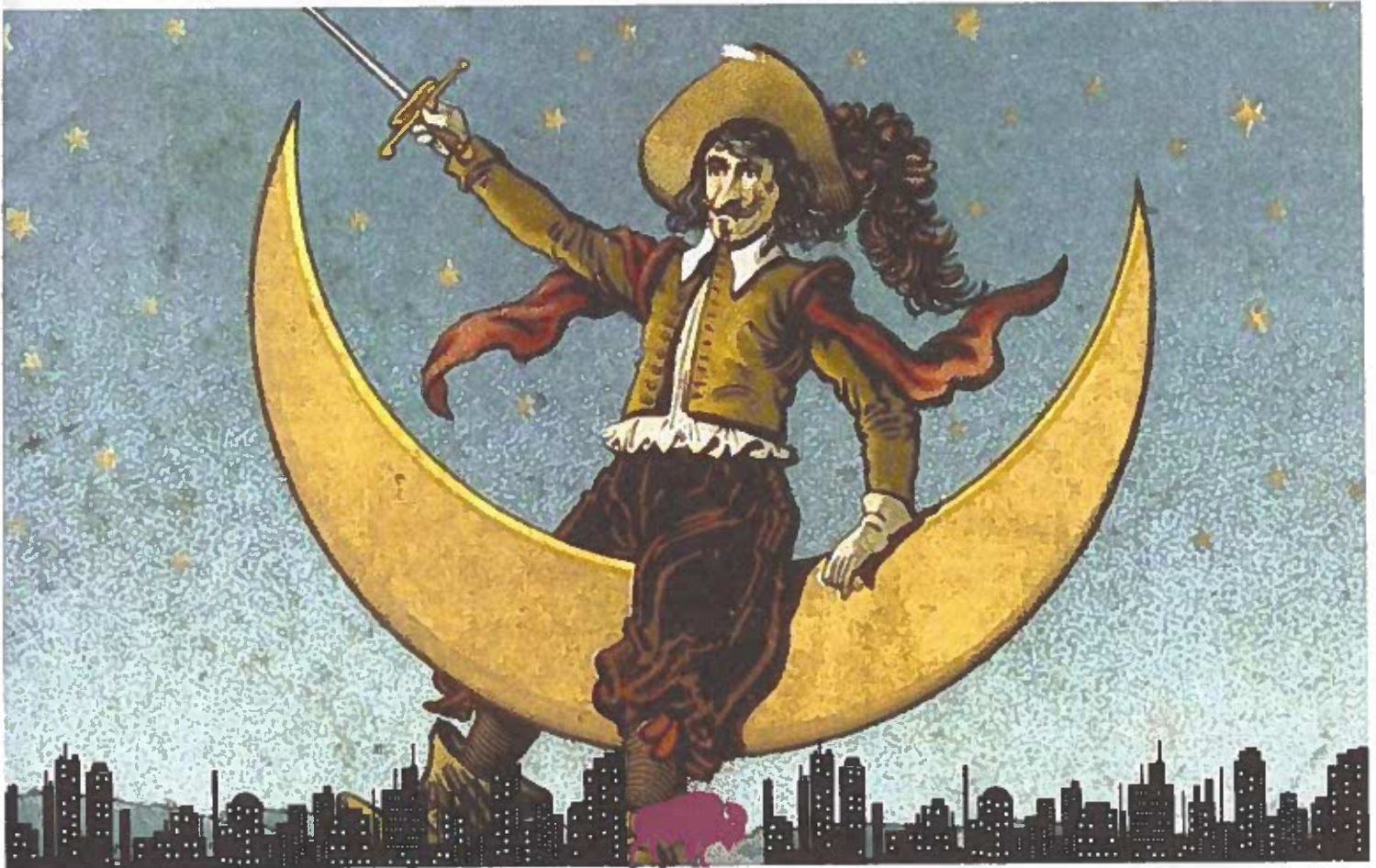


August, 2026

ACT NEWSLETTER

KEN LUDWIG'S MOON OVER BUFFALO



Co-Directed by Brian Shutter

& Connie Hurd

SHOW DATES:

SEPTEMBER 17-20 &

OCTOBER 1-4

Tickets at www.tomahact.com or call 608-374-7469



From the Director Brian "Rocky" Shutter



The ACT 2026 season continues to proceed with more great entertainment offerings for our audiences. Auditions are in progress for our fall show, "Moon Over Buffalo" written by Ken Ludwig. It is the summer of 1953, and George and Charlotte Hay, formerly a couple of Broadway stars, have taken their run-down touring company to Buffalo, New York. In Buffalo, they have the intention of running "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "Private Lives" in repertory, all the while grumbling about missed Hollywood opportunities. George and Charlotte share the stage with their daughter, Rosalind, and her paramour, Paul. Add to the mix, a disheveled, hearing impaired stage manager named Ethel and a few other unique characters and you're in for a wild ride. Any on-stage harmony that exists is put to the test when George is caught having an affair with Eileen, a young budding actress. When Charlotte learns of this, she prepares to run away with the family lawyer, sending George on a grief-stricken drinking binge. It turns out that Hollywood director, Frank Capra is headed to town on a talent scouting mission looking to hire the couple for his swashbuckling Scarlet Pimpernel epic. If you want to discover the problems that ensue, you will need to purchase a ticket to this comedic gem.

Directed by Brian Shutter with the expert assistance of Connie Hurd, "Moon Over Buffalo" will run from September 17-20 as well as October 1-4. (We will be taking a break during CranFest weekend.)

Tickets are available at www.tomahact.com or by calling the theatre at (608) 374-7469. The ACT box office is open Monday- Friday from 10:00 am- 5:00 pm at 901 Kilbourn Avenue in Tomah.

You won't want to miss this raucous farce that ACT is preparing for our great audiences. See you at the theatre.

Show Sponsors:



Thank you

to all of our sponsors & underwriters!

In-Kind Sponsor:

Magnum Media

2026 Season Underwriters:

Julian Hutchinson

Terry & Sharon Larkin

John Shuck Plumbing

Stroh's Barber Shop - Jim Stroh

Torkelson Funeral Home - Todd Torkelson

KARES-Just for You, Inc-Karen Dorn

Murray's on Main-Mike Murray

State Farm Insurance-Jeff & Kristi Holthaus

Taphouse Twenty-Tyson & Julia Koput

Wetherby Cranberry Co - Jim & Nodji VanWychen

"Moon Over Buffalo" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com



**From the Director of Development:
Sharon Larkin**

Think “ACT” for your next event!

I'm always telling someone about how busy the ACT building is. Usually, there are several things going on at the same time. Rehearsals are taking place in the Theatre, auditions in the Commons Room, dance classes in the Gatsby Room, a meeting in the library and an event in the Cabaret Room...all at the same time! When planning your next event, remember that ACT has two beautiful banquet size rooms, perfect for a baby or bridal shower, business meeting or birthday party. I will be attending a bridal shower in the Gatsby Room in a few weeks. Both banquet rooms have been rented in the past for luncheons after a funeral. My family rented the Cabaret Room for a funeral luncheon. The beauty of that room played a part in lifting everyone's spirit.

These special rooms can be reserved and rates are reasonable. As an extra bonus, the Cabaret Room has a complete kitchen! Call our ACT Theatre Manager, Lisa McCormick, to reserve a room to meet your needs.

ACT Needs a New Marquee

ACT is seeking your financial support to purchase a new digital LED marquee to replace the old one on the side of the building. It is too dangerous to climb on a ladder in the winter to change out the sign. Please consider ACT when planning your end of the year donations. Contact the ACT Office or send your donation in at: 901 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah. Be sure to put: ACT Sign on memo line. Thank you!

DR. B'S HALLOWEEN BINGO!

Prizes

50/50 Raffle

Cookie Raffle

Costume Contest

Friday, October 23!

2027 Ad Book, Sponsors & Underwriters



It's that time again! ACT Board members will be out to visit your business soon! The ad book is ACT's largest fundraiser for the season. Each one contains ads from local businesses that support ACT. The booklets are given out at every show (5 times a year) plus are available at all fundraisers! Great visibility for any business or individual! Well over 2000 people see these in a season!

As board members are seeking ads, they will also be looking for businesses or individuals to become a season underwriter or show sponsor! An underwriter sponsors all five shows for the entire season! In becoming an underwriter, your business is listed on our website, in all programs, posters and advertising for the season. You will also receive 2 free tickets to each show and be guaranteed that we will not come back around to ask for more donations! A show sponsor only sponsors one specific show at a time. Their business name will also be placed on all publicity for that show and will receive 2 free tickets to that show. It will also guarantee that once you agree to sponsor a show, we will not come back and ask again this season! The best news of all is ACT has their 2027 show season lineup completed and you can even pick in advance which show you would like to sponsor!

It is businesses and individuals like yourself that keep ACT going and able to continue performing great shows! Thank you for all of your support of ACT and live community theatre!

2027 Membership Drive

In 2026 ACT memberships are up to 144 members! Thank you for supporting all that is being done here! Without your support we could not have such quality shows being performed! The 2027 Membership Drive will begin during the play, "Moon Over Buffalo" Be sure to get your membership before the end of the year!

Memberships cost \$20 and include the following:

- Half Off Your Opening Night Ticket (\$50 value)
- One Free Small Popcorn at Each Show You Attend (\$30 value)
- 5 Newsletters a Season
- Opportunity to Become an ACT Board Member
- Ability to Vote at ACT Annual Meeting
- And Many More Specials Throughout the Season



=SUMMER= CAMP

ACT Spotlight Summer Youth Theatre Camp



ACT held a summer youth theatre camp on May 31-June 2 and June 7-9. Led by Caitlin Elenteny, these kids worked on lots of acting games to get themselves ready to be on stage. From creating their own characters and understanding how they would move on stage as well as breathe, smell, touch, taste and hear their surroundings. They also learned how to use all of the space around them and become larger on stage. The second week of camp, they took all of these tools and learned how to write down a story and create it into a play. They then were able to cast and produce their plays. Camp ended in a presentation of their pre-show games and their play, "Daycare Disaster." One of the kids from the camp ended up getting a role in "Peter and the Starcatcher." The future of acting at ACT looks very bright!

AUDITIONS

"Perfect Wedding"

by Robin Hawdon

**Directors: Molly Shields
& Sam Komay**

Show Dates:

November 5-8 & 12-15

3 Females (20-30's)

2 Males (20-30's)

1 Female (40-60's)



Signup at

www.tomahact.com

Walk-ins Welcome!

Sunday. September 13 at 1pm &

Monday. September 14 at 6pm



Tomah Parade



The cast of "Peter and the Starcatcher" had a float and walkers in the Tomah 4th of July parade to promote its upcoming show! Thank you to Pete Shields for letting us use his truck and driving in the parade! We had 15 people participate in this parade and handed out lots of candy and fliers for the show! It's so wonderful to live in a small community where we can get out and show everyone how amazing it is to be a part of ACT!



Theatre Etiquette: How to be a Great Audience Member!

When at ACT we want you to enjoy the show - you are watching a live performance which is very different from watching a movie. On stage, everything is happening in real time, and the performers can see and hear you, too! That means you are part of the show. The energy flowing between the audience and the performers helps create the magic of live theatre. When you show respect — for the cast, the audience, and the Theatre itself — everyone has the best experience possible. When the lights go down... Respect what's happening on stage • The actors and crew have worked hard to make this performance amazing for you — show them your appreciation by being attentive. • Sound carries easily in a theatre! Every whisper, wrapper, or ringtone can be heard. • Keep phones and devices silenced or off and out of sight. • Stay in your seat, listen carefully, and watch closely — the performers can feel your attention and excitement! Respect what's around you • Everyone deserves a chance to enjoy the show. Please avoid talking, fidgeting, or blocking others' views. • If you must leave for the restroom or a break, do so quietly. An usher will escort you out. • Keep feet off the seats. • ACT just renovated the theatre so please help us keep it that way by treating it with care. Share the Magic! • Laugh when something's funny, gasp when you're surprised, and clap when you love a song or scene. Please do not shout out to the cast during the performance. • At the end of the performance, show your appreciation with applause — or even a standing ovation if you were truly inspired!

PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER



Peter and the Starcatcher brought a very creative show to the ACT stage this summer! The set was made from wood pallets and decorated to look like the dock of a shipyard in 1885 England and the jungles on the island of Rundoon! The entire cast and crew had a fabulous time creating this imaginary world! This musical is the story of Peter Pan before he became a lost boy on the island of Neverland! This cast was extremely resilient and created a fabulous show in 8 short weeks! We hoped you enjoyed the whimsy of our show!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



ACT is creating a new committee to coordinate our volunteers!

ACT is currently looking for someone to take on the volunteer role of being a Volunteer Coordinator. We are hoping to find someone that would be willing to put in a few phone calls or emails to other ACT volunteers to coordinate help for different fundraisers, events and shows as well as projects around the building. We have a nice list of volunteers to work from at this time!

We know that there are many talented people involved at ACT and would love to be able to reach out to you occasionally for help! We would seek out helpers for specific projects and events as needed.

Here is what we are always looking for at ACT:

- **Set Construction:** Are you handy with a drill, saw or a paint brush?
- **Lights & Sound in Tech Booth:** Can you work a remote control or a computer? Someone else will design the system, you just have to push a button on cue. Its easy and we will train you!
- **Mowing:** Do you like to work outside? We need help with mowing the lawns, weed eating, trimming, etc. We have the equipment here!
- **Maintenance:** Can you climb a ladder to change a light bulb? Able to do simple fix-it jobs? Help us setup a meeting room for a party?

Fundraisers, Special Events & Shows:

- **Greeters:** Are you friendly and welcoming to others?
- **Decorators:** Like to make events look nice? Like to decorate your home? All of our shows need that special touch to create real looking rooms on stage!
- **Organization:** Are you good at keeping things neat? We could use help organizing our kitchens, prop & costume rooms, tool areas, etc.



ACT Scholarship Committee had several fabulous applicants for the 2026 scholarship. Winners were presented a check in the amount of \$250 from Brian Shutter at their school award ceremonies and certificate at the ACT Board Meeting. 2026 ACT Scholarship winners are Brooklyn Lowe and Heidi Mathe from New Lisbon and Ian Thompson from Tomah. Congratulations seniors and we wish you well in college!

UPCOMING PLAY READINGS

ACT does two play readings a month to read potential plays and musicals to put into the upcoming seasons. All play readings will now be on the 3rd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm in the ACT Library unless otherwise noted. Come anytime! Want to join us? Call Lisa at the ACT office at 608-374-7469 or boxoffice@tomahact.com to get on the contact list!



August 19



August 26



Sept 16



Sept 23

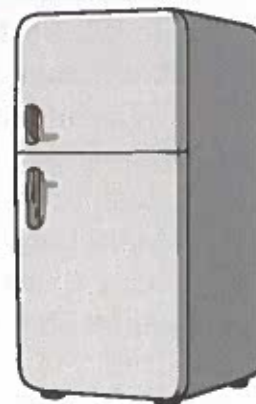


Sept 30



a Refrigerator!

ACT is looking for a nice used refrigerator to be used for our overstock in concessions. Do you have one in good working condition that you would like to get rid of? Call the office at 608-374-7469 and we can arrange for someone to come pick it up or you can drop it off at ACT 901 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah. Contact Lisa for more details at boxoffice@tomahact.com.



Flex Packages



Purchasing a flex package is such a great bargain! 6 tickets for the price of 5 tickets! Plus, they never expire! Beginning in August, with the selling of tickets for "Moon Over Buffalo" new flex ticket codes will be sent out again! We have to change the package codes one more time. We are sorry for any inconvenience or confusion this has caused you. If you struggle with reserving your tickets, please call the office and we can help you out!

ACT Members

January 1 - December 31, 2026

Sandra Ahlquist	Natalie Divyak	Kevin Krofta	amanda Schmock
Dr. Richard Ahn	Sandra Dresbrow	Sharon Larkin	Jason Schmock
Patty Ambort	Diane Field	Terry Larkin	Cheryl Schoeny
Terry Amundson	Bruce Fischer	Fred LeSavage	Mike Schoeny
Tim Amundson	Kathy Fischer	Kathy LeSavage	Christine Schreier
Sharon Anderson	Bonny Fish	Alta Leuthold	Donna Shuck
Chris Baker	Kathy Flatoff	Mary Maas	John Shuck
Randy Ball	Renee Fletcher	Marian Martin	Charles Shields
Tiffany Banaszakrawicz	Robert Forbush	Carrie Martinez	Emily Shields
Wanda Barwald	Melanie Frei	Joe Martinez	Molly Shields
Richard Baumgarten	Tom Frei	Lisa McCormick	Peter Shields
Dan Berg	Lisa Frost	Mara Mednis	Brian Shutter
Joyce Billings	Sue Geurkink	Peggy Meiners	Dan Smithburg
Dean Blegen	Deb Gilles	Joe Minney	Kelly Smithburg
JoEllen Blegen	Lynn Glancy	Barb Mundinger	Colleen Springman
Paulette Bolton	Linda Greeno	Susan Murphy	Dave Stelter
Judy Bonn	Ann Grygleski	Katherine Nastachowski	Monica Stenerson
Lavena Brady	Ed Grygleski	Taz Noble	Nancy Storkel
Marian Brieske	Cindy Hansen	Lori Norquay	Melissa Strait
Chelsea Brohaugh	Deb Hanson	Bridget Owens	Renee Stroh
Stephanie Brookman	Lorna Harvey	Cindy Parris-Owens	Barbara Stump
Liz Brown	Barb Hendricks	Allen Pasch	Susan Stump
Jeanette Brownell	Nancy Jacob	Sue Pergande	Barb Sullivan
Diane Buchda	Evanell Johnson	Kathy Peterson	Chris Suzda
Pam Buchda	Gabby Johnson	Keith Peterson	JD Sydow
Daniel Burton	Julie Kenmitz	Missy Peterson	Tina Thompson
Josh Buzbee	Dilynn Kiefer	Dawn Pierce	Shelly Trowbridge
Mary Carney	Lamont Kiefer	Elaine Reichardt	Tina Turner
Jerry Chaffee	Lisa Kirschbaum	Pete Reichardt	Jim VanWyche
Lenna Chaffee	Martha Klatt	Peggy Repp	Nodji VanWyche
Deb Chesser	Wesley Klatt	Lori Ripley	Cheryl Weber
Lynda Clay Palmer	Amy Kleespies	Kerry Rose	Mike Weber
Kristi Cossette	Jeanne Knapp	Mark Rose	Shannon Wilcox
Mike Cossette	Dennis Koranda	Darlene Rudolph	Stephanie Woods
Bonnie Dana	Jan Koranda	Michael Saunders	Travis Woods
Megan Divyak	Denise Krofta	Tess Saunders	Wendy Wright
		Jane Schave	

2026 Memberships Still Available

Your membership is important to us. Many grants to improve the theatre ask for membership numbers to prove community engagement. We appreciate you. Get your 2026 ACT Membership today by calling 608-374-7469, go to our website at www.tomahact.com or stop by the Business Office at 901 Kilbourn Avenue, Tomah. Office open Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm.

Member Benefits:

- Half Off Opening Nights on all 5 Shows in a Season (\$50 savings)
- Free Small Popcorn at every show you attend (5 shows/popcorns = \$20 savings)
- ACT Newsletters
- Voting privileges at ACT Annual Meeting
- Ability to be elected to ACT Board of Directors
- Recognition in all program booklets
- Plus additional surprise benefits throughout the year!



We would like to thank the following for donations from November 1, 2025 - October 31, 2026

These donations will be put towards ACT's building fund and to help cover costs of putting on shows.

Saints (\$5,000 and Up)

Frank Andres Grant**
Burnstad Family Foundation
Terry & Sharon Larkin*
Bernadette Otto Foundation*
Harry Wellenkotter*

Archangels (\$3,000 - \$4,999)

JW Etzelmueller Trust*
Susan Murphy*
Dawn Pierce

Angels (\$1,000 - \$2,999)

Dr. Richard Ahn in Memory of Helen Ahn*
Tim & Terry Amundson*
Dean & JoEllen Blegen*
Thomas B. Earle Foundation*
Bruce & Kathy Fischer*
Houston Dental Clinic-Dr. Clyde Houston*
Lamont & Dilynn Kiefer*
The Kindness Community
Oakdale Electric Cooperative*
Kurt & Louise Olson*
Pete & Elaine Reichardt*
Christine Schreier*
Jim & Nodji VanWychen*

Standing Ovation (\$500 - \$999)

Deborah Antony*
John & Rose Berry*
Tammy Blanchard*
Chris & Sharon Borek*
Max Brohaugh*
The Carpenter's Touch-Mark Pierce*
Natalie Divyak
Stoney & Julie Felts*
Jerry & America Fushianes*
Deb Hanson*
Jimmy John's-Jason & Jennifer Mubarek-Adler
Julie Kennitz*
Fred & Kathy LeSavage*
Joe & Carrie Martinez*
Aleda Moseley*
Barbara Munding*
Scott & Dorothy Nicol
Keith & Kathy Peterson*
Michael & Tess Saunders
Katie Tackmann*
Ann Thompson*
Torkelson Funeral Home
Don & Pat Tralmer*
Vine Vest, LLC*
Anne Wallus
Mike & Cheryl Weber*



Donations at any level are greatly appreciated and help to defray the operational costs of our theatre. If you would like the opportunity to have your name on our beautiful sculpture, a cumulative donation of \$3,000 through the past years is required.

Super Stars (\$200 - \$499)

Chris & Myra Anderson
Ryan & Amanda Betcher
Brian & Debra Buswell
Nathan Gebhardt Cranberries
Amy Hedrick*
Mary Beth Leum*
Kurt & Louise Olson in Memory of Lyda Lanier
Cindy Parris-Owens
June Potter
Pat Reis
John & Sandra Schindler
Phyllis Snider
Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

Show Stoppers (\$100 - \$199)

Bertram's Jewelry Studio
Scott & Stephanie Brookman
Dennis & Barbara Clinard
Joy Cunningham in Memory of Lyda Lanier
Freedom Automotive Group
Deb Hanson
Amy Kleespies
Lynxx Networks
Dillon Markell
Max Electric
Karen Rapp
Anna Mae Rudolph
Stroh's Barber Shop-Jim Stroh
Barb Sullivan
Summit Valley Farms in Memory of Lyda Lanier
Tomah Area Credit Union
Henry VanWychen
Barbara Westrate
Woodsmen Hockey

Spot Lighters (\$50 - \$99)

Belcher Construction & Main-Jim & Tracey Belcher
Jeff Brieske
Oakley & Susan Moser
Allen Pasch
Cast of "Peter and the Starcatcher"
Beverly Smith
Duane Spry
Monica & Dean Stenerson*
Shawn & Amy Stoffregen
Jim & Cindy Suzda
Marie Wiedl*

Curtain Pullers (\$25 - \$49)

Renee Fletcher
Jerry Korbl
Christine Miller
Diana Reinart
Lorna Rosenow
Brian Shutter
Lori Welcher

Thank you to everyone who donated to ACT's Name a Chair-Leave a Legacy Theatre Renovation Project! We could not have completed this project so quickly without your support!

**Donated a Chair*

Donations will continue to fund this new Digital Marquee Campaign as well as many plans we have for 2026!

**Donated toward Marquee*

ACT OFFICERS

President -- John Shuck
Vice-President -- Shannon Wilcox
Secretary -- Amy Kleespies
Treasurer -- Barbara Sullivan



BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Sharon Larkin, Brian Shutter,
Lori Ripley, Amanda Schmock**

Save the Date!

September 13 & 14 "Perfect Wedding" Auditions
September 17-20 & October 1-4 "Moon Over Buffalo"
October 23 Halloween Bingo
November 5-8 & 12-15 "Perfect Wedding"

Lisa McCormick, Theatre Manager
Business Office Hours: 10am - 5pm
Monday - Friday

Honoring the past 50 years of live theatre, embracing the future!

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