

# GRAND THEATER WAUSAU



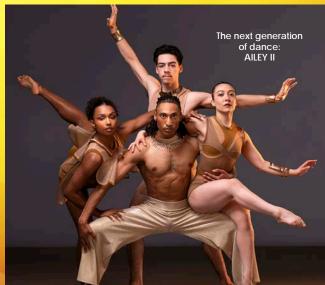


# WINTER 2024/25 newsletter











EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEAN WRIGHT

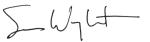
# Your support fills our stage

As the 97th year of our historic theater winds down, we have much to be thankful for, as it has been another outstanding year: More than 135,000 patrons came through our doors, we were recognized again as one of Pollstar's Top 150 Theaters in the World, and world-class artists from across genres graced the stage of The

Grand. We thank all of you who have supported us this year and made it such a success!

Even as the days turn shorter and colder, we have so much to be excited about in the months to come. From Broadway hits Dear Evan Hansen and Hadestown to visits from world-renowned artists Ailey II and Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, there are great shows for everyone. And we're thrilled to have much more exciting news to share with you in the new year about our plans leading up to The Grand's 100th Anniversary in 2027.

Thanks for your support of The Grand in 2024. Best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season!



# **CONTACT US**

ONLINE www.grandtheater.org
CALL 715-842-0988 or 888-239-0421 (toll-free)
VISIT 401 N. Fourth St. Downtown Wausau

TICKET OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9:00 am-5:30 pm

Our 2024/25 Season is well underway!
On the following pages find details on all upcoming shows, including recently announced add-ons. To order online or to find information on seating availability, scan the code below to go directly to our ticketing page.



The entire season at The Grand is supported by the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. These performances are also supported by the Community Arts Grant program of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation, and the City of Wausau's Room Tax Funding.











#### "ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE SHOWS IN MUSICAL THEATER HISTORY"

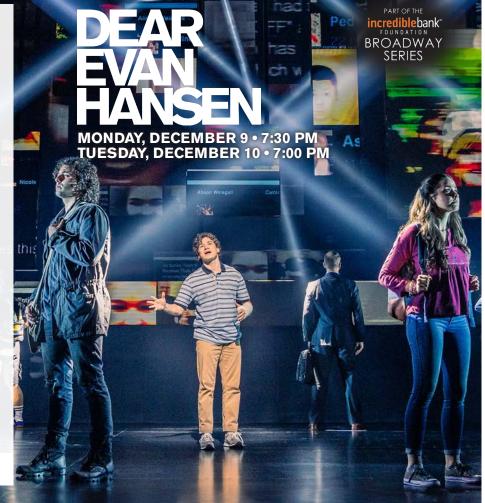
-Washington Post

A global sensation that won six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, DEAR EVAN HANSEN takes a groundbreaking look — from the perspective of both parents and young people — at our complex, social media-filled lives.

The timely and contemporary story is beautifully backed by the Grammy-winning score that has become a contemporary classic with songs like "You Will Be Found" and "Waving Through a Window." Evan Hansen is a high school student who feels like he's on the outside looking in. When Evan finally gets the chance to fit in, what follows is a poignant, funny, and powerful musical about finding each other and ourselves along the way.

DEAR EVAN HANSEN appeals to "anyone with a beating heart" with its universal subject matter and portrayals of the touching relationships that power this remarkable story.

Recommended for ages 12 & up, and contains adults themes, including discussions of suicide.













#### SATURDAY, 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 her mom, Diana, and her son, Dean. Whether it's becoming a widow at 75, divorcing and empty nesting at 50, or trying to act grown up at 23, there's plenty to laugh (or cry) about. It's perfect for anyone going through some sh\*t or just needs people to go away for a minute!

PRESENTING











#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Johnny's back to fill The Grand's stage with some of the finest and most fun musicians around the state. Nothing says Christmas in Wausau like John Altenburgh's Christmas Extravaganza. With years of sold-out shows, this true Wisconsin tradition has long been the hottest holiday ticket in town. And with an all-star lineup, it's a night of powerful jazz, blues, rock, gospel, and holiday standards that fill the audience with Christmas spirit.













#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Be dazzled by this brilliant and whimsical holiday spectacular. This longest-running cirque holiday theatrical event wraps a Broadway-style production around contemporary circus arts. Fun for all ages, CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE features world-renowned performers, aerial acts, sleight-of-hand jugglers, breath-catching acrobatics, and much more. The music score includes new twists on seasonal favorites amid a backdrop of magical characters!

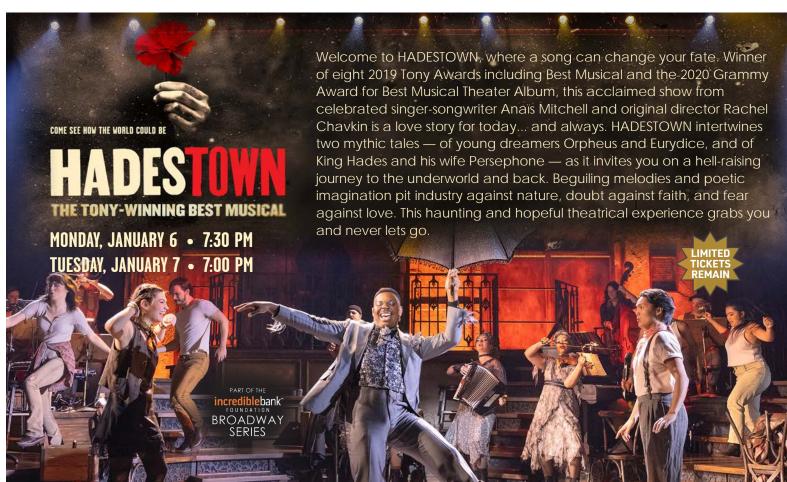
PRESENTING



FEATURED









FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

There are dueling piano shows... and then there is DEUCES WILD! You are in for an incredible night of fun with these two amazing showmen! It's a clap-along, sing-along musical comedy show where the audience is part of the action. No one does it better than Dave and Ted. With the sophisticated nuances of burlesque's best bawdy traditions, Deuces Wild offers a Las Vegas-style show with a surprising mix of music and parodies, from classic rock and country to rap and show tunes. The key to their musical comedy is unabashed audience participation, so get ready to make the laughter happen!



#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Returning to The Grand after two sold-out shows, this critically-acclaimed, concert-style theatre show is 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 powerful show features all the hits: "Mrs Robinson," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "Homeward Bound," "Scarborough Fair," "The Sound Of Silence" and more

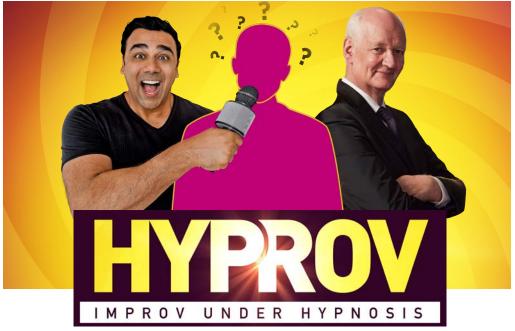












#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Hypnosis and improv comedy combine here for a hilarious experience The Times of London declared "a celebration of the human imagination." Hypnotist Asad Mecci welcomes volunteers on stage to be hypnotized. The most receptive then join Colin Mochrie to improvise the show, while hypnotized. Crafted from the volunteers' uninhibited minds and audience suggestions, each show is an entirely original theatrical event!







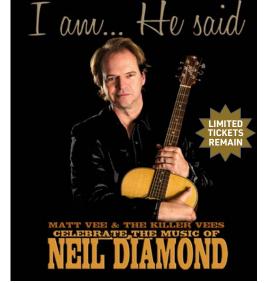


#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Audiences are loving the 1987 film'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 iconic songs. Directly following the film, the band and singers throw an encore party that will surely take you back to the time of your life as you sing along to your favorite Dirty Dancing songs. Immerse yourself in the timeless romance of one of the most memorable movies of the past 35 years... now live!







#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

This celebration of the pop music icon, Neil Diamond, is selling out across the Midwest! Matt, Jeff, and Tommy Vee (nephew and sons of the legendary Bobby Vee) come together with an all-star band to perform from the timeless catalog of Neil Diamond. Songs like "Cracklin Rosie," "Song Sung Blue" and "Sweet Caroline" became the soundtrack to one generation after another. "This is not a tribute show," Tommy Vee says. "This is a celebration of an amazing musical icon we all love."

PRESENTING









# Big New Musical. Big. Huge.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 • 8:00 PM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 • 7:00 PM

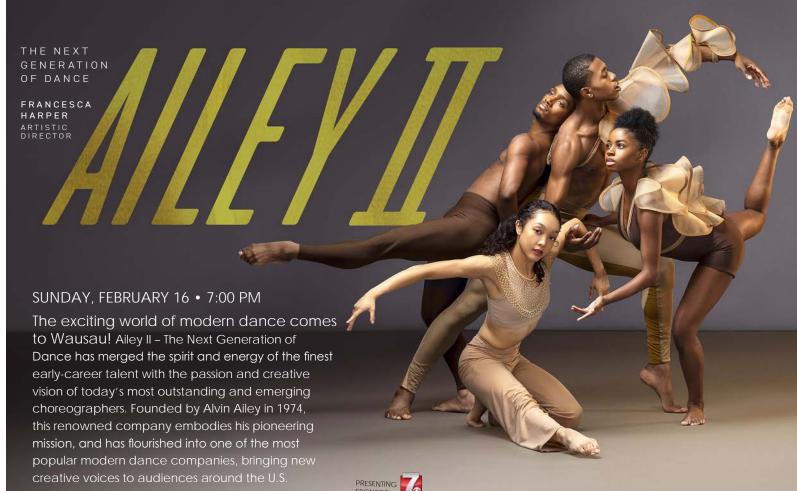
Based on one of Hollywood's most beloved romantic stories, PRETTY WOMAN: THE MUSICAL springs to life with a powerhouse creative team led by Tony Award-winning director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell (Hairspray, Kinky Boots, Legally Blonde), an original score by Grammy winner Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance, and a book co-writen by the movie's legendary director Garry Marshall. PRETTY WOMAN: THE MUSICAL will lift your spirits and light up your heart. "If you love the movie, you'll love the musical!" (BuzzFeed News). Are you ready to fall in love all over again?













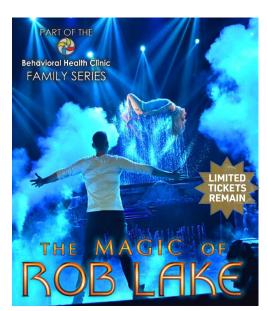


#### SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience a live performance of one of the 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 the world's greatest orchestral music. Since its formation in 1958, unrivalled live performances and a vast recording output — including the soundtrack to the film Amadeus - have given the orchestra an international reputation for its distinctive, polished sound. On this limited spring tour in the U.S., the orchestra is joined by the 2021 Chopin Piano Competition winner Bruce Liu, who will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 "Jeunehomme." This concert also includes Copland's Quiet City, Adams' Shaker Loops, and Haydn's Symphony No. 29.







SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 • 7:00 PM

One of the biggest-selling magicians touring today comes to The Grand for the first time! From his awe-inspiring vanishing acts to levitating objects, Rob Lake has mastered 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!





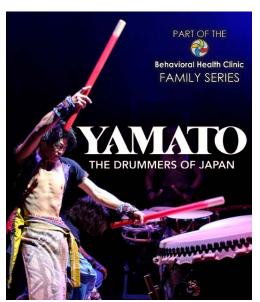












FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Yamato's acclaimed Japanese Taiko drumming has captivated millions across the globe. Their new show "Hito no Chikara" - The Power of Human Strength, will leave you exhilarated by the spectacular, high energy performance. The Taiko drums explode with sound, but 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!









GAELIC STORM



Celtic traditions.



Storm has topped the Billboard World Chart six

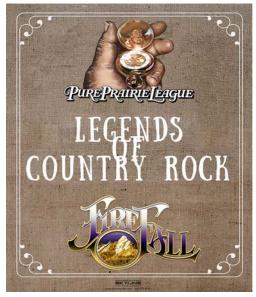
concert of genre-bending Irish rock mixed with

times and regularly headlines the largest Irish

Festivals across the country. Don't miss their



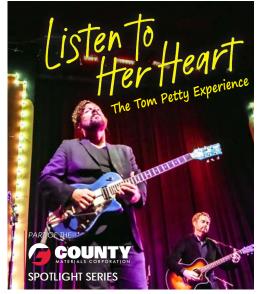




FRIDAY, MARCH 14

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.





#### SATURDAY, MARCH 22

This tribute to Tom Petty delivers spot-on renditions and passionate performances to capture the spirit of Tom Petty's sound, taking audiences on a nostalgic journey through his incredible career. Formed by the Atlanta-based group of musicians Georgia Players Guild, the band showcases the breadth and depth of Petty's catalog, recreating the signature guitar riffs, harmonies, and heartfelt lyrics that made Petty a rock and roll icon.



#### FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Experience the soul of New Orleans and the spirit of Mardi Gras in this amazing evening that 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. With world-class musicians and infectious energy, New Orleans Songbook immerses audiences in the captivating and timeless spirit of this vibrant city.

PRESENTING







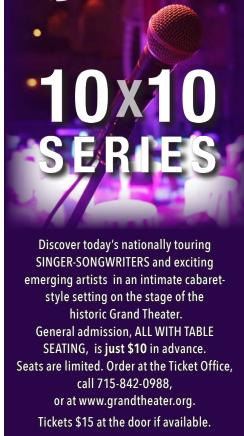


#### FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Bagpipes with attitude. Drums with a Scottish accent. A blazing hot rock band and show. It's Bagpipes. It's Rock. It's Bagrock. 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 with a passion for pipes and high musicianship that will leave you breathless.







HOUGUM LAW FIRM, LLC

#### NATALIE TENEBAUM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 CLASSICAL FUSION The critically-acclaimed composer, producer, and performing pianist is renowned for her "consistently

invigorating" shows.





**MARIELLE KRAFT** THURSDAY, MARCH 13 INDIE/POP

This self-taught singersongwriter displays craftsmanship beyond her years with salient detail, raw emotion, and poignant lyrics.

**JENNA MARIE** FRIDAY, APRIL 11 COUNTRY SINGER-SONGWRITER Wausau born and raised, this Nashville independent country music artist blends the sounds of contemporary and traditional country



ONE MORE ARTIST ANNOUNCED SOON!







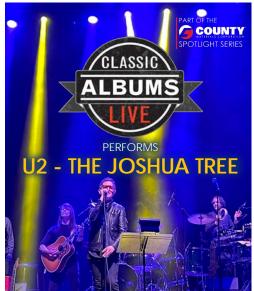












#### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

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 - note for note, cut for cut. One of the most acclaimed albums of all time and containing hits such as "Where the Streets Have No Name" and "With Or Without You," the Grammywinning album remains a powerful work of music to this day. As CAL founder Craig Martin says, "It's a sonic tarp that covered a generation."

PRESENTING





FEATURED







#### TUESDAY, APRIL 22

This is the power of the performing arts. 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 compelling artistic experience. Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, which has evolved into one of America's cultural exports being performed across the globe.

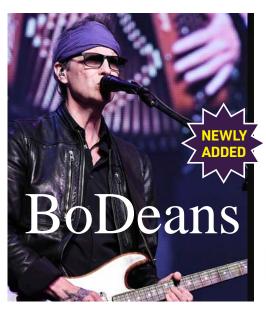
PRESENTING





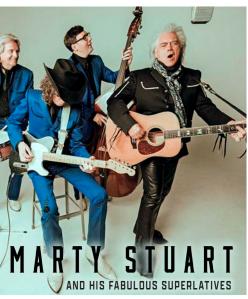






#### THURSDAY, APRIL 10

With tunes you know from the first note, riproaring concerts you can count on, and a whole lot of energy you'll take home with you, BoDeans continue to contribute to the American songbook as a tried-and-true institution. Founded and led by original frontman, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer Kurt Neumann, the band's catalog consists of anthems such as "Good Things," You Don't Get Much," "Idaho," and "Closer To Free," to name a few that reflect the soul and spirit of the modern American experience!

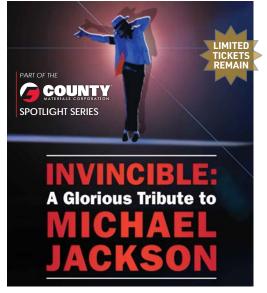


#### FRIDAY, MAY 2

Take a deep dive into Americana with this five-time Grammy winner and Country Music Hall of Famer performing with his revered, longtime band. Rolling Stone calls Stuart "one of the last remaining links to traditional country, roots music and the generation of greats like George Jones and Hank Williams." With a crossover sound of rockabilly, honky tonk, bluegrass and traditional, Stuart continues to advance the legacy of country music.







#### SATURDAY, MAY 3

Enter the electrifying world of Michael Jackson's artistry, where every step, every beat, and every note resonates with his iconic presence. This extraordinary production captures the heart and soul of Michael's greatest hits and dance moves, meticulously crafted under the masterful choreography of Jackson's longtime collaborator, Lavelle Smith Jr. With state-of-theart visuals and a powerhouse cast, INVINCIBLE promises an evening of pure entertainment!



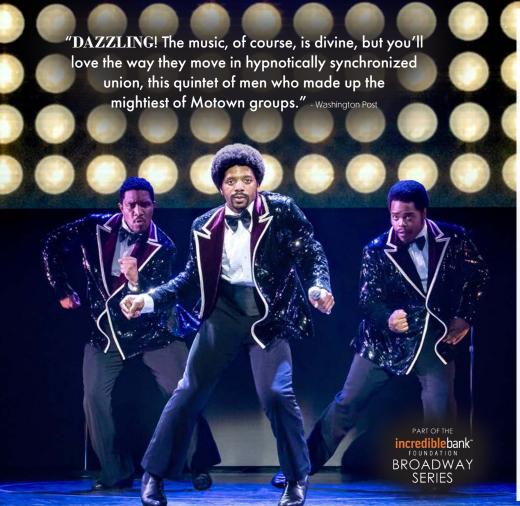












THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE TEMPTATIONS

TUESDAY, APRIL 15 • 7:30 PM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 • 7:00 PM

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 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.

PRESENTING



FEATURED









#### SUNDAY, MAY 4

One of the major music influencers of our time, this singer-songwriter-composer has created an enormous body of genre-bending music that includes his early success with Ben Folds Five, whose acerbic take on piano pop helped define an entire era of alternative rock. For the past three decades, he's toured as a pop artist while also performing with some of the world's greatest symphony orchestras. Known for comedic and bittersweet tunes, engaging anecdotes, and dexterous improvisation, Ben will take song requests from the audience via paper airplanes!

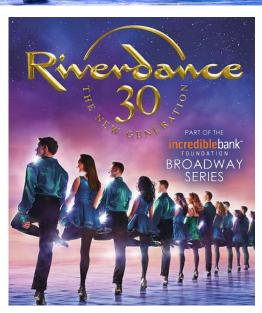












WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 THURSDAY, MAY 15

This fusion of Irish and international dance and Grammy-winning music has captured the hearts of millions worldwide. Now celebrating its 30th year, Riverdance's special anniversary production rejuvenates the original show with innovative new choreography and costumes, lighting, motion graphics and projection.













SUNDAY, MAY 18 • 7:00 PM

With skilled musicianship and commanding, charismatic performances, The Rush Tribute Project (RTP to its fanbase) delivers the magic of Rush's famous live concerts, and they return after a sold-out show in 2023! 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.

PRESENTING

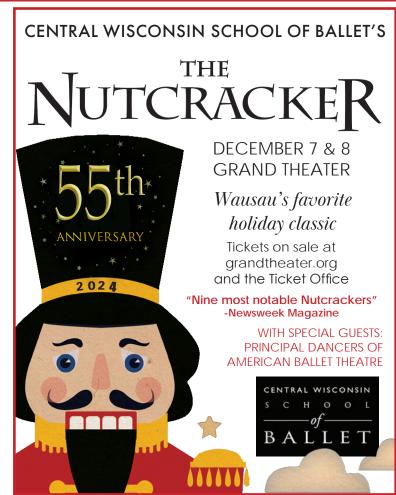


FEATURED











#### GRAND THEATER CALENDAR 2024/25

#### **DECEMBER**

- Central Wisconsin School of Ballet's The Nutcracker
- 9-10 IncredibleBank Foundation Broadway Series: Dear Evan Hansen
- Home Free: Any Kind of Christmas 11 (SOLD OUT)
- 13 Altenburgh Christmas Extravaganza (LOW TICKETS)
- 18-19 County Materials Spotlight Series: Cirque Dreams Holidaze (LOW TICKETS)
- 22 Symphony on the Rocks

#### **JANUARY**

- 6-7 IncredibleBank Foundation Broadway Series: Hadestown (LOW TICKETS)
- 9 Stayin' Alive
- **Deuces Wild Dueling Pianos** 17
- 25 Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis
- IncredibleBank Foundation Broadway Series: The Simon & Garfunkel Story

#### **FEBRUARY**

- Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: Doktor Kaboom!
- County Materials Spotlight Series: Dirty Dancing in Concert (LOW TICKETS)
- 13-14 IncredibleBank Foundation Broadway Series: Pretty Woman: The Musical
- 16
- Hougum Law Firm 10x10 Series: 18 Natalie Tenenbaum

- 20 I Am... He Said: A Celebration of the Music of Neil Diamond (LOW TICKETS)
- 23 Behavioral Health Clinic Family Series: The Magic of Rob Lake (LOW TICKETS)
- 25 Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny

#### **MARCH**

- 1 Chester L. Suski Art Fund Presents: Academy of St. Martin in the Fields
- 7 Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: Yamato: The Drummers of Japan (SOLD OUT)
- 7 Behavioral Health Clinic Family Series: Yamato: The Drummers of Japan
- 9 Gaelic Storm
- 13 Hougum Law Firm 10x10 Series: Marielle Kraft
- Legends of Country Rock: Pure Prairie 14 League & Firefall
- 19 Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus! The Musical! (sold out)
- Ladies of Country 20
- 21 Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents: New Orleans Songbook
- 22 County Materials Spotlight Series: Listen to Her Heart: The Tom Petty Experience
- Red Hot Chilli Pipers 28

#### **APRIL**

- County Materials Spotlight Series: 5 Classic Albums Live: U2's The Joshua Tree
- BoDeans 10
- Hougum Law Firm 10x10 Series: 11 Jenna Marie
- 15-16 IncredibleBank Foundation Broadway Series: Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations
  - Wausau Lyric Choir: 19 'Music and the Mind'
  - 22 Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: Step Afrika! (sold out)
  - 22 Behavioral Health Clinic Family Series: Step Afrika!

#### MAY

- 2 Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives
- 3 County Materials Spotlight Series: Invincible: A Glorious Tribute to Michael Jackson (LOW TICKETS)
- 4 Ben Folds: Paper Airplane Request Tour
- Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: 6 Charlotte's Web
- IncredibleBank Foundation Broadway Series: 14-15 Riverdance
- 18 The Rush Tribute Project

Calendar is subject to change. Watch for updates on our website, Facebook page, and in email alerts

#### THANK YOU TO OUR NEW SERIES SPONSOR

2024/25

## incrediblebank™ FOUNDATION **BROADWAY SERIES**

Monday, December 9 Tuesday, December 10





Monday, January 6 Tuesday, January 7





Thursday, February 13 Friday, February 14

> Tuesday, April 15 Wednesday, April 16





Wednesday, May 14 Thursday, May 15

## **Our gift certificates make** holiday shopping easy



- Good for any ticketed event at The Grand.
  - Redeemable for up to three years.
  - Balances carry forward like a gift card.
  - Purchase by phone, in person, or online.

#### **Contact the Grand Theater**

**ONLINE** www.grandtheater.org CALL 715-842-0988 or 888-239-0421 (toll-free)

VISIT 401 N. Fourth St. Downtown Wausau

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Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. 401 N. Fourth Street
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**NATIONALLY TOURING BROADWAY SHOWS COMING SOON** 

