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THE GREAT EIGHT OF 2020

PAGES
11-13

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Arts United

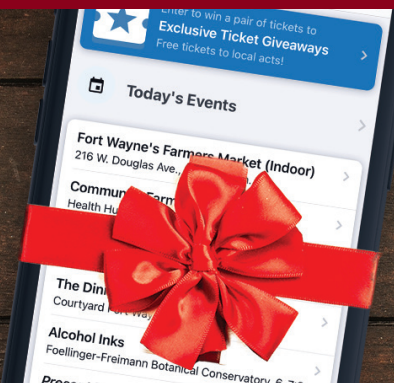
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ALSO INSIDE THIS CHRISTMAS DOUBLE ISSUE OF WHATZUP:

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**NEVER A DULL
MOMENT WHILE
AXE THROWING**
OUR COLUMNIST VISITS
DEADEYE DICK'S AXE
THROWING BAR / PAGE 4



SOUNDS OF THE HOLIDAY

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instrumental

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December 21, 7–7:30PM
December 22, 7–7:30PM
December 26-27, 11:30PM–12:30AM



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Learn more and make a donation at binstrumental.org.



Columns & Reviews

Out and About / 6

Local music, comedy to celebrate New Year

News and Venues / 8

Outdoor sculpture lights up downtown

Spins / 14

Dolly Parton, The Bird and the Bee, Delicate Steve

Backtracks / 14

Various artists, Christmas rock songs

Road Notes / 15-16

Finding ways to celebrate New Year's Eve in 2020

Reel Views / 19

Soul: Soulful masterpiece Pixar's best in a decade

Screen Time / 20

Tenet vs. *Nomadland* for best picture?

Calendars

Live Music & Comedy / 6-9

On the Road / 15-18

Art & Exhibits / 21

Things To Do / 22

Stage & Dance / 22




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Must be received by noon Monday the
week of publication for inclusion in that
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will run until the week of the event.
Calendar information is published
as far in advance as space permits
and should be submitted as early as
possible. *Whatzup* makes every effort to
authenticate claims and accurate times
and event locations. We encourage
readers to verify information prior to
attending events or purchasing tickets.

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10 days prior to publication. Camera-
ready or digital ad copy required
by noon Friday the week before
publication. E-mail info@whatzup.com
or call (260) 407-3198.

No dull moment when you pick up Fort Wayne's new bar sport

Our columnist tries his hands at axe throwing

After I scheduled my session at the axe-throwing emporium called Deadeye Dick's, I went around my home imitating Gimli, the axe-wielder from *The Lord of the Rings*.

Although I think I do a fair impersonation of John Rhys-Davies, the Welsh actor who portrayed Gimli, my wife was not amused.

She retaliated by suggesting I would injure myself at Deadeye Dick's in a manner reminiscent of Ed Ames' tomahawk throw on *The Tonight Show* in 1965.

If you don't know what she was referring to there, it's well worth Googling.

I wanted to tell my wife that she was being unfair, but I had to admit to myself that I am a clumsy person.

For example, there are people who spill things and then there is me.

My spills regularly have an upward trajectory, defying logic. If Sir Isaac Newton had seen me spilling in 1687, we would not now know what gravity is. My clumsiness is apparently more elemental than the laws of physics.

Sometimes, the liquid flies in so many unlikely directions that you'd swear a small detonation must have been involved.

PREPARED FOR ALL COMERS

Luckily, Deadeye Dick's is fully prepared for people like me.

The business was started by Jennifer Rao, a former nurse turned entertainment mogul. She cashed out her 401K to open an Escape Room in 2016. The Escape Room was so successful that she expanded her recreational holdings and opened Deadeye Dick's earlier this year.

Throwing axes sounds dangerous, and it is. But Deadeye Dick's takes every precaution.

Every group that comes into Deadeye Dick's gets its own axe-throwing expert. If you think I am going to describe these people as "axperts," then you obviously take me for a less principled feature writer.

Nor will you find the following sentence in my column, except as an example of what not to do: "If you have an axe to grind, try axe-throwing. Any way you slice it, it's cutting-edge entertainment.



First Person

STEVE PENHOLLOW



COURTESY PHOTO

It is everything you could possible 'axe' for in a pastime."

Any feature writer who uses such puns in earnest should be forced to write a first-person account of a more obscure sport: Axe-catching.

TRAINING AND SAFETY FOR ALL

My personal axe expert was Antione Brewer.

He demonstrated several safe and effective axe-throwing techniques and advised me of rules that seemed designed to curb my natural idiotic tendencies.

If more things in nature (not to mention, nurture) were designed to curb my natural idiotic tendencies, the world would be a better place.

This is probably as good a place as any to raise the specter of that viral axe-throwing video in which a hurled ax bounces back like a squash ball and sails over the thrower's abruptly ducked head.

Rao said there are many things wrong in that video: inadequate equipment, poor throwing technique — and, by extension, poor training.

"Axes will bounce back, don't get me wrong," she said. "But I am in a forum with owners from all over the world and we have never seen anything like that. That axe took a beating. Thank God she didn't get hurt."

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

As extreme as axe-throwing seems on the surface, the pastimes of which it is most reminiscent are bowling and darts.

In bowling, you choose the ball that is right for

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you. In axe-throwing, you choose the right axe.

In bowling, you play in groups and everyone watches while each player takes his or her turn. The same is true in axe-throwing.

There is no such thing as special axe-throwing shoes, but you're not (for obvious reasons) allowed to wear open-toed footwear.

If I ever dropped an axe while wearing sandals, I just know that it would be one of the few times that the laws of physics worked for me the way they are supposed to.

Scoring in axe-throwing is similar to scoring in darts.

Throwing axes involves one of two techniques: One-handed throwing and two-handed throwing.

I tried one-handed throwing first.

It should surprise no one who has read this far to learn that I am not a very coordinated person, although I am a passable dancer.

I was not adept at throwing axes one-handed.

If I had tried throwing dead egrets instead, I might have looked more graceful. (Editor's note: No egrets were harmed in the writing of this article.)

Brewer, who was having a tougher time training me than Master Shifu had training the Kung Fu Panda, suggested I switch to a longer-handled axe and a two-handed throwing technique.

So I worked with that for a while.

Folks, you will probably disbelieve what I am about to type and accuse me of empty boasting.

But in the last 30 minutes of my 60-minute session, I hit the bullseye nine times.

I thoroughly ruined my reputation as the Inspector Clouseau of Participatory Journalism.

LESS POWER, MORE FLOW

Here is what I learned about axe-throwing: Despite its seemingly aggressive and macho nature, ax-throwing isn't about power.

It's about flow.

Women tend to be better axe-throwers than men, Rao said. The reason for this is that most men's solution for poor axe-throwing is to throw the axe harder.

"Women don't throw as hard," Rao said. "Often, you'll see a woman throwing and you'll think, 'That looked like it was moving in slow motion. How did it stick?' And then a guy will just throw harder and harder and harder..."

It doesn't work.

I went in thinking axe-throwing would be a great way to "blow off steam" and get my aggression out.

But I think it's closer to meditation, even though I've never meditated. Or closer to yoga, even though I've never yogaed.

I wanted to try yoga, but when the teacher saw me in tights, she said, "Why not try axe-throwing instead?"

She was right, as it turned out.

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Nightlife

469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club

Comedy • 1324 Minnich Road, New Haven • (260) 426-6339
EXPECT: Specializing in professional stand-up comedy every week, plus newbie comedy and pro-amateur showcases. Menu is pub style. **GETTING THERE:** Take I-469/U.S. 30 to Exit 19B. **HOURS:** Friday and Saturday 6:30 p.m. until 11 p.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

Bootleggers Saloon & Galley

Pub/Tavern • 2809 W. Main St., Fort Wayne • (260) 387-6307
EXPECT: Golden Tee, jukebox, 3 TVs, free WIFI, deck patio, motorcycle parking available. Daily food & drink specials: \$1 coneys & \$2.50 18 oz. domestics Sun.; 50¢ wings & \$3 pitchers Mon.; \$1 tacos & \$1.50 domestic longnecks Tues.; \$1 drafts & 1/2 price pizza Wed.; \$12 buckets & \$1 sliders Thurs.; \$4 pitchers & smoked BBQ ribs, tips & chicken specials Fri.; \$12 buckets Sat. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Jefferson and West Main Street, 2 minutes from downtown. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

C2G Music Hall

Music • 323 W. Baker St., Fort Wayne • (260) 426-6464
EXPECT: Great live music on one of Fort Wayne's best stages. Diverse musical genres from local, regional and national performers, all in a comfortable, all-ages, family-friendly, intimate atmosphere. Excellent venue for shows, events, presentations, meetings and gatherings. Food catered by local vendors during some shows. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on Baker between Ewing and Harrison, just south of Parkview Field. **HOURS:** Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors one hour earlier. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & wine during shows only. **PMT:** Cash, check

Corner Pocket Pub

Bar/Pool Hall • 3215 St. Joe Center Road, Fort Wayne • (260) 492-7665
EXPECT: Daily drink specials and daily food features. Twenty pool tables, \$1 per game or available to rent for \$10 per hour. Pool leagues Sunday through Thursday if you are interested in weekly competition. Free pool all day Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday, and Thursday after 11 p.m. (reserved for leagues from 6:30-9 p.m.) NFL Ticket on Sundays with plenty of TVs, with one big projector screen that is first come, first served for which game. **GETTING THERE:** Riviera Plaza, corner of St. Joe and St. Joe Center roads. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

Deer Park Pub

Eclectic • 1530 Leesburg Road, Fort Wayne • (260) 432-8966
EXPECT: Home to Dancioke, 12 craft beer lines, 75 domestic and imported beers, assorted wines, St. Pat's Parade, keg toss, Irish snug and USF students. Friday/Saturday live music, holiday specials. Outdoor beer garden. www.deerparkpub.com. Wi-Fi hotspot. Finger food, tacos every Tuesday. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Leesburg and Spring, across from USF. **HOURS:** 2 p.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Thurs., noon-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat., 1-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & Wine. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

Dreamers Hookah Lounge

Music/DJ Hookah Bar • 1407 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne • (260) 424-0442
EXPECT: Fort Wayne's only upscale hookah lounge with a full-service bar. Our hookah is all organic with no tobacco or nicotine. Light appetizers and a desert menu. Tuesday acoustic acts, Wednesday Underground DJ sets, Thursday Latin Night, Friday Live R&B/Jazz/Funk Acts followed by DJ Dance, Saturday DJ Dance Party. Dress code enforced. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Calhoun and Brackenridge next to Lincoln Life. **HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 4-11 p.m., Friday and Saturday 4 p.m.-3 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

Live Music & Comedy

LOCAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351
Struggle Jennings w/Brianna Har-ness, Nuke Bushner — Rap at Rockstar Lounge, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$35, (260) 444-2442

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Chris Worth — Variety at Country Heritage Winery, LaOtto, 6-9 p.m. Call for reservations, (260) 637-2980

Fireball Matinee — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063
Kelsey & Co. — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-10:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530
Pat Godwin w/Vikram Balaji — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

Fat Pockets Band — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Jess Flame Thrower — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351
Jon Durnell — Acoustic variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063
L The Alchemist, Illumi-Nation — Variety at The Muse on Main, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-midnight no cover, (260) 999-4108
Pat Godwin w/Vikram Balaji — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Local music, comedy to celebrate New Year

Despite all the craziness we have been dealt this year, the **Hubie Ashcraft Band** and **The Y's Guys** remained active throughout with an abundance of live performances. Both will be saying sayonara to 2020 with special New Year's Eve celebrations.

On Thursday, Dec. 31, Hubie and his cohorts will perform at Flashback Live beginning at 9 p.m. Come out for food and drink specials and some toe-tapping hits. Be sure to call ahead and reserve a table at (260) 422-5292.

The Y's Guys will hit the stage at Mitchell's Sports Bar around the same time. With their high-energy cover songs and juiced up sets, these cats bring the party.

NEW YEAR, NEW LAUGHS

If you would rather take in some laughs on New Year's Eve, The Fort Wayne Comedy Club at 1324 Minnich Road in New Haven has a special dual headline comedy bash lined up that evening.

In fact, there will be two shows, 7:15 p.m. and 10 p.m., both featuring Vince Morris (BET's *Comic View*, HBO's *Def Comedy Jam*, CBS' *Late Late Show*) and Dave Landau (Comedy Central's *Live at Gotham*, NBC's *Last Comic Standing*).

There will be party favors and a champagne toast included in your ticket price.

Tickets can be purchased via Fortwaynecomedyclub.com. Only 40 people are allowed in each show, so hit them up quick.



Out and About

NICK BRAUN

ANOTHER SUPER-MEGA-MAXI SINGLE

A couple of issues ago, I mentioned that local guitarist **Kellen Baker** has released a new three-song EP, *Super-Mega-Maxi Single #1*.

With so much positive feedback, Baker felt inclined to go another round. *Super-Mega-Maxi Single #2* just hit all major streaming sites and this time around consists of four healthy new tracks for your listening pleasure.

From start to finish, this is another stellar release by the talented Baker. My favorite is the closing track "Smell of the Mask," which is a catchy little number with a title that seems quite fitting these days.

GO BACK IN TIME WITH FORT WAYNE BANDS

Whether you are a local musician or an avid supporter, chances are you will enjoy a new Facebook page that revisits some of your favorite or memorable local bands.

RIP in peace Fort Wayne Bands is a platform where folks can share and remember past bands of our local scene that we enjoyed but have since been laid to rest. This new page allows you to dig up some of those bands that helped shape our music scene to what it is today.

Scroll through the page and you will see countless stories, photos, and music clips of bands of the past. Don't be surprised if you encounter "I remember that band" or "I used to go to that club" moments.

You might even find out what some of your old favorites are up to these days.

As of right now, the RIP in peace Fort Wayne Bands page has over 500 followers but is growing daily.

Out and About covers Northeast Indiana's most interesting music and arts events. Send your announcements to info@whatzup.com.

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Smooth Tuesdays — Soft rock at The
Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 6-9
p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

Chris Worth & Company — Variety at
American Legion Post 47, Fort Wayne,
8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 209-3960

Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra — Funk at
The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne,
8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Good Night Gracie — Variety at Mitch-
ell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort
Wayne, 8 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

Jon Shoulders — Acoustic rock at
Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 8-11 p.m. no
cover, (260) 563-0111

Kathie Dice and Ray Hensley — Comedy
at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy
Club, New Haven, 7:15 p.m. \$20-\$25,
(260) 426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

Smooth Tuesdays — Soft rock at The
Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 6-9
p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

Dave Landau and Vince Morris — Com-
edy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy
Club, New Haven, 7:15 p.m. \$35-\$40,
(260) 426-6339

The Y's Guys — Variety at Mitchell's
Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort
Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. free, (260)
387-5063

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

Charlie Wiener and Dave Landau —
Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne
Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m.
\$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

I Love Saturdays — Variety at The Club
Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11
p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

SEND US YOUR LOCAL LIVE MUSIC AND COMEDY EVENTS: whatzup.com/submit

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Bil Benden and Thaddaeus McKee —
Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne
Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m.
\$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

Anthony Gomes — Blues/rock at C2G
Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$20-\$40,
(260) 426-6434

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

Nathan Timmel — Comedy at 469
Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club,
New Haven, 8 p.m. \$20-\$25, (260)
426-6339

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

**At the Movies: Songs of the Silver
Screen w/Three Rivers Music
Theatre** — Variety at Embassy Theatre,
Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$20-\$30, (260)
424-5665

Nathan Timmel — Comedy at 469
Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club,
New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$25, (260)
426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**Mark Christopher Lawrence and Andy
Beningo** — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort
Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:45
p.m. \$20-\$25, (260) 426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Circa Survive w/Gouge Away — Indie
Rock at The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne,
7:30 p.m. \$25, (260) 747-0989

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Aaron Edwards Hall — Comedy at 469
Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club,
New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260)
426-6339

Grateful Groove — Variety at The Ruin,
Fort Wayne, 6 p.m.-3 a.m. no cover,
(260) 399-6336

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Katrina Brown — Comedy at 469
Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club,
New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$25, (260)
426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Ryan Niemiller — Comedy at Eagles
Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$20, (260)
563-1102

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Jeff Shaw — Comedy at 469 Comedy:
Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven,
9:15 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Phil Vassar — Country at Wagon Wheel
Theatre, Warsaw, 7:30 p.m. \$22-\$52,
(574) 267-8041

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Colt Ford — Rap at The Eclectic Room,
Angola, 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$295, (269)
625-8817

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Latch String Bar & Grill

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EXPECT: Fun, friendly, rustic atmosphere. Daily drink specials. Mondays, \$2.75 imports; Tuesdays, \$3 margaritas & \$1 tacos; Wednesdays, \$2.50 well drinks and 59¢ bone-in wings; Sundays, \$2.50 bloody Marys. Live bands Friday, Sunday, & Tuesday; open mic Wednesday; karaoke Monday, Thursday & Saturday. No cover. **GETTING THERE:** Where Clinton and Lima roads meet. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-12:30 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa

State Grill

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Outdoor sculpture lights up downtown

Our downtown and nearby areas have been beautified by the many murals and public art installations which have become typical of the Fort Wayne landscape in recent years.

This month something completely original debuted. It should be a destination for all who visit downtown.

The display 77 Steps can now be viewed in the alley between 113 and 127 W. Berry St. The title comes from how many steps to cross the alley, and it was designed by Kelty Tappy Design to feature hanging tubes which light the alley and provide a luminous backdrop to the area.

"This engaging new sculpture invites people into our downtown alley network to explore all the beautiful art our partners have worked hard to create and install," said Mayor Tom Henry in a press release. "I'm grateful for the dedication of the DID, Art This Way, the Public Art Commission, and so many individuals who are transforming our alleyways into a destination for everyone to enjoy."

"It is really exciting to see this project go from the initial stages of the design competition all the way to completion," said Nathan Walz, architectural intern for Kelty Tappy Design. "It certainly wouldn't have come together without great people and teams working in collaboration to get it done. The downtown area has seen renewed vitality in recent years, and I think this sculpture can contribute to that growth."

VIRTUAL HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

Many of our beloved holiday traditions have been set aside because of the realities of our COVID world. But the silver lining to that viral cloud are the many virtual



News and Venues

MICHELE DeVINNEY



PHOTO BY JOHN FELTS

Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry and Alexandra Hall of Art This Way explore the alley under the new 77 Steps sculpture.

events taking the place of those activities that allow us to celebrate from the comfort of our homes.

The Virtual Holiday Spectacular, hosted by broadcast and performing icon Terra Brantley, will be available for free streaming on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m. The evening features plenty of exciting entertainment including a performance by Fort Wayne sensation Addison Agen.

Although free to the public, the evening is supported by some generous donations and is a fundraiser for the Artist Relief Fund and Community Harvest Food Bank.

Some of the musicians most affected by the current situation will be featured during the Spectacular, so even as you enjoy the free entertainment, consider a donation to the Artist Relief Fund and/or Community Harvest Food Bank as a way to support those who provide so much to our community.

News and Venues covers Northeast Indiana's music and arts organizations, venues, and colleges, from large to small. Send your news items to info@whatzup.com.

Live Music & Comedy

LOCAL CALENDAR

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

Bee Gees Gold — Tribute at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$25, (260) 563-1102

Lauren Daigle w/Johnnyswim — Contemporary Christian at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$24-\$127, (260) 483-1111

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Bill Boronkay and Dan Brown — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Jonny Lang — R&B/blues at The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$37.50-\$175, (260) 747-0989

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

Pat Hazell — Comedy at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 2 p.m. \$20, (260) 563-1102

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

The Frontmen — Country at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, 8:30 p.m. \$38-\$58, (574) 267-8041

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Los Lobos w/The Summit — Variety at The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$39-\$59, (260) 747-0989

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Brian Culbertson — Jazz at The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$39.50-\$219.50, (260) 747-0989

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

MercyMe w/Mac Powell, Micah Tyler
— Contemporary Christian at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. TBA, (260) 483-1111

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

The Lettermen — Classic pop at T. Furth Center, Trine University, Angola, 7 p.m. \$25-\$45, (260) 665-4990

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Anthem Lights — Pop vocals at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, 7:30 p.m. \$28-\$50, (574) 267-8041

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

A Grand Time: Through the Years — Piano variety at Honeywell Center Ford Theater, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$8-\$15, (260) 563-1102

Celebrations — Pops concert at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, 7 p.m. \$10, (574) 267-8041

Davi Crimmins — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:45 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

Symphony of the Lakes: Celebrations — Pops concert at Winona Heritage Room, Warsaw, 7 p.m. \$10, (574) 267-8041

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Duke Tumatoe and the Power Trio — Variety at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$15, (260) 563-1102

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

85 United — Worship at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$10, (260) 563-1102

Theory of a Deadman — Rock at The Eclectic Room, Angola, 8 p.m. TBA, (269) 625-8817

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

38 Special — Classic rock at Honeywell Center Ford Theater, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$115, (260) 563-1102

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Ryan Stevenson — Christian contemporary at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$20, (260) 563-1102

THURSDAY, MAY 6

Three Dog Night — Rock at Honeywell Center Ford Theater, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$39-\$100, (260) 563-1102

FRIDAY, MAY 7

For King & Country — Contemporary Christian at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$200, (260) 482-9502

Ronnie Milsap — Country at Honeywell Center Ford Theater, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$34-\$100, (260) 563-1102

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy — Jazz/swing at Honeywell Center Ford Theater, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$29-\$100, (260) 563-1102

Crowder — Contemporary Christian at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, 8:30 p.m. \$45-\$70, (574) 267-8041

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, MAY 13

The Musical Box — Genesis tribute at The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$39-\$55, (260) 747-0989

FRIDAY, MAY 14

Dave Landau — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$25, (260) 426-6339

The Mersey Beatles — Tribute at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, 7:30 p.m. \$30-\$40, (574) 267-8041

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Daughtry — Rock at Honeywell Center Ford Theater, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$65-\$394, (260) 563-1102

Dave Landau — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, MAY 20

Bob Zany & Costaki Economopoulos — Comedy at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$15, (260) 563-1102

FRIDAY, MAY 21

Zach Williams w/We the Kingdom and Cain — Christian rock at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, 6 p.m. \$15-\$25, (260) 482-9502

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

Tower of Power w/Sweetwater All Stars — R&B/soul at Sweetwater Performance Pavilion, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$25-\$160, (260) 432-8176

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

Ted Vigil — John Denver tribute at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$15, (260) 563-1102

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Air Supply — Variety at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$39.50+, (260) 427-6715

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Atlanta Rhythm Section — Variety at T. Furth Center, Trine University, Angola, 8 p.m. \$25-\$40, (260) 665-4990

Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band — Blues rock at Sweetwater Performance Pavilion, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$29-\$65, (260) 432-8176

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

Rumours — Fleetwood Mac Tribute at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$28.50, (260) 427-6715

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers — Rock at The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$39-\$69, (260) 747-0989

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Hotel California — Eagles tribute at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$28.50, (260) 427-6715

Poco — Country rock at T. Furth Center, Trine University, Angola, 8 p.m. \$25-\$40, (260) 665-4990

FRIDAY, JULY 9

Building 429 — Contemporary Christian at T. Furth Center, Trine University, Angola, 8 p.m. \$15-\$35, (260) 665-4990

SATURDAY, JULY 10

Night Ranger — Rock at Honeywell Center Ford Theater, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$100, (260) 563-1102

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

FRIDAY, JULY 16

Kenny Cetera's Chicago Experience — Rock/pop at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$28.50, (260) 427-6715

SATURDAY, JULY 17

JoJo Siwa — Pop at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$39.50-\$69.50, (260) 483-1111

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, JULY 22

Styx — Pop rock at Sweetwater Performance Pavilion, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. , (260) 432-8176

SUNDAY, JULY 25

The Beach Boys — Variety at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$47.50, (260) 427-6715

FRIDAY, JULY 30

Whiskey Myers w/Bones Owens — Southern rock at Sweetwater Performance Pavilion, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$29.50-\$45, (260) 432-8176

SATURDAY, JULY 31

REO Speedwagon — Variety at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$39.50, (260) 427-6715

Warrant w/Eric Martin of Mr. Big and P.J. Farley of Trixter — Glam rock at Sweetwater Performance Pavilion, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$29-\$59, (260) 432-8176

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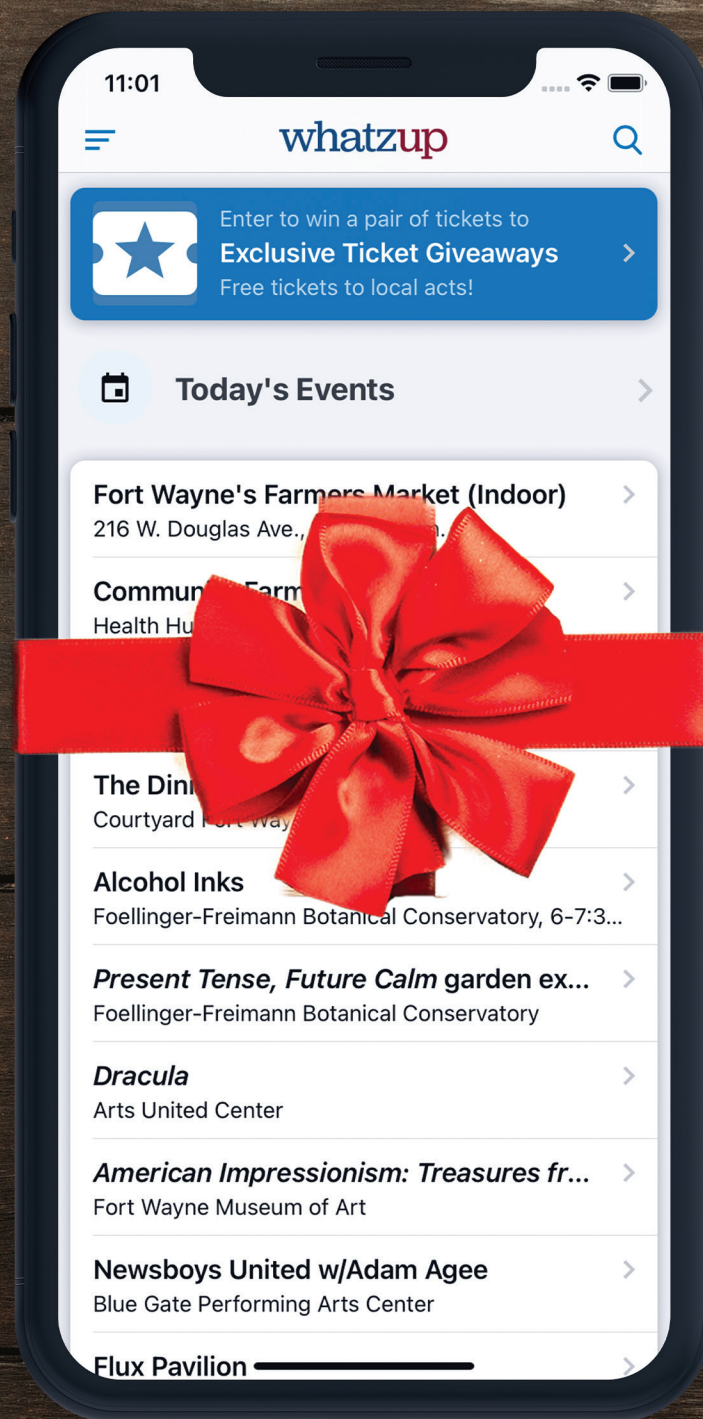
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THE Great Eight OF 2020

BY MICHELE DeVINNEY
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

PHOTOS BY TYLER ROSS

This third annual installment of the *Whatzup* Great Eight could very well be called “the very special COVID edition.”

This selection of people contributed greatly to our community during the last 12 months.

In truth, all of these individuals have been contributing their unique talents and insights for years. But with the added challenges of the lockdown and the ways that it individually undermined programming and business plans, these individuals used some creativity to keep the arts in our community alive since March.

While these challenges continue to loom — with no one quite sure what the next few months will hold — we have many reasons to thank these eight special individuals for giving us plenty to celebrate in 2020.

Ben Jackson and Paris McFarthing

Co-Founders, Hop River Brewing Company

Often, people either opt to spend their entire lives in Fort Wayne or leave only to return.

That can definitely be said of Hop River Brewing Co. co-owners Ben Jackson and Paris McFarthing.

While McFarthing is a native and lifelong resident of Fort Wayne, Jackson was born in upstate New York, eventually settling (for the most part) in Washington, D.C., for law school and beyond. However, his wife was from Fort Wayne which brought him to the area regularly.

It was during those visits that he was encouraged to meet with McFarthing. McFarthing, owner of Phil's Hobby Shop, had become a fan of home brewing, something which Jackson was also doing at his home in D.C.

Together, they formed a friendship that eventually became a business model.

“We were independently thinking about this idea of opening a brewery,” Jackson said. “He had a group of folks he was talking to, and we were talking about what might work and how it might work. Finally we decided to combine forces. We were talking long distance daily before we decided to pull the trigger.”

Jackson and his family moved to Fort Wayne, and soon he and McFarthing had a clear concept of what they wanted their business to accomplish beyond the mere selling of beer.

“We knew we wanted to build and create a community, and that was reflected in every decision we made,” said McFarthing. “A lot happened here through community, and we wanted to be part of that and create a very communal space. We had a



lot of ideas because anyone can show up and drink a beer, but we wanted there to be a sense of community for everyone who came here.”

To that end, Hop River offered large tables and benches, board games, and counter service. They also made the unusual decision to have no televisions for people to watch, hoping that people, forced to sit together at communal tables, would talk to each other and share a sense of engagement with others who came to enjoy some food and brew.

That of course came to a quick end after the shutdown when

reopening required distancing that flew in the face of their other plans.

But as social media reports began to spread, Fort Wayne was delighted by the changes made to Hop River, including smaller tables, table service, and mask requirements.

The adjustment wasn't easy but was necessary.

“It was a tough one because our original plan was to have only counter service,” McFarthing said. “We had to decide how to interact differently because of the protocols while still providing a good experience.”

“We had worked at building a community with open space, communal seating, board games,” Jackson said. “Suddenly none of those things were allowed anymore, and we had to think about how to keep that sense of community while keeping everyone apart.”

Their sense of community was apparent long before COVID restrictions challenged them and went beyond the use of communal seating.

Hop River routinely hosted public meetings about various public art projects, and they served as a distributor for fellow brewers Junk Ditch when the latter offered a fundraising ale for Hyper Local Impact.

Jackson and McFarthing credit marketing director M.C. Lowenstein with the help they've needed to connect them to Fort Wayne's community.

As they continue to navigate the challenges of COVID restrictions, they hope they will eventually be able to return to a less restrictive format in their brewery.

“No one wants to be a hot spot,” Jackson said. “I don't want our staff to feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Obviously we want to make money but not at the expense of someone getting sick. We hope we can get back on track and use the patio more this spring. Our goal right now is to stay safe, keep our staff and customers safe, and keep our business alive.”



Susan Domer

*Marketing and Public Relations Specialist,
College of Visual and Performing Arts,
Purdue Fort Wayne*

Susan Domer juggles two very different roles in the Fort Wayne arts community. On the one hand, she's sometimes visible, flexing her acting chops in a variety of performances over the years. On the other hand, she mostly works behind the scenes, promoting, propelling, and advocating for the artistic endeavors of the Purdue Fort Wayne College of Visual and Performing Arts.

In 2020 she excelled at both. She tackled one of theater's most challenging roles while keeping PFW programs at the fore during a pandemic that threatened the mission of the college.

As Big Mama in the First Presbyterian Theater production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Domer was in one of the last productions to fulfill its performance dates to the end, wrapping in early March.

these customers and no student workers to do all of the jobs I give them like updating the calendar and getting things out. I kept my door closed more, and my office became a little workshop. One thing we've had open all along is our gallery in the Visual Arts building. Masks are required, but we're open and have some really exceptional work to show."

For faculty and staff of the College of Visual and Performing Arts and their satellite campus at Sweetwater, the first priority is to move the students toward their requirements for graduation.

But there is also a need to provide opportunities for those students to share their talents. As the professors found ways to share those works — through livestreaming or radio-style productions — Domer continues to get the word out so the community can enjoy.

"I really just see myself as a facilitator for all of the great work the faculty and students are doing. I'm always happy and excited to do what I can to help them."

"I certainly appreciate now every student worker I've ever had," she said. "I suddenly became a one-woman ad agency and had all of



Todd Espeland

Executive Director, Fort Wayne Youtheatre

When Todd Espeland came to Fort Wayne Youtheatre more than two years ago, assuming the role of executive director from the retiring Leslie Hormann, he left a busy gig as executive director of the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, where more than 20 plays were staged annually.

He left a staff of about 40 to helm a staff of three at Youtheatre. But Espeland brought a unique set of skills to the role, including knowing how to use masks because of his studies with Commedia Dell'Arte and his own troupe Commedia Zuppa.

He and assistant director Christopher Murphy positioned Youtheatre quickly to prepare for COVID.

"We started thinking about COVID in early February," Espeland said. "We took the approach early that we needed to decide what we were going to do if an order to shelter in place became

a reality. We met with the executive committee at the end of February, and by the time the shelter order happened, we already had a plan in place."

Unlike many organizations which had already announced and printed brochures for the 2020-21 season, Fort Wayne Youtheatre held back, leaving themselves the flexibility to pivot if needed.

And it has definitely been needed. Youtheatre had performances to consider as well as classes which provide a significant portion of their mission.

In March they canceled everything through August, but then began offering programming through their social media outlets, such as Facebook classes every Thursday. With a variety of educational content, Youtheatre began to consider how to safely offer classes in the fall.

"We started to approach the idea of having live classes again and began testing with our summer camps," Espeland said of Youtheatre's plans for masks, social distancing, and best practices for offering a safe environment for everyone. "I feel

like we got the instruction protocols figured out pretty quickly. Then the students figured out what we were doing, and I was happy we had as many students as we did this fall."

With the spring semester set for March through May instead of January through March, Youtheatre is again giving itself the best shot at maintaining a full class schedule for the year.

They have also adapted their performances according to restrictions, even when that meant postponing their planned holiday production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* at the Embassy Theatre to the spring.

"We were able to do our fall show by staging it outdoors, both on the plaza of Arts United Center and at the James Family Plaza in Auburn. We're planning for small audiences at the ArtsLab for our Young Heroes of Conscience performance, and we can do our spring production in May outdoors. I'm glad we planned as early as we did and feel like we predicted correctly so that we were able to accommodate the changes along the way."



Susan Mendenhall

President, Arts United

For the umbrella organization which oversees many of the area's arts organizations, the shutdown meant looking to see what protections and support it could offer to companies and theaters which rely on ticket sales and performances.

In communications with others around the country, Susan Mendenhall, president of Arts United, had a keen insight into what was ahead.

"We were all being told at the beginning that we were looking at 18 to 24 months before things would get back to normal, and I think we're seeing that it's going to be 18 months," Mendenhall said. "As we started to see the plan — and the initial plan was Hunker Down Hoosiers before we had the Back on Track plan — we met with the Allen County Board of Health and talked with our board members about the disruption from the pandemic. There are a lot of entities that are

interdependent — the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and the Arts United Center, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and the Embassy Theatre, for example — and we had created an ecosystem planning for those connections and bringing together all of the cohorts."

Some of those organizations and interdependencies have worked better than others. The Civic Theatre moved their early performances to the Foellinger Theatre and their recent production of *Annie* to the Embassy.

The Philharmonic has furloughed their musicians and has canceled their season, and Fort Wayne Ballet had to cancel its live performances of *The Nutcracker* for the first time. But Arts United has continued to find ways to help their organizations to stay afloat and do what is possible under constantly changing guidelines.

"We have 32 venues and organizations to look at," Mendenhall said. "We have to ask, 'How do we follow health and safety protocols and still offer youth programming, keep our box office open,

make it safe backstage?"

"We're working with the Arts and Culture Reopening Guide, which is very labor intensive. We're very lucky to have people like Miriam Morgan, Luke Holliger, and Brian Ernsberger who have done a great job making sure we know what's required with regard to masks, janitorial procedure, and everything else we need to know to open the venues safely."

Before the recent spate of added restrictions, Fort Wayne was ahead of many cities in reopening. Fort Wayne Museum of Art is one of the few major museums in the country to have reopened, and several performances were held at local venues in the late summer and early fall. Arts United also received grants which allowed them to assist organizations who needed monies to stay on track with their own programming, in whatever form that took this year. As they look ahead into 2021, there are still many unknowns, but Arts United is working to assure that our vibrant arts community survives this crisis.



Tod Minnich

President/CEO, Honeywell Foundation

When the world stopped and shelter in place orders took hold, life as we knew it changed dramatically.

This was certainly the case for venues with a year's worth of programming thrown into chaos and venue staffs scrambling for alternatives that would adhere to strict guidelines.

The Honeywell Foundation, which manages multiple venues in Wabash, set about to find ways to rescue the year.

"After all of the renovations we had done to the Eagles Theatre, we were two and a half weeks into our reopening celebration," said Tod Minnich, CEO and President of the Honeywell Foundation. "We had a lot of programming planned, and the Indiana Arts Commission was in town for a meeting when we were watching the news and saw that things were going to shutdown."

Minnich admitted that the staff was already stretched thin and exhausted from all of the activities, both typical and tied to the grand reopening, when they were asked to begin making plans for alternative programming through the summer and beyond.

"How could we plan for reopening when there was no plan for when that would happen?" Minnich said. "There was disappointment coupled with the unknown, but our team did a great job of navigating. The reopening had already been a huge success, and we were just starting to enjoy that. But we saw the downtime as a chance to recover and plan."

One venue which saw renewed vitality was the 13-24 Drive-In, a spot that is routinely used each summer for a popular movie series. But the folks at the Honeywell also saw that a drive-in allowed for built-in distancing and began scheduling concerts there as well.

"We moved the plaza music shows to the drive-in and brought in some national acts, too,"

Minnich said. "The team did a great job adapting our other summer programming. We provided virtual art classes from the studio at the Eagles Theatre. We offered a Zoom environment for our theater camp, and they were able to perform on Zoom individually on the stage. Our Wabash camp also became virtual.

"There were a lot of ways that we were able to creatively address the problem, and we're already looking at how we can apply those to future programming to allow us to be engaged with all of the schools during the year. Even our restaurant operation switched to Take and Bake dinners."

Like others which have successfully navigated the oddities of 2020, the Honeywell Foundation took the inherent talents of its staff to bring the arts to life in some very trying conditions.

"We didn't plan on any sense of normalcy at all," Minnich said. "We're continuing to look at ways to adapt until spring or even summer, leaving ourselves every chance to pivot and switch to virtual programming when we need it."



Alicia Pyle

Performer/music educator

For Alicia Pyle, performance isn't her main occupation. But as an educator and busy member of Fort Wayne's music community, she understands that to succeed as a teacher she must remain sharp as a performer.

At the same time, she also enjoys helping others in the community find opportunities to perform. When COVID-19 caused the jobs for local musicians to suddenly evaporate, Pyle saw an opportunity to step up and help her friends in a time of need.

For Pyle, it's just part of her own approach to a career in music.

"I was the first musician in my family though we did own Pyle Industries in Huntington which sold car stereos and sound systems," Pyle said. "I came from a background of sound, but nobody played anything. But my mom wanted me to play

because she loved Liberace, and I was always a good ear player."

Trained in classical music, Pyle began to tire of the structure and soon became attracted to jazz and improv, giving credit to local musicians like Eric Clancy and Michael Patterson for helping her find her own voice in the genre.

Yet Pyle said she sees herself as more business-minded, not surprising considering her family background. When a chance to give back to the musicians in the community presented itself, she took it.

"I saw a chance to hold a birthday fundraiser on Facebook just a few days before the shutdown," Pyle said. "We have a lot of local freelance musicians in this city, and they had just lost all of their gigs. It was a happy accident really. As much as social media can divide us, it can also bring us together. We had a lot of musicians collaborating so that people could contribute to the fundraiser. And it wasn't Alicia's fundraiser. It was for everybody."

Pyle continues to teach virtually and has otherwise avoided any outing except for her night at the Club Room at the Clyde, where she hosts Wednesday Jazz Sessions every week. The Club Room had recently made some changes, planned pre-pandemic, which allowed for more room and a greater feeling of safety.

Things seemed on the verge of improving before more COVID cases led to another wave of restrictions. Seeing the need, Pyle decided to renew her efforts with a Fort Wayne Freelance Musician Fundraiser Reboot, an effort which has already seen live streaming performances to raise money for area musicians once again sidelined by the virus. Pyle is happy to help her fellow performers get through this rough patch.

"I'm an educator, and I can do everything online," Pyle said. "But the musicians in this city want to play, and a lot of people in my life depend on that for a living. I'll be happy if we can get something going again to help people who need this money to pay their bills."



Tracy Tritz

Ballet Mistress/Director of Outreach/Choreographer, Fort Wayne Ballet

In her years as faculty, dancer, and choreographer, Tracy Tritz has shared with our community her love of dance, her talent and vision as an artist, and her dedication to Fort Wayne's premiere ballet company.

In recent years, with a dedicated approach to choreography as ballet mistress and director of outreach for Fort Wayne Ballet, she has brought dynamic performances such as *Bolero* to the Arts United Center stage. She also contributed one of the most moving performances of last year's *Violins of Hope*, making the Allen County Courthouse rotunda a space of reverence and beauty.

But it was with this year's production of *Dracula*, a Fort Wayne Ballet original and world premiere, that she truly established herself as one of the city's greatest talents.

With last fall's debut of three scenes from *Dracula*, not to mention that *Violins of Hope* performance, Tritz was foreshadowing what she had in store for 2020.

"It was such an honor to be asked to do *Violins of Hope*," Tritz said. "I knew right off the bat that I wanted to honor the Jewish faith and Jewish symbols, and I had a picture in my mind of the six women kneeling to form the Star of David. I really concentrated on what it would be like to be in that position, to not know what was going to happen but to know it was when not if. I wanted to honor the number of people lost and juxtaposition that with angelic images."

By the beginning of the year Tritz had done a deep dive into the original Bram Stoker vision of *Dracula*, avoiding the cliched Hollywood portrayals.

Her choreography was moving along and set for rehearsals with dancers when COVID shut down the ballet and almost everything else in the city, providing her with more time to focus

on the choreography at hand. The project not only represented her first full-length production but allowed her to apply what she'd been doing with *Bolero* and *Violins of Hope* — making music selections and costume, set, and lighting design a big part of her artistic process.

Almost two years after being asked by Fort Wayne Ballet artistic director Karen Gibbons-Brown to choreograph *Dracula*, it was the final performance of the weekend which allowed her to actually enjoy what she'd accomplished.

"Our first three days in the theater, it was hard to really appreciate what was happening," she said. "It was a very tech-heavy production with a lot of audio-video aspects and the restrictions due to COVID. I was on a headset for those earlier performances, but it was at midnight at the Saturday show that I was able to sit back and say, 'Holy crap, I did this.' I was in my car at 1:30 in the morning when it really became overwhelming for me. It was a proud moment for me, and I feel like I really took a big step."

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

KING GIZZARD & THE
LIZARD WIZARD
K.G.

These songs were composed and recorded remotely after the six band members retreated to their homes around Melbourne. K.G. is a pure distillation of the King Gizzard sound that cherry picks the best aspects of previous albums and contorts them into new shapes via non-western rock scales. Available at Wooden Nickel and Neat Neat Neat.

TOP SELLERS

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 13, 2020

TW LW ARTIST/Album

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | AC/DC
Power Up |
| 2 | 4 | JOE BONAMASSA
Royal Tea |
| 3 | - | STURGILL SIMPSON
Cuttin' Grass |
| 4 | 5 | CHRIS STAPLETON
Starting Over |
| 5 | - | THE KILLERS
Imploding the Mirage |
| 6 | 6 | KING GIZZARD & THE
LIZARD WIZARD
K.G. |
| 7 | 2 | KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD
Straight to You: Live |
| 8 | 3 | SMASHING PUMPKINS
CYR |
| 9 | - | MUMFORD & SONS
Delta Tour EP |
| 10 | - | PUSCIFER
Existential Reckoning |

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Dolly Parton

A Holly Dolly
Christmas

In a year when Dolly Parton has emerged as a rare voice of peace and harmony, it seems inevitable that Dolly's Christmas album would be a sentimental confection, a gift meant to serve as a warm beacon in a dark winter.

A *Holly Dolly Christmas* is that, an album that sounds like the soundtrack from a '70s celebrity Christmas special in which special guests croon duets while perched on cheesy set pieces. Given that Dolly's actual 2020 TV special of the same name had a pandemic-induced lack of guests, the album's homey celebration is even more welcome.

The album is short on Christmas standards. Versions of "Holly Jolly Christmas" and "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" are as classic as it gets, along with a duet with Willie Nelson on his 1963 "Pretty Paper." Other covers, "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and "Mary, Did You Know?" are of much newer vintage.

What's more important are the guest appearances, Dolly's folksy chattiness, and a general feeling of coziness. Michael Buble, Jimmy Fallon, and Miley Cyrus and her dad, Billy Ray, stop by. Although you can't see it, you've got to hope they were wearing Christmas sweaters while they were in the recording studio. Dolly turns up the twang on original songs like "Christmas on the Square" and "Comin' Home for Christmas," portraits of the American holiday that feel significantly less real than Christmas in Jimmy Stewart's Bedford Falls.

But in 2020, we definitely don't need real. We'd benefit much more from a bit of heartwarming Christmas fantasy, and *A Holly Dolly Christmas* is nothing but that. — Evan Gillespie

The Bird and
the Bee

Put Up the Lights



Inara "Bird" George and Greg "Bee" Kurstin have made a career out of smooth, jazzy pop records that are sublime, serene, and just this side of cosmically joyful. Imagine Stevie Wonder, The Cardigans, and Broadcast coming together, drinking one too many martinis, and reimagining Frank Sinatra as a space-traveling alien performer.

We now have a Christmas album from The Bird and the Bee. *Put Up the Lights* is a collection of Christmas songs given The Bird and the Bee treatment. The result is one of the most unique Christmas albums you'll likely hear this year.

George and Kurstin sound like a pocket-size ABBA with a compact world of airtight vocals and exquisitely produced warm and cozy songs. "Little Drummer Boy" lays the ABBA vibes on thick,

with guest drumming courtesy of Dave Grohl. George's voice is warm and inviting.

The Vince Guaraldi Trio's "Christmas Time Is Here" seems made just for George and Kurstin. Its jazz chords and laid-back vibe seems to be the perfect vehicle for The Bird and the Bee to show off their chops. "Hallelujah Chorus" shines like a beacon in the night with grandiose vocals and Kurstin's big production values. "Sleigh Ride" brings to mind vocal bands like The Andrew Sisters and The Lennon Sisters.

There are two originals here, "You and I at Christmas Time" and "Merry Merry." "Merry Merry" is my favorite of the two, with a great dance beat, catchy piano riffs, and George' exquisite vocals. There's a real '70s vibe here.

Put Up the Lights is one of those Christmas albums you just fall into with a warmth and otherworldly feel to the it overall, as if you were dreaming it all on Christmas Eve slouched next to a plate of cookies and a glass of milk.

The Bird and the Bee has given us something new for the Christmas album rotation. — J. Hubner

Delicate Steve

The Christmas
Album

Delicate Steve (aka Steve Marion) is one of the best young guitarists working today. A eloquent mix of Ry Cooder, Santos and Johnny, and George Harrison, Delicate Steve makes his guitar sing in place of his voice, creating an often engaging and haunting sound.

On *The Christmas Album*, the standards are covered in a bluesy, country fashion. Marion's guitar takes on a pedal steel feel. It's the Christmas album you didn't know you needed.

Delicate Steve gives each song its own mood. "O Little Town of Bethlehem" has an almost soul vibe, complete with big horns, Duane Allman-like slide guitar, some tasteful electric piano, and just the right amount of Philly groove to get grandma shuffling in the kitchen. "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" sounds like Phil Spector producing Dr. Dog, all the while the guitar carrying us along for the ride.

"Silent Night" was always a favorite of mine ever since being a little kid and hearing my uncles playing and singing it at family get-togethers on Christmas Eve. Delicate Steve gives it just the right amount of melancholy in the bittersweet slide, while Hammond B-3 organ brings the song into The Band territory.

Elsewhere, "Silver Bells" has some old school country flavor while "The First Noel" sways like classic Bonnie Raitt. Of course, what Christmas album would be complete without "Frosty The Snowman"? Delicate Steve gets a little more rocking for our favorite snowman with bright, buzzing electric guitar and a big drum sound. It's a different vibe from what came before, as if "Frosty The Snowman" somehow morphed with the Beatles' "Tomorrow Never Knows."

With Christmas music, occasionally it's nice to

Backtracks CLASSIC ALBUMS

Various artists

Christmas rock songs

Christmas is approaching, and we can finally put the ridiculousness of 2020 behind us. Although most of the music produced recently is just covers of the classics, I do still appreciate some of the Christian standards.

But rock artists have also carved their initials on the tree. So here are some of my favorite songs, both familiar and obscure.

10. "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," Bruce Springsteen (1975): The Boss nails this version of the 1934 gem which includes a frosty sax arrangement from the late Clarence Clemons.

9. "2000 Miles," The Pretenders (1983): Gorgeous vocals from Chrissie Hynde in front of Robbie McIntosh's pronounced guitar; accompanied by a wonderful video as well.

8. "Run Rudolph Run," Chuck Berry (1959): Actually co-written by the guy who wrote the original Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer song. Hail, Hail Chuck Berry.

7. "Father Christmas," Kinks (1977): Sort of an anti-Christmas song, the lyrics are definitely post-punk.

6. "Little Saint Nick," Beach Boys (1964): Two minutes of Mike Love and his golden voice. Hit the beach and go surfing for Christmas.

5. "Wonderful Christmastime," Paul McCartney (1979): Although not his best work, it still shines during the season.

4. "Happy Xmas (War is Over)," John Lennon (1971): Phil Spector added exquisite backing vocal harmonies from the Harlem Community Choir in NYC: 30 kids from the ages of 5-12.

3. "Christmas Eve/Sarajevo," Trans-Siberian Orchestra (1996): Bombastic with a heavy dose of progressive rock, this is a Christmas jam from the band that wrote the book.

2. "Christmas Wrapping," The Waitresses (1981): Forgetting the cranberries, cooking the world's smallest turkey, and then hooking up? This was probably the first new-wave Christmas song ever written.

1. "I Believe in Father Christmas," Greg Lake (1975): Simply beautiful, it is more about the reason, not the season. Just a timeless piece of music, no matter what you celebrate. — Dennis Donahue

divert from the normal chorale versions and hear a unique interpretation of those standards. There have been some amazing rock-centric Christmas albums over the years from Squirrel Nut Zippers, SuFjan Stevens, The Flaming Lips, and Andrew Bird, to name just a few.

You can add Delicate Steve's *The Christmas Album* to that list of great Christmas records. — J. Hubner

Local bands: Send two copies of new CD releases to Whatzup, 5501 U.S. Hwy 30 West, Fort Wayne, IN 46818. Or send links to downloadable files to jon@whatzup.com. Also email any bio information, publicity photos, and cover art. Only professionally produced CDs or EPs are accepted. Submitted materials cannot be returned.

Finding ways to celebrate New Year's Eve in 2020

Like many of you, one of my favorite cities to visit is Chicago. My general dislike of their sports teams does little to dampen my enthusiasm for the Windy City, especially when I have visited to celebrate the end of a year and the beginning of a new one.

We all know that the New Year's Eve celebrations are going to look a lot different this year, but that doesn't mean there isn't anything to do at all.



Road Notes
CHRIS HUPE

SEATGEEK STADIUM

Julian's New Year's Eve House Party at the Drive-In takes place at SeatGeek Stadium in Bridgeview. Organizers of the event invite you to "dance inside your car" during the event, whatever that means, as you enjoy a long list of DJs and performers including freestyle producer **Stevie B**, singer **Angel Clivillés**, and **Lamar "Hula" Mahone** of the Chicago hip-house duo the **Outhere Brothers**.

Food and drink will be available at concessions stands throughout the event, though you'll be required to wear a mask while outside of your vehicle and maintain social distancing, but you already knew that part.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

On the Road NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

Confirm with the venue about any event you plan to attend.

38 Special	Apr. 30 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
5 Seconds of Summer	June 6 '21	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
5 Seconds of Summer	June 16 '21	White River State Park	Indianapolis
5 Seconds of Summer	June 18 '21	Huntington Bank Pavilion	Chicago
Aaron Edwards Hall	Feb. 13 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Aaron Lewis	Apr. 17 '21	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Acid Mothers Temple, The Melting Paraiso U.F.O	Feb. 26 '21	Subterranean	Chicago
Agnostic Front, Sick Of It All, Crown of Thornz	Apr. 25 '21	Subterranean	Chicago
Air Supply	June 11 '21	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
The Airborne Toxic Event	Mar. 11 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
AJJ	Mar. 21 '21	The Shelter	Detroit
Alabama	Apr. 7 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Alabama	Apr. 8 '21	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Alan Jackson	July 10 '21	Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse	Cleveland
Albert Cummings	Apr. 3 '21	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Align	May 13 '21	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Amy Grant	Sept. 18 '21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Andy Woodhull	Dec. 18 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Anthem Lights	Apr. 16 '21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Anthem Lights	May 7 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Anthony Gomes	Jan. 16 '21	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Aries Spears	Jan. 28-30 '21	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Artie Lange	Feb. 12 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Asleep at the Wheel	Mar. 5 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Atlanta Rhythm Section	June 12 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Backstreet Boys	July 22 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Backstreet Boys	July 27 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Backstreet Boys	July 30 '21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Backstreet Boys	July 31 '21	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Banda MS	Apr. 30-May 1 '21	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Barenaked Ladies w/Gin Blossoms, Toad the Wet Sprocket	June 28 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Barenaked Ladies	July 2 '21	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Barenaked Ladies	July 3 '21	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Barenaked Ladies	July 4 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Barenaked Ladies	July 20 '21	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy	May 8 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Bil Benden and Thaddaeus McKee	Jan. 9 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Bill Boronkay and Dan Brown	Mar. 13 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Billy Joel	June 26 '21	Notre Dame Stadium	South Bend
Billy Joel	July 9 '21	Comerica Park	Detroit
The Black Crowes	July 29 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
The Black Crowes	Aug. 1 '21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
The Black Crowes	Aug. 3 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Black Stone Cherry	Apr. 24 '21	Eclectic Room	Angola
Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 17 '21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 18 '21	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 29 '21	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 30 '21	White River State Park	Indianapolis

Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 31 '21	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Blackhawk	May 1 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Bob Zany & Costaki Economopoulos	May 20 '21	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Boney James	Oct. 7 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Brian Culbertson	Apr. 7 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers	June 16 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Building 429	July 9 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Carol Burnett	May 26 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Celtic Woman	Apr. 2 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Celtic Woman	Apr. 8 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Celtic Woman	Apr. 17 '21	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Charlie Wiener and Dave Landau	Jan. 2 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Chicago	May 23 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Chicago	July 23 '21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Chicago	Aug. 1 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Chicago and Rick Springfield	July 25 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Chicano Batman	June 11 '21	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Chris Janson	May 8 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Chris Stapleton	July 17 '21	Wrigley Field	Chicago
Chris Tucker	Mar. 13 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Circa Survive	Jan. 14 '21	House of Blues	Cleveland
Circa Survive	Jan. 16 '21	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Circa Survive w/Gouge Away	Feb. 7 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Circa Survive	Mar. 2 '21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Cody Ko & Noel Miller	July 17 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Cody Ko & Noel Miller	July 18 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Colin Hay	Mar. 27 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Colt Ford	Mar. 6 '21	Eclectic Room	Angola
Crowder	May 8 '21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
The Cybertron Spree	Mar. 8 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Dabin	Feb. 13 '21	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Dan Mangan	Jan. 23 '21	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Dance Gavin Dance	Apr. 8 '21	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Dance Gavin Dance	Apr. 10 '21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Dance Gavin Dance	Apr. 12 '21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Daughtry	May 15 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Dave Landau and Vince Morris	Dec. 31 '20	469 Comedy	New Haven
Dave Landau	May 14-15 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Dave Matthews Band	June 15 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Dave Matthews Band	June 16 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Dave Matthews Band	June 18-19 '21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Dave Matthews Band	June 22 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Dave Matthews Band	June 29 '21	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Dave Matthews Band	July 2-3 '21	Huntington Bank Pavilion	Chicago
Davi Crimmins	Apr. 17 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
David Foster	Jan. 21 '21	The Palladium	Carmel
David Gray	July 17 '21	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
David Gray	July 19 '21	Huntington Bank Pavilion	Chicago
Dead Can Dance	Apr. 27 '21	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Dead Can Dance	Apr. 28 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Delta Spirit	May 2 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago



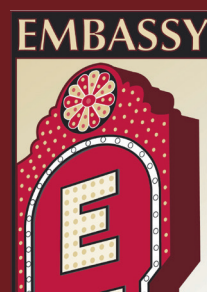
COOKIES AND COCOA WITH SANTA - \$20

Join us for an hour with Santa! in addition to cookies and cocoa, hear a story and take a socially distanced photo with Santa. Masks are required except when seated at your family unit table and eating and drinking. **Dec. 18, 19, and 20**

WINTER NIGHTS WITH SANTA - \$30

Come to the Embassy for two hours of Santa programming including story time, food, and a performance by the Fort Wayne Youtheatre, "Best of Youtheatre Christmases." Masks are required except when seated at your family unit table and eating and drinking. **Dec. 23**

The Embassy Theatre is following board of health guidelines for patrons, staff, volunteers and performers.



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On the Road

NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

Dennis DeYoung	Feb. 19 '22	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Deon Cole	May 29 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Dermot Kennedy	July 31 '21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
The Dip	Mar. 25 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Disturbed w/Staind, Bad Wolves	July 12 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Disturbed w/Staind, Bad Wolves	July 13 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Disturbed w/Staind, Bad Wolves	July 18 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
DragonForce	Mar. 19 '21	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
DragonForce	Mar. 21 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
The Driver Era	Feb. 16 '21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
The Driver Era	Feb. 19 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
DSL	Aug. 29 '21	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Duke Tumatoo and the Power Trio	Apr. 22 '21	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Eric Martin and P.J. Farley	July 30 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
The Fab Four	Aug. 29 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Flora Cash	June 18 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
For King & Country	May 7 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
The Format	July 23-25 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Fuzz	Feb. 4 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Fuzz	Feb. 5 '21	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Gaither Vocal Band	June 10 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Gary Allan	May 15 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Get the Led Out	Mar. 6 '21	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Gladys Knight	May 21 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Gladys Knight	Aug. 21 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
The Glenn Miller Orchestra	Aug. 31 '21	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Gordon Lightfoot	Mar. 8-9 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Gordon Lightfoot	May 14 '21	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Grand Funk Railroad	May 1 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Greer	May 8 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Gregory Porter	Feb. 16 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Gregory Porter w/Ledisi	Feb. 17 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Guns N' Roses	July 18 '21	Lucas Oil Stadium	Indianapolis
Guns N' Roses	July 21 '21	Wrigley Field	Chicago
Guns N' Roses	July 24 '21	Comerica Park	Detroit
Halsey	June 23 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Halsey	June 25 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Halsey	June 26 '21	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Heather McManhan	Jan. 20 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
James Taylor w/Jackson Browne	June 9 '21	United Center	Chicago
James Taylor	June 11 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
James Taylor w/Jackson Browne	June 12 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
James Taylor w/Jackson Browne	June 14 '21	Nutter Center	Dayton
Jamey Johnson w/Whiskey Myers	June 25 '21	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Jamey Johnson	June 26 '21	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Jay Leno	Apr. 22 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Jeanne Robertson	June 9 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Jeanne Robertson	Sept. 16 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Jeff Dunham	July 7 '21	Nutter Center	Dayton
Jeff Foxworthy	June 5 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Jeff Shaw	Feb. 27 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Jess Hilarious	Feb. 19-20 '21	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Jim Stafford	May 28-29 '21	Blue Gate Music Hall	Shipshewana
Jimmy Buffett	July 10 '21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Jimmy Buffett	July 13 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Jo Koy	Apr. 3 '21	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Jo Koy	Apr. 8-10 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Joe Satriani	Oct. 15 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Jolo	May 10 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Jolo Siwa	July 16 '21	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Jolo Siwa	July 17 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Jolo Siwa	July 18 '21	Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse	Cleveland
Jonny Lang	Mar. 14 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Josh Turner	June 4 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Joywave	June 16 '21	Subterranean	Chicago
Justin Bieber	June 22-23 '21	United Center	Chicago
Justin Bieber	June 25 '21	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Justin Bieber	June 28 '21	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Justin Bieber	June 29 '21	Schottenstein Center	Columbus, OH

Road Notes

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

THE DRAKE HOTEL

Head downtown to enjoy dinner packages from restaurants like Gibson's, Tavern on Rush, Le Colonial, and Avli that are being offered in conjunction with "New Year's Eve from The Drake."

Instead of taking over several ballrooms in the hotel like it would in any other year, Drake Hotel's annual New Year's Eve party is a virtual affair that will raise money for homelessness, suicide prevention, and childhood cancer charities.

The streaming event will feature sets from **DJ Jem** and **DJ Sye Young**. Get a room, eat some great food, and stream this event from the safety of a hotel.

UP IN LIGHTS

There are still a few tickets left for some of Chicago's most brilliant light shows that will help set the mood for a new year.

This year's socially distant spectacles include "Illumination: Tree Lights" at the Morton Arboretum and a drive-through at Brookfield Zoo offering a fabulous light show that rivals The City of Chicago Christmas Tree in Millennium Park and the Drive Thru Light Show in North Brook.

GOOD FOR SOME LAUGHS

If you can't or don't want to leave Indiana, you can still enjoy the city with New Year Zeve. Pretend you actually made the roughly three-hour trip by turning on your computer and watching some fantastic comedians laugh their way into a fresh beginning.

Live from Zanies in Rosemont, this event will be streamed on YouTube, hosted by **Calvin Evans**, and feature three of Chicago's best comedians.

STREAM AT HOME

You could also stay at home and check out the TAO Virtual Experience featuring four hours of comedy, mixology, and music.

Or you could stream Untethered by Untitled Supper Club, where the party enters your living room with a broadcast featuring a live streamed DJ set and burlesque performances.

You'll have to provide the party favors, food, and drink yourself, however.

Road Notes covers concerts within driving distance of Northeast Indiana. Send your news items to info@whatzup.com.

Confirm with the venue about any event you plan to attend.

Kaleo	June 23 '21	The Fillmore	Detroit
Kaleo w/Matt Maeson, Belle MT	June 19 '21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Kansas	June 26 '21	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Kashmir	Mar. 27 '21	Hobart Art Theater	Hobart
Kathie Dice and Ray Hensley	Dec. 26 '20	469 Comedy	New Haven
Katrina Brown	Feb. 20 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Kaytranada	May 8 '21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band	June 12 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Kidz Bop	July 30 '21	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Kingston Trio	June 3 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Kool & The Gang w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Sept. 3 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Lauren Daigle w/Johnnyswim	Mar. 11 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Lauren Daigle w/Johnnyswim	Mar. 12 '21	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 13 '21	Subterranean	Chicago
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 18 '21	The Deluxe	Indianapolis
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 20 '21	The Shelter	Detroit
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 21 '21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 23 '21	The Stache	Grand Rapids
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 24 '21	House of Blues	Cleveland
Leanne Morgan	Jan. 15 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Leonid & Friends w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Oct. 27 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
The Lettermen	Apr. 9 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Lilly Hiatt	Apr. 7 '21	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Little River Band	Feb. 5 '21	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Little River Band	Sept. 11 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
The Lone Bellow	Apr. 8 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Los Lobos w/The Summit	Mar. 27 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Louis Tomlinson	Apr. 15 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Louis Tomlinson	Apr. 17 '21	The Fillmore	Detroit
Luke Bryan	June 10 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Maks & Val	June 20 '21	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Malpass Brothers, Doug Church, Aaron Wilburn	Dec. 31 '20	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Maren Morris	June 18 '21	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Maren Morris	June 19 '21	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Maren Morris	July 9 '21	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Maren Morris	July 10 '21	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Maria Bamford	Jan. 22 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Mark Christopher Lawrence and Andy Beningo	Feb. 6 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Matt Braunger	May 7 '21	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Megadeth and Lamb of God	July 27 '21	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Megadeth and Lamb of God	July 28 '21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Megadeth, Lamb of God, Trivium, In Flames	July 9 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Megadeth, Lamb of God, Trivium, In Flames	July 14 '21	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
MercyMe	Mar. 14 '21	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
MercyMe w/Mac Powell, Micah Tyler	Apr. 8 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Michael Bolton	June 25 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Michael Buble	Feb. 23 '21	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Michael Buble	Feb. 26 '21	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland
Michael Buble	Mar. 18 '21	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Michael Buble	Mar. 20 '21	Heritage Bank Arena	Cincinnati
Michael W. Smith	May 14 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Mike Birbiglia	May 21 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Milky Chance	Apr. 15 '21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Milky Chance	May 4 '21	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Milky Chance	June 4 '21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Million Dollar Quartet	Oct. 22 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Ministry w/KMFDM, Front Line Assembly	Apr. 9 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Ministry w/KMFDM, Front Line Assembly	Apr. 10 '21	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Ministry, KMFDM, Front Line Assembly	Apr. 12 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Molly Hatchet	Mar. 25 '21	Eclectic Room	Angola
Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Poison, Joan Jett	July 10 '21	Comerica Park	Detroit
Move to the Sanctuary	Apr. 22 '21	The Shelter	Detroit
Murder by Death	Mar. 12 '21	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
The Musical Box	May 13 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Nada Surf	Apr. 23 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
NateWantsToBattle	Apr. 18 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago

Nathan Timmel	Jan. 22-23 '21	469 Comedy	New Haven
Nene Leakes, Adele Givens, Loni Love, Sherri Shepherd, Kym Whitley	Feb. 5 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Night Ranger	July 10 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	May 22 '21	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Nombe	Mar. 27 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Oak Ridge Boys	June 12 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Oak Ridge Boys	Oct. 9 '21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Omarion, Bow Wow, Ashanti, Pretty Ricky, Ying Yang Twins, Sammie, Soulja Boy	Apr. 9 '21	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Omarion, Bow Wow, Ashanti, Pretty Ricky, Ying Yang Twins, Soulja Boy, Lloyd, Sammie	May 7 '21	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland
Omarion, Bow Wow	May 8 '21	Heritage Bank Arena	Cincinnati
Parquet Courts	May 29 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Parsonsfeld	Mar. 28 '21	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Pat Godwin w/Vikram Balaji	Dec. 18-19 '20	469 Comedy	New Haven

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Pat Godwin w/Reno Collier	Dec. 31 '20	Irving Theatre	Indianapolis
Pat Hazell	Mar. 16 '21	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Phil Vassar	Mar. 4 '21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Poco	June 25 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Pokey LaFarge w/Esther Rose	Feb. 19 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Pokey LaFarge	Mar. 12 '21	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Polaris	June 24 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Powerglove, Immortal Guardian	Mar. 15 '21	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Preacher Lawson	Feb. 5-6 '21	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Primus	July 15 '21	Express Live	Columbus, OH
Primus	July 16 '21	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Primus	July 17 '21	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Primus	July 19 '21	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Primus	July 20 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Primus	July 21 '21	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Pure Prairie League w/The Why Store	Sept. 18 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Purity Ring	May 3 '21	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
PVRIS	Apr. 20 '21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Rage Against the Machine	July 12-13 '21	United Center	Chicago
Rage Against the Machine	July 26-27 '21	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
The Residents	May 7 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
The Residents	May 8 '21	The Shelter	Detroit
Robert Cray Band w/Blue Veins	Mar. 19 '21	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	July 15 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	July 21 '21	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	July 23 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	July 28 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Ron White	Jan. 23 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Ronnie Milsap	May 7 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Ronny Chieng	Apr. 17 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Rumours	June 12 '21	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Russ	May 22 '21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Russ	June 3 '21	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Russell Howard	May 20 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Ryan Niemiller	Feb. 25 '21	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Saliva	Jan. 16 '21	Eclectic Room	Angola
Samantha Fish w/Southern Avenue	Aug. 27 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Samuel J. Comroe	Jan. 7-9 '21	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Santana w/Earth, Wind & Fire	July 3 '21	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Santana w/Earth, Wind & Fire	July 5 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Santana w/Earth, Wind & Fire	July 9 '21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Santana w/Earth, Wind & Fire	July 10 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Scotty McCreery	Mar. 27 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Sebastian Bach	June 9 '21	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Sebastian Bach	June 23 '21	Harpos Concert Theatre	Detroit
Shovels & Rope	Jan. 22 '21	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Silverstein	Feb. 8 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Silverstein	Feb. 9 '21	Concord Music Hall	Chicago

Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes	May 20 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Steely Dan w/Steve Winwood	June 23 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Steely Dan w/Steve Winwood	June 25 '21	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Steely Dan w/Steve Winwood	June 26 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Stephen Malkmus w/Qais Essar & Magik Carpet	Mar. 4 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Straight No Chaser	Mar. 26 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
STRFKR	Feb. 7 '21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
STRFKR w/The Undercover Dream Lovers	Feb. 9 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Struggle Jennings w/Brianna Harness, Nuke Bushner	Dec. 17 '20	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
Styx	Mar. 13 '21	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Styx	July 22 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Swallow The Sun, Infected Rain	Mar. 22 '21	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Symphony X, Primal Fear, Firewind	May 23 '21	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Symphony X	May 22 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Tab Benoit	Mar. 23 '21	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Tech N9ne	May 23 '21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Tech N9ne	May 28 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Tech N9ne	May 29 '21	The Fillmore	Detroit
Tedeschi Trucks Band	July 14 '21	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Tennis	Apr. 18 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Tennis	May 8 '21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Terry Fator	May 12 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Theory of a Deadman	Apr. 29 '21	Eclectic Room	Angola
They Might Be Giants	May 13 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Thomas Rhett	June 17 '21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Thomas Rhett	June 18 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Thomas Rhett	June 19 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Three Dog Night	May 6 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Tigran Hamasyan	June 10 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Todd Rundgren	Jan. 30-31 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Tommy Emmanuel w/Joe Robinson	Jan. 13 '21	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Tower of Power w/Sweetwater All Stars	June 9 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Travis Tritt	Mar. 18 '21	Hobart Arena	Troy, OH
Travis Tritt	May 21 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Trevor Hall	Apr. 23 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Trey Kennedy	Apr. 25 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Walk Off the Earth	Feb. 17 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Ward Davis	Mar. 6 '21	The Stache	Grand Rapids
Warrant w/Eric Martin of Mr. Big, P.J. Farley	July 31 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Watsky	Apr. 14 '21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Weathers	Feb. 28 '21	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
The Weeknd w/Sabrina Claudio, Don Toliver	June 21 '21	United Center	Chicago
The Weeknd w/Sabrina Claudio, Don Toliver	June 24 '21	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Whiskey Myers w/Bones Owens	July 30 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Widespread Panic	Apr. 1-3 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Willie Nelson	Apr. 23 '21	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Zach Williams w/We the Kingdom and Cain	May 21 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Zoofunkyou	Dec. 19 '20	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Zoë Keating	May 19 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Zucchero	Mar. 10 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago

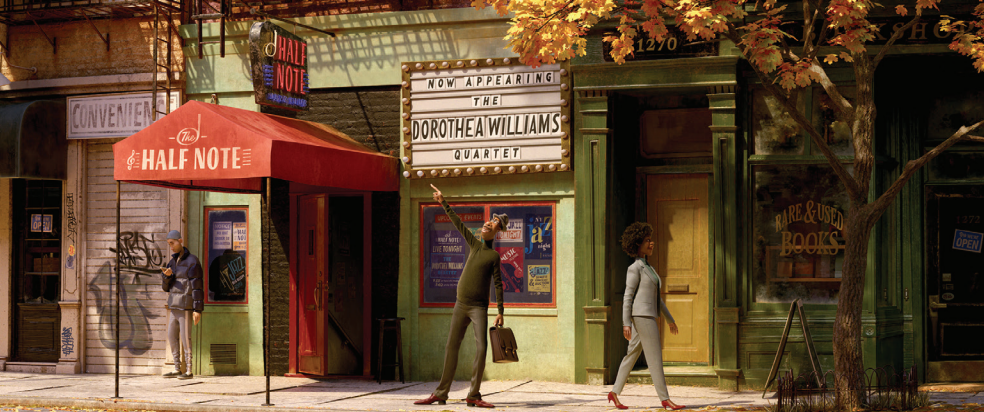


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COURTESY PHOTO

Soulful masterpiece Pixar's best in a decade

For Pixar, past success has frequently stemmed from asking simple questions and providing answers in the most creative and entertaining ways imaginable. What if toys moved and talked when you weren't in the room? What if the monsters in your closet were not only real but scaring you was their day job? What if a rat was the head chef of a five-star restaurant?

Almost immediately, Pixar's abundantly ambitious and utterly absorbing new film *Soul* eschews these modest jumping-off points and tackles biggies like "Why are we the way that we are?" and "What is the meaning of life?"

Though the scope of this story and the avenues that it explores are deeper than some of the more elementary entries in the Pixar canon, it's ultimately as fun and life-affirming as any entertainment you're likely to find this year.

We meet beleaguered jazz pianist Joe Gardner (Jamie Foxx) as he toils at his day gig, struggling to imprint his passion for music to a hapless bunch of middle school band students. A beacon of light shines as he gets a call from a former student (Questlove) to come sit in on a gig with sax diva Dorothea Williams (Angela Bassett). While excitedly running home through bustling streets of New York City, he falls down a manhole and we follow the blue-blobbed personification of his soul as it makes its way to The Great Beyond.

Unwilling to accept his untimely fate, Joe breaks through to The Great Before, a world of pre-existence where those not-yet born develop their personalities before dropping down to Earth. It's here that Joe gets paired with 22 (Tina Fey), a stubborn soul who refuses to acquire the necessary traits to move onto the next state of being.

Director Pete Docter, the mind behind other Pixar classics like *Up* and *Inside Out*, navigates the messy entanglements of the spiritual world and the existential quandaries that it presents with the deftness of a master storyteller. He's aided greatly by a top-tier screenplay — a joint work between Docter and screenwriters Mike Jones and Kemp Powers — which skillfully sets up the terms of The Great Before and conditions by which souls are to attain their idiosyncrasies.

This sets up a running joke that is my favorite of any movie I've seen this year, in which the ornery 22 exasperates all manner of historical figures from Muhammad Ali to Carl Jung during their efforts to pass along worthwhile attributes.



Reel Views

BRENT LEUTHOLD

SOUL

Rated PG for thematic elements and some language

1 hour 40 minutes

Streaming on Disney+ starting Dec. 25



Soul finds Pixar expanding its artistic palette even further than before, incorporating Picasso-like abstractionism and a storybook aesthetic seemingly inspired by the short films of Don Hertzfeldt. Docter and company retain Pixar's trademark photorealistic qualities during the Earthbound parts of the story, specifically impressive when it captures the characters playing their instruments with musical precision.

Like the piano-playing protagonist Sebastian in *La La Land*, Joe sees playing jazz as his life force and is bull-headed in his persistence to pursue it. But ultimately, *Soul* ends on a much different note than Damien Chazelle's almost-Best Picture winner, presenting a moral as powerful and vital as anything that Pixar has offered up to this point.

The film's vibrant and technically proficient jazz compositions come courtesy of Louisiana-based pianist Jon Batiste, who has also served as musical director for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* for the past five years. Collaborating on their second music score of 2020 after the Netflix dud *Mank*, Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross contribute an electronic-based arrangement that serves as the intellectual counterpart to Batiste's more heartfelt pieces.

Pixar's most accomplished and satisfying work in over a decade, *Soul* beautifully marries the head and heart in a way that's genuinely therapeutic in a year as challenging as this one.

ALSO COMING TO STREAMING

Debating on Netflix on Dec. 18 is *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, an adaptation of the August Wilson play starring Viola Davis and the late Chadwick Boseman about the titular blues singer and one of her explosive recording sessions in 1920s Chicago.

Available to stream in its entirety on Amazon Prime starting Dec. 18 is *Small Axe*, a five-film anthology series from *12 Years A Slave* director Steve McQueen which covers the lives of West Indian immigrants in London during the 1960s and 1970s.

Coming to HBO Max on Christmas Day is *Wonder Woman 1984*, the blockbuster superhero sequel starring Gal Gadot and Kristen Wiig that pits the titular heroine against a media businessman and a friend-turned-nemesis.

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COURTESY PHOTOS

Tenet and *Nomadland* are early favorites as Best Picture nomination for the Oscars.

Tenet vs. Nomadland for best picture?

In last week's column I argued that 2020 isn't a total wash as far as movie years go. Maybe it hasn't been a notably great year like, say, 2007, but 2020 has offered us up a solid menu of smaller budget and art house films.

This week, as promised, I'll be making some end-of-the-year lists and attempting to predict a few of the Oscar categories.

Before I carry out this mission, I want to note the obvious: this has not been a normal year at the movies. The Oscar qualifications have temporarily been changed in all sorts of ways, most of the major films have been shelved, and people haven't really been seeing movies at the theater.

But the movies keep coming, and now so will the awards shows, including the Oscars. And it's going to get interesting, I'd have to guess, as the final couple months of time to qualify pass.

I would not be surprised at all if a studio decides to cut a deal with Netflix and push out one of their shelved prestige films behind a full-throttle Netflix Oscar campaign. I wouldn't be surprised if several studios decided to make some sort of unorthodox move and all of the sudden we have several exciting films to watch at home and, of course, an energized Oscars conversation.

But, as things stand now, here's how the critic's year-end lists are shaping up, as aggregated by Metacritic:

10. *Time*
9. *Martin Eden*
8. *Bloody Nose, Empty Pockets*
7. *David Byrne's American Utopia*
6. *City Hall*
5. *Never Rarely Sometimes Always*
4. *Collective*
3. *Lovers Rock*
2. *Nomadland*
1. *First Cow*

I first got into Kelly Reichardt when I saw her second feature, *Old Joy*, in 2006 or 2007. *First Cow* is Reichardt's fifth film since *Old Joy*, and while I've loved everything she's done along the way, I never would have imagined one of her movies could perhaps be a frontrunner for the Best Picture Oscar. Typing it out doesn't even feel real.

Here are the films I think will compete for Best Picture nominations, listed with directors:



Screen Time

GREG W. LOCKE

- *First Cow* (Kelly Reichardt)
- *Da 5 Bloods* (Spike Lee)
- *Mank* (David Fincher)
- *Tenet* (Christopher Nolan)
- *Soul* (Peter Docter and Kemp Powers)
- *Nomadland* (Chloe Zhao)
- *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* (Charlie Kaufman)
- *The King of Staten Island* (Judd Apatow)
- *The Trial of the Chicago 7* (Aaron Sorkin)
- *Never Rarely Sometimes Always* (Eliza Hittman)

And, no kidding:

- *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm* (Jason Woliner)

If I were pressed to pick the film I think will win

right now, I think it could be a battle between *Tenet* and

Nomadland.

Other Oscar predictions:

- At least two female filmmakers are nominated for Best Director, and neither win.

• The screenplay categories are as star-studded as ever this year, with Spike Lee, Charlie Kaufman, Judd Apatow, Sofia Coppola, Miranda July, Aaron Sorkin, and several other great modern screenwriters competing.

• Ben Affleck gets a Best Actor nomination for *The Way Back*, but loses to Gary Oldman for *Mank*.

• Frances McDormand wins her third Oscar and gives a wild speech.

• Best Director becomes the most-talked-about category, with most thinking it will come down to David Fincher vs. Christopher Nolan — and Nolan wins.

And, finally, my end-of-the-year list. I've not yet seen very many of this year's releases, I'm ashamed to admit. From what I have seen so far, here are the 15 I liked the most listed with their directors:

15. *The Gentlemen* (Guy Ritchie)
14. *Color Out of Space* (Ricahrd Stanley)
13. *Palm Springs* (Max Barbakow)
12. *Hubie Halloween* (Steven Brill)
11. *The Way Back* (Gavin O'Connor)
10. *Crip Camp* (James Lebrecht / Nichole Newnham)
9. *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm* (Jason Woliner)
8. *Sound of Metal* (Darius Marder)
7. *The Trial of the Chicago 7* (Aaron Sorkin)
6. *Da 5 Bloods* (Spike Lee)
5. *The King of Staten Island* (Judd Apatow)
4. *Never Rarely Sometimes Always* (Eliza Hittman)
3. *Mank* (David Fincher)
2. *Kajillionaire* (Miranda July)
1. *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* (Charlie Kaufman)

Clearly, though, there's a lot I still need to see.

CURRENT EXHIBITS

A Year of Making Meaning: New Additions to the Collection 2020 — Showcasing some of the museum's brightest stars from the past year, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Jan. 31, 2021**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

American Impressionism: Treasures from the Daywood Collection — Forty-one American paintings originally from the private collection of Arthur Dayton and Ruth Woods Dayton, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through March 14, 2021**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Art Farm Holiday Pandemic Pop Up Gallery — Ceramics, fiber, jewelry, mixed media, sculpture, glass, and metal, **noon-6 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, through Sunday, Jan. 10**, The Art Farm, Decatur, free, (260) 740-8725

Art Gone Wild — Canvases painted by wild animals, benefit for Black Pine Animal Sanctuary, **4-9 p.m. Thursdays, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays through Sunday, Dec. 20**, Trubble Brewing, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 267-6082

Cash & Carry Holiday Exhibit — Holiday art for purchase, **11 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays-Fridays through Jan. 3, 2021**, Honeywell Center, Wabash, free, (260) 563-1102

Historic Indiana En Plein Air — Sixty works by 42 artists of the Indiana Plein Air Painters Association including historic places from Indiana, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Jan. 31, 2021**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Holiday Art — Trees with handmade ornaments, nativities, and other holiday themed art, **11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, closed Sundays, through Dec. 31**, Orchard Gallery of Fine Arts, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 436-0927

Holiday Pop Up Gallery — More than 150 items from 35 local artists, **11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, closed Sundays-Tuesdays, through Dec. 26**, 256 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, free, fortwaynearartistsguild.org

Holiday Show 2020 — Holiday shopping and seasonal artworks by regional and national artists, **11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 17-19**, Castle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 426-6568

Indiana Heritage Barn Paintings — Twenty-five of Gwen Gutwein's original paintings, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, closed Sundays and Mondays, through Dec. 31**, Crestwoods Frame Shop & Gallery, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 672-2080

Larry Burrows: Life in Vietnam — Photos captured during the Vietnam War, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Feb. 28**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

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More Is More: Bob Cross and Christian Smith — Large abstract acrylic and oil paintings, **5-8 p.m. Fridays, 4-7 p.m. Saturdays, and 1-4 p.m. Sundays, other hours by appointment, through Dec. 20**, Garrett Museum of Art, Garrett, free, (260) 704-5400

Static Energy: Sculpture by Dale Enochs — A collection of unique sculptural techniques that incorporate both figurative and abstract forms in stone and metal, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through March 14**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Undergraduate Student Highlights Exhibition — Works by undergraduate students from the 2019-20 academic school year, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Dec. 18**, Lupke Gallery, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 399-7700

Window to the Soul — Works created by 19 artists born in, and currently residing in Myanmar, **10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, through Sunday, Jan. 3**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 424-7195

ART EVENTS

Ashley Beatty and Cara Wade Artist Lecture — Artist will present their work and studio practice as it relates to contemporary photography, **6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10**, University of Saint Francis North Auditorium, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 399-7700

COMING EXHIBITS

2020 Alumni/Faculty Exhibition — Works by alumni and faculty of USF Creative Arts, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 11-Feb. 24, 2021**, Rolland Art Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 399-7999

2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards — Featuring the Gold and Silver Key winning art and writing by students in grades 7-12 from Northern Indiana and Northwest Ohio, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, Feb. 13, 2021-April 10, 2021**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

45th Annual USF Creative Arts Student Exhibition — Works by students enrolled at USF Creative Arts, reception 4-6 p.m. Saturday, April 10, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Sundays, Apr. 5-28, 2021**, Rolland Art Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 399-7999

Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau — Most remembered for his role in shaping French Art Nouveau, featuring lithographs and proofs, drawings, an oil painting, a pastel, and more, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, June 5, 2021-Sept. 26, 2021**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467



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CURRENT

South Side Farmers Market — A wide variety of seasonal items, as well as, hand-crafted items, antiques, fresh baked goods, eggs, local honey, and hormone-free pork and chicken, **7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, through December**, South Side Farmers Market, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 244-3288

Fort Wayne's Farmers Market (Indoor) — Fifty vendors including farm and garden, home-based, natural products, and local artisans, **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through May 8**, Fort Wayne's Farmers Market, Fort Wayne, free, contact@ftwaynesfarmersmarket.com

Comedy Game Night — Play Trivia, Fibbage, and Quiplash to win prizes, **8-9 p.m. Wednesdays, through Dec. 30**, Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 449-9761

Fantasy of Lights — The 26th season of a two-mile route with 127 holiday light scenes and holiday market on select days, presented by Blue Jacket, **6 p.m. nightly, through Dec. 31**, Franke Park, Fort Wayne, \$10 per car, (260) 427-6000

Oh? Christmas Tree! — An array of different cultural Christmas trees, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-4 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Jan. 3, 2021**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

Holiday Window Light Displays — Park scenes captured by a local photographer are turned into large paper-cut light boxes displayed in the Park Foundation Pavilion windows, **through Jan. 3, 2021**, Promenade Park, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-6028

Festival of Trees — Forty-four spectacular trees to view virtually, **through Sunday, Jan. 3**, Virtual, \$25, (260) 424-5665

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa — Story time and socially distanced photo opportunity as well, **5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18; 3:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 19-20**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$20, (260) 424-5665

The Days of Holly Shopping — Shop small every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas, **Saturday, Dec. 19**, downtown Fort Wayne, free, (260) 420-3266

Reindeer Saturdays — Interact with reindeer and the Animal-Grams, "Reindeer Experts," **Saturday, Dec. 19**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

Festival of Gingerbread — Gingerbread creations by local artists from Pre-K students to professionals, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 23**, The History Center, Fort Wayne, \$4-\$6, (260) 426-2882

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Yule Time Stroll — Beautifully lit Charley Creek Gardens open to the public, **6-9 p.m. daily, through Dec. 23**, Charley Creek Gardens, Wabash, free, (260) 563-1102

Winter Nights with Santa — Story time and performance by Fort Wayne Youththeatre, "Best of Youththeatre Christmases," **6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$30, (260) 424-5665

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2021

Winter Bridal Spectacular — Northern Indiana's premier bridal show with everything you need for your wedding day, **noon-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 2-Jan. 3**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 482-9502

Wintery Walks in the Woods — A monthly hike featuring a different wintery topic each time, **10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, and Saturday, Feb. 6**, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-6740

Celebrating Bob Chase lecture — Blake Sebring, speaker, with book signing, **2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3**, The History Center, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 426-2882

Savor Fort Wayne — Twelve delicious days of menu deals at participating restaurants, **Jan. 13-Jan. 24**, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 424-3700

NOW PLAYING

The Dinner Detective — America's largest interactive comedy murder mystery dinner show, **6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19**, Courtyard Fort Wayne Downtown, Fort Wayne, \$59.95, (866) 496-0535

Virtual Holiday Spectacular — A holiday concert supporting organizations in Fort Wayne and Indianapolis with Addison Agen and Terra Brantley, **8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20**, streaming on Facebook and YouTube, free, (260) 481-6059

Nutcracker Sweets — An hour-long television special of Fort Wayne Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, airing on WPTA 21, **7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, and noon Friday, Dec. 25**, WPTA 21, free, (260) 484-9646

Annie — An optimistic orphan seeking her parents finds that family can be those that you choose, **5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27**, streaming, \$32.96, (260) 422-8641

Home for the Holidays — Performances of *A Christmas Carol* and *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, **through Sunday, Jan. 3**, streaming, free, (574) 267-8041

AUDITIONS

Bach Collegium — Auditions for new collegium members, by appointment, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, (260) 485-2143

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

FEBRUARY 2021

The Pout-Pout Fish — Mr. Fish sets out on an adventure to find Miss Clam's pearl, **10 a.m. and noon Wednesday, Feb. 10**, Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, (260) 563-1102

Mary's Wedding — Charlie and Mary are about to be married, however they are on different sides of a social divide in their small town, **7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19-20; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26-27; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28**, all for One Productions, ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$11-\$20, (260) 422-4226

MARCH 2021

Theresa Caputo — America's favorite Long Island medium entertains with her psychic abilities, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$39.75 & up, (260) 424-5665

The Odd Couple: Female Version — Florence Unger and Olive Madison replace the original duo in this twist of the Neil Simon classic comedy, **7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, March 11-13; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 14**, Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$15, (574) 267-8041

Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap — A group of strangers is stuck in a boarding house amid a snow storm, and one must be discovered as a murderer, **7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 12-13; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 14; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 19-20; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21**, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Fort Wayne, season tickets available, (260) 424-5220

Ragtime — A musical that tells of people seeking the American Dream, doors and cash bar at 6:15 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., curtain at 8 p.m., **8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 12-13; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 19-20; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21; and 8 p.m. Friday**

and Saturday March 26-27, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40, (260) 424-5622

The Sleeping Beauty — A wicked fairy casts an evil spell on the baby Princess Aurora to die on her 16th birthday, **7:30 p.m. Friday, March 26; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 28**, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, season tickets available, (260) 424-0646

Pete's Big Hollywood Adventure — Pete the Cat and his buddy Callie sneak into the Hollywood Studios, **10 a.m. and noon Monday, March 29**, Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, (260) 563-1102

APRIL 2021

Lyrical Pursuit — Game show featuring knowledge of lyrics, audience participation, and a murderous twist, **7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24**, Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$20, (574) 267-8041

The Charitable Sisterhood of the Second Trinity Victory Church — A comedy about three women sorting through a donation pile for a relief effort, **7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 23-24; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 25; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 30-May 1; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2**, all for One Productions, ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$11-\$20, (260) 422-4226

Frindle — Nicholas Allen creates a new word that spreads across the country to the chagrin of his teacher, **10 a.m. and noon Tuesday, April 27**, Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, (260) 563-1102

Night Watch — A thriller involving woman who claims to see the body of a dead man, doors and cash bar at 6:15 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., curtain at 8 p.m., **8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 30-May 1; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 7-8; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 9; and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday May 14-15**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40, (260) 424-5622

MAY 2021

Bill O'Reilly — Journalist, author, and former television host, **7 p.m. Saturday, May 8**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$65-\$250, (260) 424-5665

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum — A crafty slave tries to win the hand of a courtesan for his master, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 9; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 14-15; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 16; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 21-22; and 2 p.m. May 23**, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Fort Wayne, season tickets available, (260) 424-5220

JUNE 2021

The Wizard of Oz — A Kansas farm girl travels over the rainbow to discover the magical power of home, **8 p.m. Wednesday, June 2; 7 p.m. Thursday, June 3; 8 p.m. Friday, June 4; 7 p.m. Saturday, June 5; 2 p.m. Sunday, June 6; 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, and Wednesday, June 9; 2 and 8 p.m. Thursday, June 10; 8 p.m. Friday, June 11; 7 p.m. Saturday, June 12**, Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$15-\$40, (574) 267-8041

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