

Our Mission

Footlights were once used to line the front edge of a theatrical stage, illuminating the action from the ground up. Traditional footlights were set in shells that reflected the candle or gaslight upward. Footlights Theatre Company, started from the ground up, and takes inspiration from these once-necessary pieces of theater equipment. It is our commitment to "shine light" on local issues, local writers, and local actors. It is our hope to educate and start conversations centered on art, culture, and societal issues.



Thank You!

We must thank Deb Anderson and everyone at the Archives at UWGB, the entire team at The Tarlton. We appreciate you opening the space for us and all of our actors in this production. We appreciate you for all for your time, talent, and commitment. We could not do this without you. Also, a big thank you to Evergreen Theater. Your help and partnership is much appreciated!



We would also like make a special point to talk about The Canary Fund. They provide seed grants for change-makers in Northeast Wisconsin. These grants are an important way to support individuals and community groups. Please go to their website and see how you can help them to help support groups like us. - www.thecanaryfund.org



Contact Us:

To keep up to date on what we are working on, please follow us on social media. Also, feel free to reach out. All of our contact information is listed here.

FOOTLIGHTS THEATRE

presents

Our Voices: Stories of Our Local LGBTQ+ Community

Saturday, June 8th at 7:00pm

Sunday, June 9th at 2:00pm

The Tarlton Theatre

405 W. Walnut St. Green Bay, WI

Brought to you by a grant from The Canary Fund.





Our Voices: LGBTQ+ Stories of Northeastern Wisconsin is an ongoing community archiving collection by the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Archives Department that helps make this possible. *Our Voices* seeks to gather first-hand accounts of the area's rich LGBTQ+ history. To do so, community members, UWGB students, and faculty help capture personal stories through oral history interviews. The collection also includes historical materials such as documents, photographs, publications, video recordings, and objects.

Neville Public Museum Exhibit

www.nevillepublicmuseum.org

LGBTQ+ history extends long before the iconic Stonewall Uprising and milestone historical moments continue to be made daily. Explore some of the courageous pioneers, influential moments, and hard-won victories for the LGBTQ+ community at the local, state, and national level.



This exhibit has been made possible thanks to a collaboration with University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Archives and Area Research Center.

Exhibit Ends – November 3rd 2024

Footlights is proud to be a part of a very rich local theater community. Please check out the following organizations to see what they have coming up this holiday season.

Evergreen Theater

www.evergreentheater.org

Evergreen Young Actors Production

August 1, 2, 3rd and 10th

This musical, set in 1930s Hollywood, depicts the studio's search for an actress to play the leading role in the film adaptation of the bestselling book, *Gone with the Breeze*. Performances will be Aug 1, 2, & 3 at the Brown County Library, Downtown Branch and Aug 10 at Whitney Park.



Coming this Fall – Evergreen Mainstage Production

The Haunting of Hill House will be the first production at Evergreen Theater's new performance space. The Cedar Creek community Center in West De Pere. Check the Evergreen website for show times and tickets.



Please support this local theater at their new location

Lee T. Kerwin (Elsie Bovine) - Lee grew up in Green Bay, and in 1972 he began going to UWGB, his first class was a Summer Children's Theatre course which was actually a "How to create a Children's Theatre troupe," course, taught by Nesbit Blaisdell who taught them how to be The Park Circus Pranksters, who toured local parks at the end of the Summer. In 194 Lee took a Greyhound to California where he lived until returning home in 2000. While in California he got his teaching credential and founded another couple theatre ventures, Mime Radio and another Children's Theatre Troupe, Carnival Cutups. Since returning, Lee has acted, directed, led Write Club, a Writing for Performance group, and taught young actors. Most recently he directed James and the Giant Peach for Evergreen. Lee is excited and overjoyed to be in his first Footlights Show with so many old friends and a few new ones too.

Nichole Hood (Amy) - Nichole is excited to be celebrating Pride Month again with Footlights Theatre! Last year, she appeared in Footlights' production of The Laramie Project, and is thankful for the opportunity to now share Pride stories from our local community. She would like to thank her friends, family, and you, the audience, for supporting the arts in a truly meaningful way. Cheers!

Randy Vogel (Lyle) - Randy is proud to be the voice of a friend in this powerful production. He was last seen as the "Skipper" in the musical Gilligan's Island at Evergreen Theater and before that he was in Things My Mother Taught Me at Green Bay Community Theater. Thank you for supporting local theater!

Robert Hileman (JoJo Jubilee) - Assistant Director - Bob relocated to Green Bay 5 years ago . Bob enjoys cooking, gardening, biking and most outdoor activities. Having met his Partner Jeremy he has become a part of the local theater community. The Theater family is amazing here and has opened its arms to him.

Our Voices was written/adapted by the following:

**Gene Guenther
Kristi Skrinska
Deb Oettinger
Vance Toivonen
Sara Yach**

Cast and Crew

Gene Guenther (Director) - I came out as being gay in 1978. Much of "Our Voices" speaks my journey. I'm grateful to Footlights Theater for giving me the opportunity to direct a theater experience that so intimately touches my heart. Special thanks to the authors, cast and crew that have given of themselves to share these stories. Deep appreciation and acknowledgments to UWGB's LGBTQ+ archivists, Deb Anderson and her assistants. They have researched and maintained the "Voices" of those spirited individuals who share their personal life story with us tonight. I walked onto the stage for my first community theater production in 1975. It was great to have my mom and dad in the audience, they were always very supportive of my theatrical endeavors. Also that night, way back then, my dad's boss was in the audience. He was an arts advocate in my small hometown. The show went well. The next day at work my dad's boss came up to him and said, encourage your son to keep his interest in theater. And then he gave my dad a raise. So for many years to come, I teased my dad that he got a raise because of my performance! 2025 is my 50th anniversary as a community theater performer, director, and producer. It has been a passionate and wonderful ride!

Adam Green (Miss Mona) - Adam is thrilled to be working with Footlights Theater once again, following his performance in "The Laramie Project" last June. With an impressive 45-year career in theatre, Adam's journey began in Colorado Springs where he graced the stage in various productions.. After a decade-long hiatus from the stage, Adam made a triumphant return in 2011 with "Noises Off." Having performed in a total of 32 plays, Adam is particularly passionate about participating in LGBTQ+ productions. As a gay man, he understands the significance of raising awareness within the greater Green Bay community and is honored to contribute to this cause through his art. Thank you Footlights for being the clear leader in the community for these type of productions

Cassidy Macarthur (Sandy/Sarah) - Cassidy (she/they) is thrilled to be involved in this awesome show. This is her first time with Footlights Theatre and their second acting in the Green Bay area, and she couldn't have picked a better group to do it with. She would like to dedicate this performance to anyone reading this who have to hide themselves to be safe. She knows their time will come. Happy Pride!

Cathi Oreto (Michele) - Cathi has rediscovered a love for theater in the past few years, this being her first show with Footlights. She is honored to bring the strength, hope, & love of Becker's to the Tarlton stage.

Cathi would like to thank all those who fought so hard, and so long, for the rights so many enjoy today. There's a lot of work that's been done - and still so much left to do. She dedicates this performance to all the parents who hold on to their faith and continue to support and love their LGBTQIAS+ child/children.

Christopher Powless (Joe) - Christopher Powless has been an actor for most of his adult life. He has played in several Native plays; he has also written one. Born and raised in Appleton WI he moved to the Oneida reservation in his 20's. He graduated from UW Oshkosh with a degree in Radio TV Film and has worked in all three mediums. Recently he was the host for the WPR show Kaliweyose (gully we yo say) and held that position for over 25 yrs. Christopher has always had an interest in Theatre and the Arts. Chris has two sons and 4 grandchildren and recently celebrated 23 years of marriage.

Cindy Howard(Alyssa) - Cindy has performed with other theater groups in the area, but this is her first show with Footlights Theatre. She feels extremely privileged to be a member of this very talented cast and crew. Thank you, Gene, for having faith in me!

Daniel Christianson (Pete) - Daniel hails originally from Menominee, Michigan, and has spent lots of time in Green Bay before moving to the area over a year ago. He is excited at the opportunity to return to the stage, having been a part of his high school's theater program and choir groups throughout college. Having been in the LGBTQ community since middle school, he is very thankful to Gene for asking him to be in such a meaningful show, and is excited to show off an important piece of our local history. He would also like to thank fellow cast-mate and long time friend Cassidy for introducing him to Footlights Theater and working with him on this performance.

Deborah Oettinger (Mrs. Johnson) - Deborah (Deb) was born in California to parents who loved to roam and as a result lived on the east coast, west coast and now in the middle. She first fell in love with the stage in 8th grade when she got the lead in a one act play called The Ghost Wore White and is now following her lifelong dream of pursuing acting as her passion and vocation. She is a co-founder of Footlights Theatre and could not be more proud of this Show, this Cast and this Crew. Thank you for going on this journey with us!

Douglas Landwehr (Lyle) - Doug Landwehr is thrilled to be working with Footlights Theater on this celebration of local LGBTQ+ stories. He has been active in local theater for many years, but this is the first time that he will be playing a fellow actor, Lyle Becker. He was seen last year in the Green Bay

Community Theater production of "Things My Mother Taught Me" and in the Evergreen Theater production of "Miracle on 34th St."

Eden DeMar (Rachel) - Eden (she/her) is a Green Bay native and this her debut show with Footlights Theatre. She is thankful for the opportunity to return to the stage in such a powerful, impactful, and honest play. She's excited for you to see this cast and crews hard work. Enjoy!

John Kindt (Karen Valentine) - John is happy to be back in Community Theater after years of working nights and a pandemic.

Judy Patefield (Myrtle) - This is Judy's first Footlights Theater production. She has previously appeared at GBCT in Red Velvet Cake Wars, and more recently in Gilligan's Island as Mrs Howell, and Miracle on 34th St as the store psychologist for Evergreen Theater. She is very proud to be involved in this meaningful production of Our Voices.

Justin Gulmire (Paul) - Justin is excited to be back with Footlights Theatre... Acting, this time. One of his many hats is Director, and he did that with The Laramie Project last year. Justin spent the rest of the year healing his own trauma, but returned to the stage this spring as Axel Magee in Don't Drink the Water. Thank you to Gene and Footlights Theatre for bringing these stories to life.

Julie Camarillo (Stage Manager) - Julia (she/her) is excited and honored to work with Footlights Theatre and share these amazing and touching stories with all of you. She has been involved with countless productions ever since her high school days with "Godspell" in 2012 and recently came back to the theatre world with "Gilligan's Island" with Evergreen in 2023 after taking a short hiatus following college graduation at St. Norbert in 2019. She hopes that everyone learns something from this amazing show just as she is learning so much from it. She would also like to thank her friends, family, and God for loving her unconditionally.

Kristi Skrinska(Lilli) - Kristi is delighted to be making her debut with Footlights Theatre in this important and dynamic show. A graduate of the UWGB theatre program, Kristi has been involved with Green Bay community productions for over almost 40 years. Some of her favorite roles include Madame Merteuil in Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Hedda in Hedda Gabler, and Blanche in A Streetcar Named Desire. Most recently she has enjoyed directing a host of wonderful actors at Green Bay Community Theatre. She is grateful to her wife and active 8 year old kiddo for their much needed support, will forever be indebted to Deb Oettinger and Gene Gunther for including her in this show, and is honored to share the stage with this group of talented performers today.