



THE
GRAND
THEATER

Performing Arts Foundation, Inc.
401 N Fourth Street
Wausau, WI 54403-5420
715-842-0988
www.grandtheater.org

Press Release

NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. EMBARGOED UNTIL 7:00 PM, MONDAY, JUNE 2.
CONTACT: Tammy Stezenski | tstezenski@grandtheater.org | 715.842.0988 ext 240

The Grand announces its fun-filled, fantastic 2025/26 Season!

WAUSAU, WI – June 2, 2025 –The Grand Theater’s newly announced 2025/26 Season features the biggest lineup of shows in recent history, and brings stage and screen star Richard Thomas to Wausau as Mark Twain!

The Grand once again offers a series of acclaimed Broadway hits, which this season features two fun-filled shows the entire family can enjoy. These major, nationally touring productions in 2025/26 include:

- The devilishly delightful musical comedy **The Addams Family** (Oct. 14-15). Join everyone’s favorite creepy, kooky characters as they meet the “normal” family of daughter Wednesday Addams’ new boyfriend in this hilarious musical for all ages.
- The uplifting comeback story that took Broadway by storm, **TINA-The Tina Turner Musical** (Nov. 25-26) is the triumphant story of the Queen of Rock and Roll set to the pulse-pounding soundtrack of her beloved hits.
- The boots are back! **Kinky Boots** (Jan. 13-14, 2026) won six Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Based on true events, it follows the owner of a struggling shoe factory who finds inspiration in the form of a new customer in need of some sturdy stilettos.
- **Mrs. Doubtfire** (Saturday, Feb. 7, matinee and evening shows): Everyone’s favorite Scottish nanny is headed to Wausau in this internationally acclaimed, lovable hit musical that critics call “wonderful, heart-warming, and laugh-out-loud funny.” Family-friendly showtimes at 1:30 and 7:00 pm!
- See stage and screen star Richard Thomas in **Mark Twain Tonight!** (Feb. 17), the legendary, hilarious and wise one-man show originally performed and written by Hal Holbrook. Thomas is the first and only actor authorized to perform this play since the original, and Wausau is part of this revival’s debut national tour! Millions of people know Thomas from his Emmy-winning role as John-Boy Walton and recently for his celebrated national stage roles in *Our Town* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- **Chicago** (March 3-4) returns to The Grand with all the razzle dazzle and showstopping songs that made it Broadway’s longest running musical and winner of six Tony Awards.

“We are thrilled to offer local audiences world-class theater experiences that are rare to find in cities the size of Wausau,” says Executive Director Sean Wright. “The Grand’s ability to schedule so many high caliber productions is a testament to north central Wisconsin’s support of the performing arts.”

In total, the 25/26 Season features 39 shows between August 2025 and May 2026.
(The entire Grand Theater schedule also includes add-on shows, plus outside promoter and local production rental events).

Audiences also will find incredible music from all genres. **The Oak Ridge Boys** (Dec. 11) come to The Grand for their America Made Christmas Farewell Tour. New country hits the stage with **Six One Five Collective** (Nov. 14). You’ll see legendary performers such as **The Righteous Brothers** (Aug. 21) in their farewell tour, and experience the iconic voice of folk music legend **Judy Collins** (Feb. 24).

In addition to *The Addams Family* and *Mrs. Doubtfire*, families will enjoy a wide range of other performances that captivate all ages, such as the return of **iLuminate** (Oct. 18), the heart-pounding **Drum Tao** (March 15), and the thrilling **360 Allstars** (April 22), the international smash hit that combines BMX, breakdancing, acrobats and music.

There are plenty of performances for the sheer joy of popular music. **Mania: The ABBA Tribute** (Oct. 21) returns for another disco party concert. Also returning by popular demand is **Celebrating Meat Loaf** (Oct. 24), the only tribute officially endorsed by Meat Loaf himself and featuring a Halloween season bonus of songs from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*! There's even 90s grunge to love, as the popular Classic Albums Live company performs their exciting new **Lithium Experience** show (Jan. 24), which pays homage to the killer alternative hits by Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Alanis Morissette, Stone Temple Pilots and more.

And perhaps in a category of its own, **The Folsom Prison Experience** (Oct. 3) combines stage drama with live music and audience interaction – as the inmates! – to recreate Johnny Cash's famous 1968 concert. Starring Jay Ernest from the Church of Cash, *The Folsom Prison Experience* is not just a performance; it's a full-throttled fun journey back in time to that legendary moment in music history.

Tickets to all of the 2025/26 Season shows are available with a subscription order (four or more shows) starting 5:30 pm Tuesday, June 3 at The Grand's Season Preview Party.

Order a season subscription starting Wednesday, June 4 online at 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 order receive priority seating before single shows go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, July 8.

2025/26 Season Lineup

The Righteous Brothers Farewell Tour – August 21, 2025

Prepare for a soul-stirring, nostalgic concert experience with the Lovin' Feelin' Farewell Tour of the legendary Righteous Brothers. Take a journey through decades of timeless hits that defined a generation, including "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'," "Unchained Melody," "(I've Had) The Time of My Life," "Soul and Inspiration," and "Rock and Roll Heaven."

Folsom Prison Experience – October 3

Immerse yourself in the unforgettable atmosphere of the legendary 1968 Johnny Cash concert at Folsom Prison, where the spirit of that historic day springs to life. From the commanding presence of Johnny Cash himself, to the incomparable June Carter and the melodious harmonies of the Statler Brothers, you'll be transported back to that historic show!

Celtic Thunder – October 7

The incredible Celtic Thunder comes to The Grand for the first time showcasing some of their biggest songs! An Intimate Evening with Celtic Thunder takes you through the group's impressive legacy. Featuring a carefully curated setlist of their greatest hits, this show will showcase the powerful harmonies, soaring ballads, and electrifying performances that have made Celtic Thunder a household name.

The Addams Family – October 14-15

A comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, this magnificently macabre hit musical features everyone's favorite creepy, kooky characters. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet young man from a respectable family. Everything will change for the Addams when they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

Tusk: The Classic Fleetwood Mac Tribute – October 16

Playing the hits and deep cuts spanning the careers of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees Fleetwood Mac, TUSK features note-perfect renditions of both the solo and full band songs, with each member specializing in one of the core lineup of Fleetwood Mac (Lindsey Buckingham, Stevie Nicks, Christine McVie, John McVie, and Mick Fleetwood).

iLuminate – October 18

iLuminate delivers an immersion of technology, music, and movement for all ages! From the moment the lights fade to darkness, you are transported into another world, where the music moves you and the visuals are unlike anything you've ever seen. iLuminate features some of the country's top dancers performing to energetic music – including top pop and rock hits, a little jazz, a little Latin, a little hip-hop and more.

Mania - The ABBA Tribute – October 21

The world's #1 touring ABBA tribute returns to The Grand for another stellar concert party to the songs 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.

Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood – October 23

Get ready for an evening of sidesplitting laughter as Wausau favorites Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, the dynamic duo from TV's *Whose Line is it Anyway?*, take the stage in their new live show, **Asking for Trouble**. Armed with their lightning-fast wits, Mochrie & Sherwood transform the audience's suggestions into an unpredictable evening of non-stop comedy gold.

Celebrating Meat Loaf –October 24

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."

Six One Five Collective – November 14

The four talented artists of Six One Five Collective will wow you in this night featuring a musical mix of country, Americana, folk and pop! This rising group of Grammy-nominated artists and songwriters have written songs and opened shows for household names like George Strait and Kenny Chesney. Their Grand Theater debut will feature an eclectic mix of original music, hit songs they've written for other artists, and more.

One Vision of Queen featuring Marc Martel – November 19

The incredible Marc Martel returns after multiple sold-out shows! This highly theatrical, eye-popping production features all the songs that Queen made famous. Martel, "the vocal doppelganger for the Queen frontman," will astound you with his showmanship and voice in a night full of the Queen hits you know and love.

Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland – November 22

A thrilling blend of world-class circus artistry and your favorite holiday music, this all new spectacular production will transport you to a winter wonderland of awe and enchantment. Breathtaking acrobatics and soaring aerial performances deliver an unforgettable holiday experience for the whole family with heart-pounding feats and beloved seasonal melodies.

TINA-The Tina Turner Musical – November 25-26

An uplifting comeback story that took Broadway by storm, TINA – The Tina Turner Musical is the inspiring journey of a woman who broke barriers and became the Queen of Rock n' Roll. Set to the pulse-pounding soundtrack of her most beloved hits, this electrifying sensation will send you soaring to the rafters. One of the world's best-selling artists, Tina Turner won 12 Grammy Awards and sold more concert tickets than any other performer in history.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's Holiday Party – December 10

Their unique take on swing and jazz music has thrilled audiences around the world, while their "Wild and Swingin' Holiday Party" has become an eagerly anticipated holiday season event. Drawing on a rich catalogue of holiday classics and Christmas originals, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's world-renowned live show is a fun and quirky take on the holidays for the whole family.

The Oak Ridge Boys – December 11

These legends of pop & country music The Oak Ridge Boys are bringing their incredible career to a close. But first, they'll make one last stop in Wausau on their American Made Christmas Farewell Tour! The show will feature the group's country and pop hits, songs that earned them Grammy, CMA, and ACM awards, plus holiday songs you know and love.

Altenburgh Christmas Extravaganza – December 12

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.

Kinky Boots – January 13-14, 2026

Let Kinky Boots lift your spirits to high-heeled heights! Winner of every Best Musical award, including the Tony, Grammy, and London's Olivier Award, Kinky Boots captivates and entertains audiences around the world with a Tony-winning score by Cyndi Lauper. Based on true events, Kinky Boots follows the journey of two people with nothing in common— or so they think. The unlikely pair find that they have more in common than they realized... and discover that you change the world when you change your mind.

Collin Raye – January 23

One of the country music's biggest stars of the 1990s, Collin Raye will bring you a night of hits. Few artists have had such a successful run, with four albums in a row reaching the top of the charts and gaining platinum status. Between 1991 and 2007, Raye charted 30 singles on the U.S. country charts, including four #1 hits: 1992's "Love, Me" and "In This Life," 1995's "My Kind of Girl," and 1998's "I Can Still Feel You."

Classic Albums Live: The Lithium Experience – January 24

Featuring heavy grunge and killer alternative hits from the 90s, this concert showcases all the big names: Stone Temple Pilots, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Soundgarden, Jane's Addiction, Alanis Morissette and more surprises. The Lithium Experience isn't just a trip down memory lane; it's a celebration that bridges generations, reminding everyone of that distinct ethos of 90s music.

Mrs. Doubtfire – February 7 (matinee and evening shows)

Everyone's favorite Scottish nanny is headed to Wausau in this internationally acclaimed hit musical critics call "wonderful, heart-warming, and laugh-out-loud funny" (Manchester Evening News) and "a feel-good, family-friendly comedy that delivers" (The Hollywood Reporter). Based on the beloved film, *MRS. DOUBTFIRE* tells the hysterical and heartfelt story of an out-of-work actor who will do anything for his kids.

Three American Troubadours – February 12

"How Sweet It Is," "Country Road," "Shower The People," "Anticipation," "You're So Vain," "Mockingbird," "I Feel the Earth Move," "It's Too Late," and "You've Got A Friend." These are just a few of the fantastic songs from Three American Troubadours, which celebrates the lives and careers of James Taylor, Carly Simon and Carole King.

Mark Twain Tonight! – February 17

Stage and screen star Richard Thomas brings to life "the nation's one true comic genius" in MARK TWAIN TONIGHT!, written and originally performed by Hal Holbrook. Join the millions who have cheered for the legendary one-man show over the years. Most recently seen as Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and beloved as John-Boy Walton, Richard Thomas is the first actor authorized to perform the play since the original.

Peking Acrobats – February 19

They perform daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs, and display their technical prowess at such arts as trick-cycling, precision tumbling, juggling, somersaulting, and gymnastics. They push the limits of human ability, defying gravity with amazing displays of contortion, flexibility, and control.

Judy Collins – February 24

Perhaps one of the most iconic voices in folk music, Judy Collins has inspired generations with her stunning vocals, powerful songwriting, and commitment to social causes. Her timeless classics like "Both Sides Now" and "Send in the Clowns" have earned her Grammy Awards and widespread acclaim as a beloved figure in folk music.

Hot Club of Cowtown & Tyler Hilton – February 27

Four incredible artists pay homage to the King of Rock and Roll! The renowned Hot Club of Cowtown trio weaves a joyful combination of country, jazz, and swing. Actor/singer Tyler Hilton's career includes portraying Elvis Presley in *Walk the Line* and Chris Keller on *One Tree Hill*. He joins Hot Club of Cowtown to bring Elvis' celebrated hits to life on the stage, in this Celebrating Sun Studios performance

Chicago – March 3-4

CHICAGO is still the one musical with everything that makes Broadway shimmy-shake: a universal tale of fame, fortune, and all that jazz, with one showstopping song after another and the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen. In the whirlwind of Chicago's Jazz Age, two of the Cook County Jail's most notorious murderesses—vaudeville star Velma Kelly and chorus girl Roxie Hart—compete for headlines amidst a media frenzy. Broadway's longest-running musical has been dazzle audiences for over 28 years. After more than 10,000 performances, 6 Tony Awards and a Grammy, we're just getting started!

Celtic Angels - Ireland – March 5

Headed by the powerhouse creative team direct from Ireland and featuring award-winning Irish and world champion singers, dancers and musicians, Celtic Angels Ireland is a theatrical feast for all ages. With over 30 Irish traditional and contemporary tunes masterfully performed live by the Trinity Ensemble, the Heavenly Celtic Angels and the Dynamic Celtic Knights Dancers, the spectacular Celtic Angels Ireland is guaranteed to entertain.

The TEN Tenors – March 8

Celebrated globally for their unique blend of soaring harmonies, dynamic stage presence, and genre-defying performances, THE TEN TENORS deliver an unforgettable musical experience. This special 30th Anniversary show features a powerful mix of classical crossover, Neapolitan classics, and classic rock anthems—all delivered with their trademark Aussie charm and vocal brilliance.

Drum Tao – March 15

They fill the stage with phenomenal athleticism and musical expression on the incomparable Wadaiko drums and the beautiful melody of Japanese flutes and harps. It is the “Japanese entertainment” for a new generation that completely surpasses expectations. Since their founding in 1993, DRUM TAO has set out to create their own music, stage set-ups, and costumes to produce their one and only world of entertainment..

Classic Albums Live: The Eagles - Their Greatest Hits – March 20

The best-selling album of the 20th century, *Their Greatest Hits* (1971-75) features ten of The Eagles’ biggest songs and has sold over 38 million copies since its release. Hear it performed live, note for note, cut for cut by the incredible musicians of Classic Albums Live... plus a second set full of the rest of your Eagles favorites.

The Linda Ronstadt Experience – March 22

American Idol Star Tristan McIntosh creates a stunning portrayal of Linda Ronstadt in the prime of her career. Supported by a superb backing band, Tristan’s formidable vocal talent and stage presence will transport you to a time when Linda Ronstadt ruled the airwaves. The Linda Ronstadt Experience takes you on a musical journey of hits, including “You’re No Good,” “When Will I Be Loved,” “That’ll Be The Day,” “Blue Bayou” and more.

Women of Americana – March 26

Join this heartfelt celebration of early folk, gospel, and Western swing music. Women of Americana’s Celebration of American Music is an exuberant exploration of this expansive and singular American genre. Vocalists and instrumentalists Cristina Vane and Brennen Leigh perform iconic songs including “This Land is Your Land” (Woody Guthrie), “This Train” (Sister Rosetta Tharpe), “Just Like a Woman” (Bob Dylan), “Angel From Montgomery” (Bonnie Raitt and John Prine), and more! Coinciding with the Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary of the USA’s founding), this show will entertain and inspire audiences at a historic moment in our nation’s history.

I Am, He Said – A Celebration of Neil Diamond – April 11

Matt Vee & The Killer Vees’ celebration of the amazing music icon Neil Diamond is selling out across the Midwest... including last season’s show at The Grand! 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. Songs like “Cracklin’ Rosie,” “Song Sung Blue,” and “Sweet Caroline” have become 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.”

Dallas String Quartet – April 16

Strings Unleashed: A Rock Fusion Experience with Dallas String Quartet is a brand new electric evening filled with your favorite rock songs – played on electric string instruments. Your ears will be delighted, your feet will be tapping and you won’t take your eyes off the captivating presence that is DSQ. The electric violin and viola instrumentation will be accompanied by a full band for a thrilling, classic rock experience with favorites from Led Zeppelin, Metallica, ACDC, Journey, Bon Jovi, Guns N’ Roses and more.

360 Allstars – April 22

A non-stop, energy-packed urban circus complete with dancing, beat boxing, acrobatics, BMX biking and more, 360 ALL-STARs is a spectacular fusion of the extraordinary artistry that emerges from street culture. Boasting a stellar international cast of world champion and world record-holding athletes and artists, the show has had sold out runs on Broadway, Sydney Opera House and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Electric Avenue: The 80s MTV Experience – April 24

An immersive experience of 1980s new wave and radio pop, capturing the essence of youthful energy and sonic celebration. Their high-energy shows transport audiences back to a time of first dates, prom nights, and the joy of discovering one's identity. Meticulously recreating every nuance of beloved 80s songs, Electric Avenue's authenticity leaves fans sure they are hearing their original MTV favorites!

Evil Woman-The American ELO – April 26

Back by popular demand! Evil Woman performs the eternally groovy music of Jeff Lynne's Electric Light Orchestra in a multimedia concert that transports you to the heady era of symphonic rock. Few bands have created more iconic songs as ELO, many of which are newly beloved today thanks to the soundtracks of blockbuster movies like *Guardians of the Galaxy*. "Mr. Blue Sky," "Roll Over Beethoven," "Livin' Thing" and "Evil Woman" are among the many instantly recognizable, chart-topping hit songs. The flawless musicianship and vocals of Evil Woman's 12 musicians in this fusion of pop and orchestral arrangements, where cellos co-exist with guitars, are just as Jeff Lynne intended. Hold on tight to your dream!

Robin Spielberg – April 30

Hailed as one of America's most popular contemporary pianists/composers and one of the most expressive pianists of our time, Spielberg is a long-time elite member of the prestigious Steinway Artist Roster, with over 500 million streams of her music and 24 studio recordings, several charting on Billboard's classical crossover category. She has performed on PBS, CBS and NPR. Her newest album spent three weeks on the Billboard charts and won numerous awards, including the 2024 grand prize in the Intercontinental Music Awards. Spielberg will perform enchanting pieces for solo piano from her vast repertoire of popular American melodies and original favorites.

Mama I'm a Big Girl Now – May 7

Broadway's beloved leading ladies – Kerry Butler, Laura Bell Bundy, and Marissa Jaret Winokur – reunite for the first time since opening *Hairspray* together for a spectacular night of music, laughter, and memories. You know them from their iconic roles in *Hairspray*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Beetlejuice*. Now they're back together with props, wigs, and full choreo to celebrate two decades of friendship, careers, finding love, and becoming "Mamas" themselves. It's a joy bomb wrapped in a dazzling array of popular songs from beloved musicals including *Hairspray*, *Legally Blonde*, *Wicked*, *Beetlejuice*, *Sound of Music*, *Grease*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Lion King*, and many more. "The girls' night out you've been waiting for!" –Theatre Mania

###