



THE  
GRAND  
THEATER

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## Press Release

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## The Grand Theater announces its 2026/27 Grand Reopening Season!

WAUSAU, WI – June 1, 2026 – When patrons return in November to The Grand after its \$17.5 million Second Century renovations (currently in progress), they will be greeted by new, more comfortable theater seats, freshly restored spaces throughout the facility, beautiful new designs, and a 2026/27 Season lineup featuring legendary names in the entertainment business as well as award-winning musicals and a full slate of incredible family-friendly performances.

The newly announced 2026/27 Season opens with Mr. Las Vegas himself, **WAYNE NEWTON** on Saturday, November 7. On Friday, January 22, comedian and acclaimed TV late night host **JAY LENO** brings his stand-up comedy to our stage! The season also features The Grand's largest-ever schedule of nationally touring Broadway shows:

- A mansion. A murder. A mystery. It's the live stage production of **CLUE** (November 9-10). Based on the fan-favorite 1985 Paramount Pictures movie and inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, *Clue* is the ultimate whodunit that will leave you dying of laughter and keep you guessing until the final twist.
- The winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards including Best Musical, **HADESTOWN** (February 15-16) is a haunting and hopeful theatrical experience that grabs you and never lets go.
- **RIVERDANCE** (March 12-13, three shows) returns with its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour. This famous fusion of Irish and international dance and music continues to capture the hearts of millions worldwide.
- The New York Times calls **THE BOOK OF MORMON** (March 26-27, three shows) "the best musical of this century." This outrageous musical comedy follows a mismatched pair of missionaries, sent halfway across the world to spread the Good Word. Since opening in 2011, THE BOOK OF MORMON has become one of the most successful shows in Broadway history, winning nine Tony Awards including Best Musical and the Grammy for Best Musical Theatre Album.
- It's showtime! Based on Tim Burton's beloved film, **BEETLEJUICE** (April 13-14) tells the story of a strange teenager whose life changes when she meets a recently deceased couple and a demented demon. Rolling Stone magazine calls this popular musical "a joyful, ebullient antidote to reality!"
- The Neil Diamond musical **A BEAUTIFUL NOISE** (April 20-21) is an inspiring, exhilarating, energy-filled musical memoir that tell the untold story of America's greatest hitmaker. Set to the great songs that made him a star, A BEAUTIFUL NOISE was created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself.

"This has to be one of The Grand's most exciting seasons in decades, not only for the caliber of performances, but also for the thrill of experiencing the transformation of this entire facility," says Executive Director Sean Wright. "We understand how important The Grand is to the community and this region of the state – roughly

half of ticket holders come from outside the Wausau area! We wanted to create a season lineup that lives up to the moment of the Second Century renovation project. We are continually grateful for, and inspired by the enthusiasm for the performing arts in north central Wisconsin.”

In total the 26/27 Season features 38 shows between November 2026 and June 2027. (The entire Grand Theater schedule will include add-on shows, plus outside promoter and local production rental events).

The Behavioral Health Clinic Family Series brings five fantastic shows for all ages. For the holidays, there’s the **VIENNA BOYS CHOIR: CHRISTMAS IN VIENNA** (November 21) show, plus the funny and funky **WHO BROUGHT THE HUMBUG?** (December 15). There’s even a Saturday matinee show with **BILL BLAGG’S FAMILY MAGIC** (January 30).

Audiences will find incredible music across genres. The County Materials Spotlight Series features many of these performances, including **BLOOD SWEAT & TEARS** (November 19), **THE BOOK OF BUBLÉ** (February 12) with Emmy-winner Shaun Johnson and a seven-piece band, and **JOURNEYMAN & TEXAS FLOOD** (March 5), a double billing tribute to Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

Tickets to all of the 2026/27 Season shows are available with a season subscription order (four or more shows) starting 5:30 pm Tuesday, June 2 at The Grand’s Season Preview Party, held this year at the Rothschild Pavilion.

Order a season subscription starting Wednesday, June 3 online at [www.grandtheater.org](http://www.grandtheater.org), by calling The Grand’s Aspirus Ticket Office at 715-842-0988, or visiting in person at the interim location at 115 N. Sixth St., across from the courthouse. The entire Grand Theater facility, including its offices, are closed for construction until early November.

Those who purchase a season subscription order receive priority seating before single shows go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, July 7. The Book of Mormon goes on sale a day earlier, on Monday, July 6.

### **2026/27 Season Lineup**

**Wayne Newton | Saturday, November 7, 2026** – He has sold out Las Vegas for six decades, recorded over 300 songs, and earned the title “Mr. Las Vegas” for good reason. Now Wayne Newton is coming to Wausau to reopen The Grand! This is the real deal: a living legend who commands the stage with a magnetic energy and warmth!

**CLUE | Mon.-Tues., November 9-10** – Murder and blackmail are on the menu when six mysterious guests assemble at Boddy Manor for a night they’ll never forget! Based on the fan-favorite 1985 Paramount Pictures movie and inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, *Clue* is the ultimate whodunit that will leave you dying of laughter and keep you guessing until the final twist.

**Blind Boys of Alabama | Thursday, November 12** – The legendary Blind Boys of Alabama bring their transcendent harmonies and spiritual power to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Stevie Wonder’s iconic album *Songs in the Key of Life*. This special presentation pairs many of Stevie Wonder’s classic songs with beloved selections from the Blind Boys’ own celebrated repertoire, blending gospel, soul, and Americana.

**Blood, Sweat & Tears | Thursday, November 19** – Blood, Sweat & Tears sounds as ferocious as ever! These Grammy-winning, chart-topping pioneers of jazz rock fusion helped define an era with anthems that still hit as

hard today as they did the first time you heard them. Bonus: The band will be joined by special guest Jeff Coffey, former lead singer of Chicago, performing the biggest classics of another incredible band.

**Vienna Boys Choir: Christmas in Vienna | Saturday, November 21** – The illustrious group of child musicians, Vienna Boys Choir, have been delighting music lovers across the globe for centuries! Christmas in Vienna showcases these gifted musicians with voices of unforgettable beauty in an extraordinary program featuring Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, popular songs and, of course, holiday favorites.

**The Texas Tenors: Deep in the Heart of Christmas | Tuesday, December 8** – This popular, powerful vocal trio promises an unforgettable evening of holiday magic, wrapped in rich harmonies and heartfelt Texas charm. From soaring operatic moments to beloved Christmas classics, The Texas Tenors masterfully blend powerful vocals, humor, and warmth—creating a concert experience that feels both grand and deeply personal.

**Love Actually in Concert | Thursday, December 10** – Feel the magic of this beloved holiday movie in a spectacular live experience featuring a full orchestra performing the poignant score and soundtrack that includes timeless songs like Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas Is You.” Love Actually In Concert brings the film to the stage in a way that will make you feel like you’re watching this romantic comedy for the first time.

**The Altenburgh Christmas Extravaganza | Friday, December 11** – Local musician and recording artist 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.

**Who Brought the Humbug? | Tuesday, December 15** – Get ready for a high-energy holiday treat as Rhythm Street Movement presents *Who Brought the Humbug?*, an original production that transforms the stage into a holiday party like no other. At this ugly sweater bash, joyful singers, electrifying tap dancers, and high-energy musicians deliver a sleigh-full of swingin’ holiday mash-ups, from Frosty tap dancing to a groove to Santa rapping over horn-band funk.

**TBA country artist Christmas show | Thursday, December 17** – We’ve got big news... we just can’t share it yet! Stay tuned in late June for the official announcement of this December 17 holiday show.

**The Boulevards | Thursday, January 7, 2027** – The Boulevards are a sensational, vintage-styled rock and roll band from the UK, igniting stages with the timeless sound that changed music forever. Blazing through the greatest hits of the 1950s and early 60s, they bring legends like Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bill Haley, Cliff Richard, and Little Richard roaring back to life in a show packed with energy, style, and pure nostalgia.

**Mania: The ABBA Tribute | Friday, January 8** – The world’s #1 touring ABBA tribute returns with their disco-era concert party that has become an annual favorite at The Grand. 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.

**HYPROV: Improv Under Hypnosis | Thursday, January 14** – What happens when the master of improv comedy meets the world’s most captivating hypnotist? Unpredictable, side-splitting mayhem with audience members on stage — not even the performers know what’s coming. Colin Mochrie of TV’s *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* and hypnotist Asad Mecci have created a show that defies every category, breaks every rule, and leaves audiences unable to explain what they just witnessed.

**One Vision of Queen featuring Marc Martel | Friday, January 15** – This highly-theatrical, eye-popping production rocks you from start to finish with all the songs that Queen made famous. Known around the world as “the vocal doppelganger of the Queen frontman,” Marc Martel delivers a show so entertaining and impressive, we had to bring him back by popular demand!

**Jay Leno | Friday, January 22** – Acclaimed TV late night show host, admired stand-up comedian, bestselling children’s book author, much-in-demand corporate speaker, pioneering car builder and mechanic, and philanthropist... Jay Leno is widely characterized as “the hardest working man in show business.”

**Parrothead Paradise: The Ultimate Jimmy Buffett Tribute Experience | Saturday, January 23** – This high-energy, 11-piece Jimmy Buffett tribute turns every performance into a full-on tropical celebration. This powerhouse band blends exceptional musicianship with infectious island flair, creating a show that transports audiences straight to the white sand beaches and margarita-soaked sunsets of the Florida Keys.

**Bill Blagg: Family Magic | Saturday, January 30** – Join us for an incredible show filled with laughter, wonder and endless surprises as renowned magician Bill Blagg presents *Family Magic!* This captivating blend of interactive entertainment and awe-inspiring magic guarantees an adventure for all ages. Join us for this magical family event which is sure to create unforgettable memories with your loved ones!

**Eaglemania: The World's Greatest Eagles Tribute | Friday, February 5** – EagleMania has been dazzling audiences for over a decade by spectacularly reproducing the music of The Eagles. EagleMania thrills internationally sold-out audiences with their stunning five-part harmony, virtuoso guitar work and uncanny ability to emulate the distinct sound of The Eagles.

**Catapult: Magic Shadows | Sunday, February 7** – An *America’s Got Talent* finalist from Season 8, Catapult features incredible dancers who work behind a screen to create magical shadow silhouettes of shapes from the world around us. Be amazed as you watch their bodies transform into a mountain, an elephant, a dragon, even a helicopter as the ensemble spins different stories in each act.

**The Book of Bubl  | Friday, February 12** – Backed by a seven-piece band with full brass, Emmy winner Shaun Johnson channels the fire of Sinatra, the elegance of Ella, and the raw energy of Jerry Lee Lewis to reimagine the hits that made Michael Bubl  a global phenomenon. From “Haven’t Met You Yet” and “Everything” to “Cry Me a River” and “Feeling Good,” every song is delivered with bold new arrangements and Shaun’s signature charm.

**Hadestown | Mon.-Tues., February 15-16** – Come see how the world could be. Welcome to *HADESTOWN*, where a song can change your fate. Winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards® including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy® Award for Best Musical Theater Album, *HADESTOWN* is a haunting and hopeful theatrical experience that grabs you and never lets go.

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents: World on a String | Thursday, February 18** – Marking the fifth production in the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents** series, guest vocalists Kate Kortum and David Merino will debut arrangements of tunes from Broadway’s most beloved productions including *Hamilton*, *Wicked*, *South Pacific*, *West Side Story*, and more in a special concert showcasing the swinging songs of Broadway.

**The Chapin Family: A Celebration of Harry Chapin | Friday, February 26** – In the history of family groups in American roots music, The Chapin Family has a special place. Together, they make magic in this retrospective of Harry Chapin’s life and his songs, including “Cat’s in The Cradle,” “Taxi,” “Mr. Tanner,” “Circle,” and more.

Continuing the legacy of this great songwriter, The Harry Chapin Band features original members Big John Wallace, Steve Chapin, and Howard Fields.

**Tartan Terrors | Saturday, February 27** – Tartan Terrors bring their Celtic Invasion to festivals and shows across the world, blending the energy of a rock show with humor and step dance. With a distinctive sound and proud tradition of making Celtic music fun and accessible to any audience.

**The Simon & Garfunkel Story | Wednesday, March 3** – The Simon & Garfunkel Story is touring North America again this year! Using huge projection photos and original film footage, and a full live band, this theatrical concert tells the story of the duo's rise to fame, set to the timeless songs that made them famous, including "Mrs. Robinson," "Cecilia," "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and many more.

**Journeyman & Texas Flood | Friday, March 5** – Two guitar gods. One extraordinary night. Journeyman celebrates the timeless blues-rock genius of Eric Clapton, while Texas Flood pays blazing tribute to the legendary Stevie Ray Vaughan. Together they deliver a double bill that is nothing short of a masterclass in electric guitar. For anyone who has ever been stopped cold by a blistering guitar solo, this is your evening.

**Academy of St Martin in the Fields | Sunday, March 7** – For almost 70 years, the London-based orchestra Academy of St Martin in the Fields has made some of the most beloved classical recordings in history – from Vivaldi's Four Seasons to the soundtrack of the movie *Amadeus* – and hearing the orchestra live is a revelation that no recording can replicate. The performance features solo pianist Conrad Tao.

**Riverdance 30 - The New Generation | Fri.-Sat., March 12-13** – Since Riverdance first emerged onto the world stage, its fusion of Irish and international dance and music has captured the hearts of millions worldwide. The Grammy award-winning music and the infectious energy of its mesmerizing choreography and breathtaking performances has left audiences in awe and established Riverdance as a global cultural sensation.

**Cirque Kalabanté | Friday, March 19** – This vibrant cirque experience transcends language itself! Cirque Kalabanté's WOW (World of Words) is more than a show — it's an encounter of ancestral West African wisdom and a bridge between two worlds. Acrobatics, dance and music blend tradition with contemporary movement in a powerful storytelling experience of unity and collective awakening.

**The Book of Mormon | Fri.-Sat., March 26-27** – *The New York Times* calls it "the best musical of this century." *The Washington Post* says, "It is the kind of evening that restores your faith in musicals." And *Entertainment Weekly* says, "Grade A: the funniest musical of all time." *Jimmy Fallon of The Tonight Show* calls it "Genius. Brilliant. Phenomenal." It's **THE BOOK OF MORMON**, the nine-time Tony Award® winning Best Musical.

**The Wailin' Jennys | Wednesday, April 7** – Starting as a happy accident of solo singer/songwriters getting together at a tiny guitar shop in Winnipeg, Manitoba, The Wailin' Jennys have grown over the years into one of today's most beloved international folk acts. Founding members Ruth Moody and Nicky Mehta along with Taos-based Heather Masse continue to create some of the most exciting music on the folk-roots scene.

**Gravity: London's Iconic Leading Ladies | Thursday, April 8** – Three WICKED voices make one gravity-defying show! Gravity brings together three of the West End's most glamorous and celebrated leading ladies for an unforgettable evening of music and storytelling. This gravity-defying show combines powerhouse vocals, wicked harmonies, and a sparkle of stardom to celebrate the greatest music and divas of all time.

**Classic Albums Live: Led Zeppelin II | Saturday, April 10** – Classic Albums Live brings the legendary *Led Zeppelin II* album to the stage, performed live, exactly as it was recorded. Experience the songs' ferocity and energy that only a live performance can truly capture. Whether it's the thunderous groove of "Whole Lotta Love" or the mythic sweep of "Ramble On," every second of this concert is exactly what rock and roll was always supposed to feel like.

**Beetlejuice | Tues.-Wed., April 13-14** – It's showtime! Based on Tim Burton's beloved film, BEETLEJUICE tells the story of Lydia Deetz, a strange and unusual teenager whose whole life changes when she meets a recently deceased couple and a demon with a thing for stripes. *Entertainment Weekly* calls it "A feast for the eyes and the soul!"

**The My Generation Tour | Friday, April 16** – The My Generation Tour brings together four iconic groups: The Lovin' Spoonful, Terry Sylvester of The Hollies, Gary Lewis and the Playboys, and Mitch Ryder. It's a night filled with music that all Baby Boomers (and probably their kids!) will sing along to: "Bus Stop," "Devil with a Blue Dress," "What a Day for a Daydream," "Summer in the City," "The Air That I Breathe" and so many more.

**A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical | Tues.-Wed., April 20-21** – Created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself, A BEAUTIFUL NOISE is the uplifting true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chart-busting, show-stopping American rock icon. With 120 million albums sold, a catalogue of classics, numerous awards, and sold-out concerts around the world, Neil Diamond's story was made to shine on Broadway-and head out on the road across America.

**TUSK: The Classic Tribute to Fleetwood Mac | Friday, May 21** – Playing the hits and deep cuts spanning the career of Rock & Roll Hall of Fame group Fleetwood Mac, Tusk has been crisscrossing the country since 2008 as The Classic Fleetwood Mac Tribute. Five pro musicians turned into masters of their trade through decades of individual music study, live performance, creative risk and devotion to the art.

**The Sixties Show | Thursday, June 3** – This popular award-winning off-Broadway show is a high energy multi-media immersive experience about time traveling back to the 1960s, based around a live note for note recreation concert of the songs and deep cuts that defined this tumultuous decade. The Sixties Show reminds the audience how uniquely inspirational, entertaining, and historically significant the music and events of the 1960s were and continue to be.

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