

IMPACT Season 79
2025-2026

your
theatre
A Highly Acclaimed Company inc

STEEPLE PLAYHOUSE

COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



CREATING AND CELEBRATING THE ARTS
WITH THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY

159 WILLIAM STREET
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740

CREATING LIVE THEATRE



MAIN STAGE SEASON

Five productions on the Main Stage, by more than **100 volunteers**, welcomed **3,035 patrons** at **35 live performances** in **Season 79**. This season we listened to performer feedback and reduced the number of double-performance days.

SHOWCASE & SPECIALS

We produced **20 special** performances and events! The **showcase program**, **original works lab**, **improv classes**, **special events**, and **jazz concerts** from local musicians all contributed to this new milestone.

PROGRAM PILOTS

This year also concluded our two-year-long Original Works Lab (OWL) pilot program. Although OWL will not continue in its current form, we thank and congratulate all the participants and volunteers who made the program pilot possible!



Thanks to you our 79th Season was Your Theatre Inc.'s most attended season yet!

As we look back this year, I'm proud that our community is growing with us. Steeple Playhouse welcomed parters for more events than ever.

You have given the Southcoast a space that is filled with unique storytellers sharing the tales that only our community can tell.

You are the hero of this story!
— Opal Tener Wade, *she/they*
Your Theatre, Inc. Executive Director

All together we welcomed more than 4,500 guests this year through the Main Stage Season, JazzFest, special events and showcases.

In our Main Stage Season, we were pleased to produce and present THE ODD COUPLE (FEMALE VERSION), THE HUMANS, DIAL M FOR MURDER, THE BEST WE COULD (A FAMILY TRAGEDY), and A FEW GOOD MEN.

Additionally, we welcomed special events, including THE VERY SAD TALE OF THE LATE MR. STILTSKIN by Stephen L. Russell, A CHRISTMAS CAROL produced with Neil McGarry, WEDDING BASH by Andrew Leeds and Lindsey Kraft, HAPPY JOURNEY TO CAMDEN AND TRENTON by

Thornton Wilder, MEMORIES OF A NEW HOME by Lawrence R. Houbre Jr., and ten new plays through the Original Works Lab Program Pilot.

It was a great year for the JazzFest Program at Steeple Playhouse featuring, Becky Bass, Wood Street Jazz, Yoron Israel, High Standards, and the Tim Ray Trio with April Hall.

Following changes in funding sources and in alignment with our mission, the JazzFest Program will be placed on hiatus for the upcoming year. We are excited to see how much the local music scene has grown and are pleased to open more space for organizations who have music and jazz priorities in their mission.

CELEBRATING WITH COMMUNITY

The Steeple Playhouse Performing Arts Center Program hosts local nonprofits and arts groups for performances and events at our historic, accessible venue in downtown New Bedford. The program provides a professional performance venue and event support that celebrates and creates art with the Southcoast.

With accessible pricing, we also enable local nonprofits and groups to amplify their impact. By skilfully supporting our community, we anchor creativity and conversation. From director talks to drag shows, our community thrives here!





OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE AND CELEBRATE THE ARTS WITH THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY IN AN INCLUSIVE THEATRE ENVIRONMENT

OUR PARTNERS THIS SEASON

AHA!

Mandy Fraiser Art
Massachusetts Design, Art, and
Technology Institute (DATMA)

Nativity Preparatory School

Neil McGarry Touring

New Bedford Creative

New Bedford Festival Theatre

New Bedford Film Festival

The New Bedford Light's

Arts Illuminated

Reverie Theatre Group

Sai-Con Productions

Stage Artistry Studios

Stellar Studios Theater

Waterfront Historic Area

League (WHALE)

Our partner relationships deepened this year through strong re-engagement and supporting core producers who returned to create with us multiple times throughout the year.

Last year we hosted 27 events and performances totalling 4,500 guests with our producing partners. This past season we hosted **51 partner events** and performances, welcoming **7,670 guests** from our community!

We hold a sacred and safe space for our community to create—music, theatre, visual art, cinema, and more thrived in this program's third year of enabling special partnerships.



YOU MAKE STEEPLE PLAYHOUSE POSSIBLE

To our volunteers, your tireless efforts behind the scenes and in the spotlight make every performance and event possible.

To our donors and members, your generosity and trust are vital in sustaining our operations and allowing us to continue our mission.



THANK YOU



To our patrons and subscribers, thank you for joining us for the magic of live theatre. Your presence and applause remind us why we do what we do.



Thank you to the storytellers of the Wampanoag and Massachusetts Nations who, since time immemorial, live, create, and celebrate on the land where we create and celebrate the arts as Steeple Playhouse.

Photos throughout courtesy of Dave Silvia, Tener Wade, Hugh Fanning, Lauren Helley, and others. Thank you for documenting, celebrating, and sharing with Steeple Playhouse!

2025-2026, SEASON79 BOARD MEMBERS

Gilberto Cardona-Erazo, President

Susan Richard, Past President

Stan Ponte, Vice-President

Eric Paradis, Secretary

Patricia Brooks Taylor, Treasurer

Lucy Bly, Members Council Chair

Starlene Alves, Briana Berthiaume, Lindsay Carter-
Monteiro, Shelbi Chandler, Mellanie Crowther, Tony
Oliva, Penny Prather, Peter Vercellone, Al Vitale

STAFF

Opal Tener Wade, Executive Director

Bill Spinney, Business Manager

VOLUNTEER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TEAM

Lawrence R. Houbre Jr., Artistic Director & Technical Director

James Sanguinetti, Assistant Artistic Director



THANK YOU

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Bank Five, Bay Coast Bank, Bristol
County Savings Bank, Eastern Bank,
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Bank, Gibson Realty, Harbor Hotel,
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Maco Electric, Mallard Printing,
Massachusetts Financial Group,
Medium Studio, Milestone Mortgage,
New Bedford Symphony Orchestra,
Prescott Bullard & McLeod, Seaglass
Theater Company, ServedWell
Hospitality, Sotheby's International

Realty, South Coast Community
Foundation, St. Anne's Credit Union,
Symphony Music, Whaling City Sound,
Waterfront Historic Area League

Your Theatre, Inc. at Steeple
Playhouse is also supported by
the New Bedford Community
Preservation Committee, Mass
Cultural Council, and the following
local cultural councils: Acushnet
Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett,
New Bedford, and Westport.

	SEASON77	SEASON78	SEASON79
PUBLIC EVENTS	42	82	105
PRODUCING PARTNERS	6	17	14
PARTNER EVENTS	6	27	50
ATTENDEES & PATRONS	3,900	7,500	10,705
SUPPORTERS & DONORS	50+	204	306

BY THE NUMBERS





BY THE NUMBERS

\$225,900 TOTAL REVENUE, GRANTS, CAPITAL,
& CONTRIBUTION INCOME

\$288,300 TOTAL PROGRAM, CAPITAL, &
OPERATING EXPENSES

-\$62,400 NET CASH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR*
(INCLUDING \$10,000+ OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS)

*THE PLANNED BUDGET DEFICIT WAS -\$69,300.
THE YEAR FINISHED \$6,900 BETTER THAN THE
PLANNED NET CASH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR.

Financial data is rounded and preliminary on an accrual basis.



BACKSTAGE

The past year has been a period of listening to our community, volunteers, partners, and patrons.

As we move into the organization's 80th anniversary season, the board and leadership are implementing changes based on this feedback and evaluation done during this past year.

The budget was approved with a fiscal deficit this past year in part to enable strong program evaluation and restructure. Placing the Original

Works Lab Pilot and JazzFest Concert Program on hiatus is part of Your Theatre's re-commitment to the basics of our mission.

Some of the programming changes in the upcoming SEASON80 will be reflective of the work done "backstage" during this process. These include Pay-As-You-Can ticket pricing, priority seating for season subscribers, more accommodating volunteer scheduling, and increased availability for producing partners.



TWO NAMES
ONE
NONPROFIT

your
theatre
A Highly Acclaimed Company **inc**

Where collaboration, community, and conversation create belonging—a diverse, safe space where anyone can join together and tell unique stories to entertain, educate, empower, and transform our community from stage to spectator and back again.

BACKSTAGE

We close this season with a strong financial position of over \$150,000 in cash assets and an ambitious plan for a balanced budget in SEASON80.

The Black Box capital project nears completion this season, despite increased costs. Your contributions made an amazing difference this year. You made it possible to welcome more people than ever before at more events than ever before. Thank you for the incredible impact you make happen at Steeple Playhouse.





© 2026 YOUR THEATRE, INC. AT
STEEPLE PLAYHOUSE, 159 WILLIAM ST.
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740