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SEASON GUIDE

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Dear Patron of the Arts,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 season at the Herberger Theater Center!

Since 1989, more than 4.9 million people have discovered the magic and memorable experience of live theater with us. This season, there will be over 500 chances to come together and celebrate the arts, from big stage spectacles to free outdoor events.

Come inside to see world-class performances from local and national performing companies creating stories and experiences that entertain, challenge, and inspire. You'll also find the Herberger Theater Spotlight Series which is bursting with energy, featuring music, dance, and unforgettable artists. Outside our walls, the fun continues with First Friday Live, Performance Pop-Ups, the 16th annual Festival of the Arts, and more.

The Herberger Theater is where Phoenix comes to be inspired, surprised, and moved. We can't wait to share the season with you — see you at the theater!

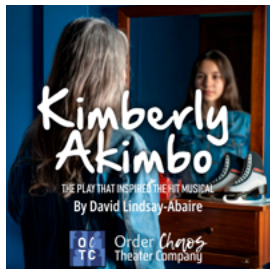
Mark Mettes
President & CEO
Herberger Theater Center



2025 | 2026



KIMBERLY AKIMBO



Presented by Order Chaos Theater Company
October 10-26, Kax Stage

Set in suburban New Jersey, *Kimberly Akimbo* is a funny and moving play about a teen whose rare condition accelerates her aging. When her family flees Secaucus, Kimberly confronts a hypochondriac mother, an often-inebriated father, a scheming aunt, her own mortality, and the daunting possibility of first love, all while reevaluating her life and the world around her.

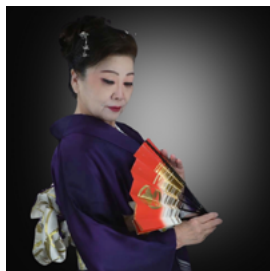
SWAN LAKE



Presented by Grand Kyiv Ballet
October 14, Stage West

Swan Lake is a ballet masterpiece that tells the story of a prince who falls in love with a beautiful swan princess under a spell. The ballet is renowned for its stunning choreography, intricate set design, and Tchaikovsky's captivating music. This timeless tale of love and magic will be brought to life by the finest dancers of the Ukrainian National Opera and Ballet Theater.

SUZUYUKI KAI “YUME” MAKING DREAMS A REALITY



Presented by Phoenix World Arts Collective
October 19, Stage West

Suzuyuki Kai presents *Yume*, celebrating 50 years of traditional Japanese dance (Nihon Buyō). Experience the grace of kimono, the artistry of fan movements, and the emotional depth of Japan's heritage. Under Executive Director Mari Kaneta, this performance honors a lifetime dedicated to preserving and sharing the beauty and tradition of classical Japanese dance.

Call Today to Secure Your Seats: (602) 252-8497

SEASON GUIDE

AN EVENING WITH NICK CARTELL & FRIENDS



Presented by Herberger Theater Center
October 24, Center Stage

Phoenix native and Broadway star Nick Cartell returns home for an evening of music and memories. Known for playing Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, he performs songs from his debut album, Broadway, Disney, jazz, and more. Joined by special guests, Cartell reflects on his Phoenix roots and his journey from the Herberger Theater to national Broadway tours.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



Presented by Valley Youth Theatre
November 1 – 16, Stage West

Meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names “Audrey II” - after his coworker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore promises fame and fortune to Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it, BLOOD. Over time, Seymour discovers Audrey II’s out-of-this-world origins and intent towards global domination!

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER



Presented by Childspray
November 15 – December 22, Center Stage

Follow the delightful journey of Rudolph, Hermey the Elf, and Yukon Cornelius as they encounter the Abominable Snowman and journey to the land of Misfit Toys. With projection magic and incredible costumes, the iconic stop-motion sensation truly jumps from the TV to the stage! Free family activities at every show!

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16TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



Presented by Herberger Theater Center
November 15, Pavilion Stage & Herberger Plaza

Experience the magic of two stages featuring live music, dance, and dynamic performances. Explore captivating art demonstrations, hands-on kids' activities, a vibrant vendor market, mouthwatering food trucks, and a lively beer and wine garden. This is your chance to celebrate the incredible talent and spirit of our community.

CLAUS & EFFECT: "A TROPICAL HOLIDAY"



Presented by Order Chaos Theater Company
December 11-21, Kax Stage

It was a weekend before Christmas, and Mrs. Claus let us in on a little secret. This lighthearted holiday, cabaret-style musical production explores the comedic and heartfelt adventures of Mrs. Claus and her Elves, offering a unique twist on the Holiday Season filled with traditional and not-so-traditional.

THE NUTCRACKER



Presented by Convergence Ballet
December 12-14, Stage West

Delight in holiday magic with *The Nutcracker* presented by Convergence Ballet featuring students from Ballet Theatre of Phoenix. Audiences of all ages are invited to enjoy this timeless classic, featuring beloved characters such as Clara, the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Rat King, and the heroic Nutcracker.

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THE CALAMARI SISTERS' SAUSAGEFEST



Presented by Playhouse Productions
January 8-25, Stage West

Delphine and Carmela Calamari are bringing their 23rd Annual Italian Sausagefest to the Herberger Theater! Celebrate the memories of summer as they sing, dance, and cook. Hear hilarious family anecdotes and help them make sausage, peppers, and fried dough while they sing their own versions of Broadway and pop favorites.

JANE ANGER



Presented by Order Chaos Theater Company
January 16 – February 1, Kax Stage

In 1606, a self-absorbed Shakespeare struggles with writer's block while London's theaters are closed due to the plague. Quarantined with his apprentice, he's interrupted by Jane Anger, a cunning writer determined to reshape history. With Anne Hathaway of Stratford, Jane turns Shakespeare's attempts at *King Lear* into a chaotic, comedic adventure.

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK



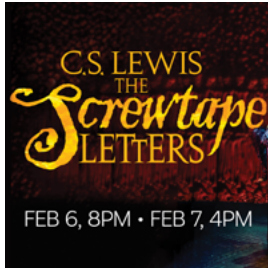
Presented by Childsplay
January 17-31, Center Stage

The Diary of Anne Frank is a powerful true story recounting the experiences of Anne Frank, a Jewish teenager, and seven others in hiding during the Holocaust. Set in the Secret Annex of an Amsterdam office building, this play reveals the courage, resilience, and day-to-day realities of its occupants, seen through the eyes of young Anne.

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THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS



Presented by Fellowship for Performing Arts
February 6-7, Center Stage

Experience a fast-paced, tour-de-force performance in this acclaimed adaptation of C.S. Lewis' satiric masterpiece. This international hit offers a faithful stage adaptation of Lewis' *The ScrewTape Letters*, following ScrewTape, a senior tempter, as he schemes to capture the soul of an unsuspecting human and reveals spiritual warfare in vivid, humorous ways.

HARE & TORTOISE



Presented by Childsplay
February 7 – March 8, Stage West

Hare always rushes ahead, eager for what is next, while Tortoise moves steadily, noticing the world around them. As seasons change, these two unlikely friends learn that time isn't about moving fast. This adaptation of Aesop's Fable uses music, movement, and humor to explore what it means to grow, learn, and embrace your own pace.

3RD ANNUAL MARIACHI & FOLKLÓRICO FESTIVAL



**Presented by the Herberger Theater Center
and C.A.L.L.E. de Arizona**
March 7, Center Stage

This unforgettable evening celebrates Mexico's vibrant music and dance traditions with a star-studded lineup featuring Grammy Award-winning Mariachi Los Camperos, dancers of Ballet Folklórico Quetzalli-AZ, and additional performers and surprises honoring heritage and community in Phoenix.

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A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN



Presented by Order Chaos Theater Company
April 10-26, Kax Stage

Inspired by autobiographical elements of Eugene O'Neill's life, this play brings James "Jamie" Tyrone, Jr. to the home of his tenant farmer, Mike Hogan, where he encounters Hogan's daughter, Josie. The lovestruck Josie seems to claim him as her own, and Jamie drowns in a wave of self-pity and remorse. When dawn comes, the moon is gone and so is he.

RAGTIME, A THEATRICAL CONCERT EXPERIENCE



**Presented by the Herberger Theater Center
and Arizona Musicfest**
April 24-26, Center Stage

Winner of four Tony Awards in 1998, *Ragtime* follows three families chasing the American Dream. Based on E. L. Doctorow's novel and celebrated for its ragtime, blues, jazz, and show tune score, *Ragtime, A Theatrical Concert Experience* offers a moving portrait of early 20th-century America.

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE: THE MUSICAL



Presented by Childsplay
April 25 – May 17, Stage West

Edward Tulane is the finest toy in Abilene's room, and he knows it. Self-centered and unaware of the love around him, he values only himself—until an accident tosses him overboard during an ocean voyage. This unexpected journey transforms Edward's world, teaching him about love, loss, and the profound connections that shape life beyond his own reflection.

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RADIO RECALL



Presented by Herberger Theater Center
May 2, Center Stage

Broadway veterans and stars of Andrew Lloyd Weber's 50th Anniversary Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Aaron LaVigne and Jenna Rubaii bring you back to the first time you ever heard the songs you love with historical stories and performances of iconic hits (including music by Queen, Carole King, Tina Turner, Lady Gaga, The Beatles, and more).

PLATED & STAGED... A HERBERGER THEATER EXPERIENCE



A Herberger Theater Center fundraiser
May 3, Herberger Theater Center

The 11th annual event begins at the Herberger Theater with cocktails, silent and live auctions, and a special performance by Broadway stars from *Radio Recall*. Dinner follows, with guests discovering their Valley restaurant destination after the program. Each restaurant hosts a table of eight for a three-course meal with wine. Proceeds benefit the Herberger Theater's youth education and outreach programs.

THE
SPOTLIGHT
BAR



Enjoy **specialty cocktails, snacks**, and more up to
60 minutes before showtime!

Call Today to Secure Your Seats: (602) 252-8497

YOUTH EDUCATION



The Herberger Theater provides arts experiences and cultural enrichment for children in our community. With your help, we will continue to reach underserved youth and open their imagination to the magic of live performing arts.



ARIZONA YOUNG ARTISTS' COMPETITION

APRIL 11, CENTER STAGE

The competition showcases the diverse and emerging talent of young Arizona artists, introduces them to the audition process, and provides them with an opportunity to interact with highly-regarded arts professionals. Students, ages 15-21, compete in the areas of Acting, Dance, Classical Voice and Musical Theatre Voice for an opportunity to win a scholarship to help further their education in the arts.

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ARTS 360: IN-SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Arts 360 is an arts education initiative dedicated to integrating the performing arts into early childhood learning. By bringing live performance and arts-based instruction directly into classrooms, the interactive program ensures that all children, regardless of financial means or transportation access, can experience the transformative power of the arts.



CAMP 360 JUNE 1-12, STAGE WEST

Camp 360, a collaboration between the Herberger Theater and Free Arts for Abused Children, gives teens in group homes, shelters, and treatment programs the chance to explore the arts through a two-week camp. Participants engage in theater activities like improv, costumes, props, and tech, culminating in a performance that shares their personal stories through poetry, music, movement, and storytelling.

ART GALLERIES

The Herberger Theater's Art Galleries feature creative and inspiring work, showcasing Arizona artists and providing a platform for visual art. Hours are 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Sunday and during performances. All artwork is for sale with a portion of the proceeds from each piece sold benefiting the Herberger Theater's youth outreach programs.

2025-2026 EXHIBITS

ABSTRACT

OCTOBER 3 - NOVEMBER 2, 2025



Kathy Ford

LANDSCAPE

OCTOBER 3 - NOVEMBER 2, 2025



Melanie Mead

BOTANICAL

NOVEMBER 7 - 30, 2025

FIVE SENSES

NOVEMBER 7 - 30, 2025



Sucheta Bakhle

TINY

DECEMBER 5, 2025 - FEBRUARY 1, 2026

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BIG

DECEMBER 5, 2025 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

JAPAN

FEBRUARY 6 – MARCH 1, 2026

COLOR

FEBRUARY 6 – MARCH 1, 2026

BARRIO

MARCH 6 – 29, 2026

GRAND CANYON

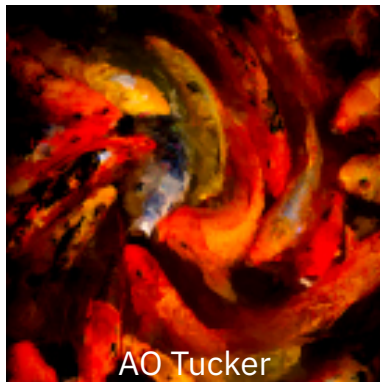
APRIL 3 – MAY 31, 2026

AVIAN

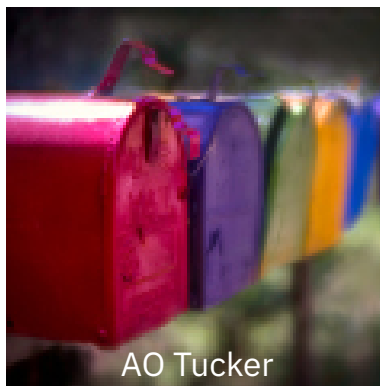
APRIL 3 – MAY 31, 2026

STRANGER THINGS

JUNE 5 – AUGUST 2, 2026



AO Tucker



AO Tucker

LUNCH TIME THEATER

Lunch Time Theater offers one-act plays lasting 45 to 50 minutes and guests can bring a lunch or pre-order one from the Herberger Theater's caterer when ordering tickets. Tickets are \$12 each, not including lunch, and the short plays and musicals feature some of the greatest rising groups in the Arizona theatre scene.



LIGHT IN THE WINDOW

December 1-18, Kax Stage

Lola and her Apo share laughter, stories, and truths across five years in Lola's living room, where holiday scents linger and Parols glow each December. As they craft lanterns, carols in Tagalog and English fill the air. Lola, ever the

storyteller, passes down the Parol's history—woven with faith, resilience, and love. Her light, spirit, and legacy live on through her Apo, who carries them forward, one Parol at a time.



INTERMEZZO

February 2-12, Kax Stage

On the eve of a major recital, a celebrated opera singer encounters her fifteen-year-old self. Together, they reflect on the joys and challenges of pursuing opera as a Black woman, weaving conversation with music. Equal parts

dialogue and concert, the show culminates in a powerful recital of arias—works by Black composers alongside traditional repertoire—creating a moving portrait of resilience, artistry, and the transformative power of song.



LET'S ROCK: FROM SHAKESPEARE TO TUPAC

March 2-12, Kax Stage

Visionary cultural leader Rod Ambrose presents *Let's Rock: From Shakespeare to Tupac*, a dynamic "Word Music" showcase uniting poetry, jazz, dance, and performance. Featuring Gabriel Bey, Valerie Rochon, Leah Marche, and

Chris "Truth-B-Told" Owens, the evening bridges Shakespeare's eloquence with Tupac's raw power. Through electrifying performances and visuals, universal themes of love, justice, and resilience shine, celebrating language as a force for change and storytelling as a timeless act of activism.

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DISCONNECTED RHYTHMS

May 4-14, Kax Stage

Disconnected Rhythms is a one-act tap dance production exploring the emotional toll of technology and its effect on relationships. Through three vignettes—a married couple, a family dinner, and coworkers—the show blends rhythm,

movement, and storytelling to reveal technology's isolating yet connective power. Concluding with hope, it reminds us of the beauty and necessity of authentic human connection, offering a resonant reflection on navigating modern life in a digital age.



POST 41

May 18-28, Kax Stage

When Latino veterans came home from World War II, they expected to be welcomed as heroes by the entire community. But after being turned away by other American Legion posts, they decided to build their own post, brick by

brick, in a South Phoenix barrio. Post 41 became a beacon for civil rights activism and a living tribute to the legacy of its members.



THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN AND KEITH

June 15-25, Kax Stage

The Adventures of Karen and Keith is a modern-retro variety show bursting with energy, dance, and physical comedy. Exploring what happens when two crazy dancers fall in love, it humorously examines gender roles, societal

expectations, and self-identity. With witty dialogue and heartfelt moments, the show offers a playful yet sincere look at modern romance, paying homage to the vibrant, comedic style of the 1960s while celebrating the absurdities of love today.

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PERFORMANCE POP-UPS

Free outdoor presentations that celebrate the depth and variety of Arizona's talent and provide high-quality music, dance, and theatrical programming in a safe and welcoming environment. The performances are held on Saturday evenings 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., showcasing artists and performances that are diverse and reflective of our community.

Zoniez Band – October 11
Furious Styles Crew – October 18
Candy Jimenez Dance – October 25

Phoenix World Collective-Carlos Montefur – November 1
CONDER|dance – November 8

Jake Williams – December 6
SOUNDS Academy – December 13
Vasumanthi Ram – December 20

Shana and Joe Bousard – January 10
Liliana Gomez Dance – January 17
Metropolitan Arts Institute Dance Department – January 24
Phoenix Youth Circus Arts – January 31

VB and Company, Djahna Singleton – February 14
MAC & Co. Dance Company – February 21
Third Space Dance Project – February 28

Marva Harris – March 14
CAZO Dance – March 21
The Jam Bam Band – March 28

Bricks Dance Studio – April 18
Movement Source Dance Company – April 25





FIRST FRIDAY LIVE

PRESENTED BY 
Delivering water and power®

Join us First Friday from October through May, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the Herberger Theater Pavilion for free outdoor performances featuring diverse and eclectic music, performances, projection and visual art, interactive activities and food and drink specials. Each month is themed and features a local non-profit organization.

October 3 – Diwali, Festival of Lights

November 7 – Noche de Ofrendas

December 5 – Santa's Country Jamboree

January 2 – Neon New Year

February 6 – A Night in Japan

March 6 – Viva México

April 3 – A Night of Jazz

May 1 – A Night of Soulful Expression



SPOTLIGHT SERIES



AN EVENING WITH NICK CARTELL & FRIENDS

OCTOBER 24, 2025

CENTER STAGE

Phoenix native and Broadway star Nick Cartell returns home for an evening of music and memories. Known for playing Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, he performs songs from his debut album, Broadway, Disney, jazz, and more. Joined by special guests, Cartell reflects on his Phoenix roots and his journey from the Herberger Theater to national Broadway tours.



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Buy Your Tickets Online: HerbergerTheater.org

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RAGTIME, A THEATRICAL CONCERT EXPERIENCE

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH ARIZONA MUSICFEST

APRIL 24-26, 2026

CENTER STAGE

Ragtime follows three fictional families in pursuit of the American Dream. Based on E. L. Doctorow's novel, and celebrated for its soaring musical score filled with ragtime, blues, jazz and show tunes, *Ragtime, A Theatrical Concert Experience* offers a moving portrait of America in the early 20th century.



RADIO RECALL

MAY 2, 2026

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Stars of Andrew Lloyd Weber's 50th Anniversary Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Aaron LaVigne and Jenna Rubaii bring you back to the first time you ever heard the songs you love with historical stories and performances of music by Queen, Carole King, Tina Turner, Lady Gaga, The Beatles, and more.

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