not a tribute show," Tommy Vee says. "This is a celebration of an amazing musical icon we all love."

### **The Magic of Rob Lake – February 23**

Rob Lake is one of the biggest-selling magicians touring today and he comes to The Grand for the first time! From his awe-inspiring vanishing acts to levitating objects, Rob Lake has mastered the art of grand illusions, mind-boggling sleight of hand and mesmerizing storytelling. The America's Got Talent 2018 finalist — named "World's Greatest Illusionist" by NBC — dazzles audiences with his lavish sets, stunning lighting and captivating music in an immersive experience not to be missed!

### **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields – March 1**

Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience a live performance of one of the finest, most highly esteemed chamber orchestras in the world. Based in London, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields (ASMF) is renowned for fresh, brilliant interpretations of orchestral music. Since its formation in 1958, unrivalled live performances and a vast recording output — including the 1969 best-seller Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and the soundtrack to the Oscar-winning film *Amadeus* — have given the orchestra an enviable international reputation. Academy of St Martin in the Fields is joined by the 2021 Chopin Piano Competition winner Bruce Liu on this limited spring tour in the U.S. Liu will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9. The performance also will include Copland's *Quiet City*, Adams' *Shaker Loops*, and Hayden's *Symphony No. 29*.

### **Yamato: The Drummers of Japan – March 7**

After a sold-out show in 2023, Yamato returns to The Grand! Yamato's acclaimed performances of Japanese Taiko drumming have captivated millions of people across the globe for the thunderous music and incredible athletic ability and showmanship. Their new show "Hito no Chikara" - The Power of Human Strength, will leave you exhilarated by the spectacular, high energy, and explosive performance. But their Taiko drums also produce delicate music. Yamato is sometimes intense, sometimes sad, sometimes comforting, and in the next moment comical. It's an amazing experience for the whole family!

### **Legends of Country Rock – March 14**

It's a night of classic hits as Pure Prairie League and Firefall take the stage to perform their iconic songs. Legends of Country Rock treats you to some of the biggest hits of that golden era of 1970s music, including timeless singles "Amie" and "Let Me Love You Tonight" from Pure Prairie League, and "You Are the Woman" and "Strange Way" from Firefall. With dozens of charting songs between them, you'll be singing along all evening with these true music legends!

### **Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents New Orleans Songbook-The Spirit of Mardi Gras – March 21**

This evening of incredible music celebrates the composers and inspired songs of the Crescent City, the historic epicenter of jazz. From Jelly Roll Morton and Louis Armstrong to Ellis Marsalis and James Black, New Orleans has long been an apex of innovation and inspiration. Led by pianist Luther S. Allison with vocalists Quiana Lynell and Milton Suggs, New Orleans Songbook immerses audiences in the captivating, timeless spirit of this vibrant city.

### **Listen to Her Heart: The Tom Petty Experience – March 22**

With their spot-on renditions and passionate performances, Listen to Her Heart captures the essence and spirit of Tom Petty's sound, taking audiences on a nostalgic journey through his incredible career. Formed by the Atlanta-based group of musicians known as Georgia Players Guild, each band member brings their unique musical expertise to the stage, resulting in a powerful performance that leaves audiences wanting more. From ballads like "Free Fallin'" and "Wildflowers" to the anthems like "American Girl" and "Refugee," Listen to Her Heart delivers a set list that meticulously recreates the signature guitar riffs, soaring harmonies, and heartfelt lyrics that made Petty a rock and roll icon.

### **Red Hot Chilli Pipers – March 28**

Bagpipes with attitude. Drums with a Scottish accent. A blazing rock band and show so hot, it carries its own health warning! It's Bagpipes. It's Rock. It's Bagrock. AC/DC meets the poet Robert Burns. Where rock anthems sit alongside the great tunes from the glens and the mountains of Scotland. It's The Red Hot Chilli PIPERS (NOT the Peppers!) – a 9-piece ensemble consisting of pipers, guitarists, keyboards, and drummers -- who have been rocking the world from New York to Beijing with a passion for pipes and high musicianship that will leave you breathless. This feel-good, heart-pounding concert is an experience for all ages!

### **Classic Albums Live: U2's The Joshua Tree – April 5**

They've played multiple sold out shows at The Grand, and this time Classic Albums Live returns to perform U2's 1987 album *The Joshua Tree*. One of the most acclaimed albums of all time and containing some of the band's biggest hits, including "Where the Streets Have No Name" and "With Or Without You," *The Joshua Tree* remains a powerful work of music to this day. Hear Classic Albums Live perform it in its entirety note for note, cut for cut.

### **Ain't Too Proud-The Life and Times of The Temptations – April 15 & 16**

This electrifying smash-hit Broadway musical follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Nominated for 12 Tony Awards and the winner of the 2019 Tony Award for Best Choreography, it's a thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal during a decade of civil unrest in America. Set to the beat of the group's treasured hits, including "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Get Ready," and "Papa Was a Rolling Stone," *Ain't Too Proud* tells the unforgettable story of the legendary quintet that Billboard Magazine named the greatest R&B group of all time.

### **Step Afrika! – April 22**

This incredible show will stay in your hearts forever. Step Afrika! performances are much more than dance shows. They integrate songs, storytelling, humor and audience participation. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy leaves the audience with their hearts pounding. Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional West and Southern African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! has evolved into one of America's cultural exports, touring across the globe.

### **Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives – May 2**

"If country music had a president, it would be Marty Stuart," famed documentarian Ken Burns once proclaimed. "He is the embodiment of the culture." You'll be taking an exhilarating deep dive into Americana when this Platinum five-time Grammy-winner, AMA Lifetime Achievement honoree, and Country Music Hall of Famer performs at The Grand with his revered, long-time band. With a crossover sound of rockabilly, honkytonk, bluegrass and traditional country, Stuart continues to write keenly relevant music that honors country's rich legacy while advancing it into the future (sometimes with a touch of psychedelic rock). "I like to say that the most outlaw thing you can possibly do in Nashville right now is play country music," Stuart says. "There's still a few of us left who know how to do it."

### **Invincible: A Glorious Tribute to Michael Jackson – May 3**

Embark on a mesmerizing journey through the musical legacy of the King of Pop with *Invincible*, hailed by the Jackson family patriarch, Joe Jackson, as the #1 Michael Jackson tribute show in the world! You'll be immersed in the electrifying world of Michael Jackson's legendary artistry, where every step, every beat, and every note resonates with his iconic presence. With state-of-the-art visuals, dynamic choreography, and a powerhouse cast of talented performers, *Invincible* promises an evening of pure entertainment and nostalgia for all ages!

### **Riverdance – May 14 & 15**

This show's fusion of Irish and international dance and music has captured the hearts of millions worldwide. The Grammy award-winning music and infectious energy of its mesmerizing choreography has left audiences in awe and established *Riverdance* as a global cultural sensation. To celebrate its 30th year milestone, *Riverdance* presents a spectacular 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary production that rejuvenates the much-loved original show with new innovative choreography and costumes and state of the art lighting, projection and motion graphics.

### **The Rush Tribute Project – May 18**

Combining skilled musicianship with commanding and charismatic performances, The Rush Tribute Project (RTP to its fanbase) delivers the magic of Rush's famous live concerts, and they return to The Grand after a sold-out show last year! Covering all 40-plus years of Rush's amazing career, RTP painstakingly recreates the sound and energy that made Rush one of the top-selling rock bands of all time. With a lineup that has performed Rush tribute shows for over a decade around the world, RTP delivers a concert experience for both casual fans and hardcore loyalists of the legendary rock power-trio.

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