

THE LEGACY THEATRE
2021 SEASON



POLKADOTS

THE COOL KIDS MUSICAL

FAMILY SERIES: May 1-29



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THE LEGACY THEATRE
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presents

POLKADOTS

THE COOL KIDS MUSICAL

Book by MELVIN TUNSTALL, III

Lyrics by DOUGLAS LYONS

Music by GREG BOROWSKY & DOUGLAS LYONS

Based on an Original Concept by DOUGLAS LYONS

with

BETZABETH CASTRO

KAYLA ROSE JARRY

DANIELLE POYSER

NOAH SONENSTEIN

Light/Set Designer JAMIE BURNETT

Sound Designer LOUIS IGOE

Technical Director RICH BURKAM

Running Crew ADDIE FILARDI & SAVIAH KNUDSEN

Make Up Designer CALLIE LIBERATORE

Music Support DAVID BELL

Choreographer JENNIFER BUONFIGLIO

Production Stage Manager LAUREN ROSENAY

Directed by

KEELY BAISDEN KNUDSEN

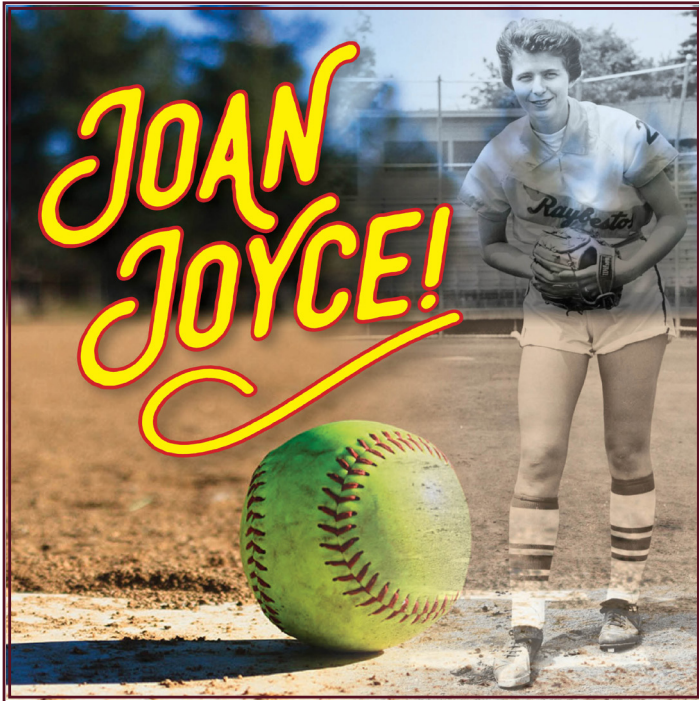
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COMING NEXT!



LEGACY THEATRE 2021 SEASON • FAMILY SERIES



June 5-26 Saturdays at 10am

Joan Joyce! a new All-American musical will have its world premiere at the Legacy Theatre! Joan Joyce is noted as the “greatest female athlete of all time.” An extraordinarily well-rounded athlete who excels in a variety of sports and has accomplished unbeatable records. This Connecticut native is an inspiration for all, and her life’s story encourages young women to follow their dreams, never give up, and work hard to become all they can be. Enjoy this true to life story of a young woman who even struck out Ted Williams. Based on the book *Connecticut Softball Legend Joan Joyce* by Tony Renzoni, *Joan Joyce!* is an uplifting musical for all ages.

Buy your tickets now at LegacyTheatreCT.org



The Company

(in alphabetical order)



BETZABETH
CASTRO



KAYLA ROSE
JARRY



DANIELLE
POYSER



NOAH
SONENSTEIN

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Lily Polkadot	DANIELLE POYSER
Penelope Square	KAYLA ROSE JARRY
Sky Square	NOAH SONENSTEIN
Mrs. Square / Mama Square	BETZABETH CASTRO

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Who's Who

BETZABETH CASTRO (*Ms. Square & Mama Square*) is a Housatonic Community College and Southern CT State University alum. She is an actor/ singer who has been away from the stage for far too long. During quarantine Betzabeth participated in several rounds of the virtual 24 Hour Quick Quarantine Play Festival, in *Twelfth Night* (Feste/ Sebastian) with Advice to the Players and, recently, in Westport Country Playhouse's New Works/NewVoices series in *Phenomenal Women+ Inspire*. Other credits include: *Skeleton Crew* (Shanita) with Collective Consciousness, *Love's Labour's Lost* (Katherine) with Elm Shakespeare Company, *The Gun Show* (Waiter) with Play With Your Food, *Picasso at the Lapine Agile* (Suzanne) with Westport Community Theater, *Appropriate* (The Stranger) with Westport Country Playhouse, and *Frankenstein: A Radio Play* (Various Voices) with Capital Classics Theatre Company. After a year of virtual plays, virtual festivals, and Zoom readings, Betzabeth is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be on stage once more with a group of fun, talented people!

KAYLA ROSE JARRY (*Penelope Square*) Legacy Theatre: Debut. Quinnipiac: *The Lifespan of a Fact* (Directorial Debut), *Rage* (Susan), The 2019 New Play Festival (Dr. Darling *Lives on the Line*), *Next to Normal* (Diana), *No Exit* (Estelle). Chaparral

High School: *Young Frankenstein The Musical* (Inga), *The Pillowman* (Ariel), *Blithe Spirit* (Elvira), *Chicago* (Hunyak, Dance Core), *Addams Family* (Ancestor, Dance Core) Education: Quinnipiac University, MAT Elementary Education Program & Theater Major.

DANIELLE POYSER (*Lily Polkadot*) is a freshman at Southern Connecticut State University where she studies theatre. She has been a part of the musical world since the ripe age of 8, and only wishes to continue making her dreams come true on the musical stage. Throughout her high school career, Danielle attended Regional Center for the Arts in Trumbull, CT, where she studied musical theatre for four years. Some credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Gloria), *Legally Blonde* (Brooke Wyndham) and *Holiday Inn* (Linda Mason). Danielle also understudied Woman 2 at Southern's live streamed production of *Songs for a New World*. After a long hiatus due to Covid-19, Danielle is extremely excited and overjoyed to be making her musical debut with Legacy Theatre. She thanks her cast and crew for making this awesome show happen.

NOAH SONENSTEIN (*Sky Square*) is thrilled to be playing Sky in this delightful production of *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical!* Noah is a Junior at Daniel Hand High School in Madison and attends New Haven's Educational



Who's Who

Center for the Arts for Music; where he studies percussion (Jazz Ensemble) and vocals. When not performing, Noah enjoys making art (drawing), guitar, History and Civics. Past roles: Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (FUSE Theatre of CT), Vice Principal Panch in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (WISP), The Prince in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (Legacy Theatre), Professor Callahan in *Legally Blonde the Musical* (WISP), Ignacio in *Anonymouse* (Mercy HS), Mr. Harry MacAfee in *Bye, Bye Birdie* (Our Lady of Mercy). Noah would like to thank Keely and everyone at Legacy Theatre for the opportunity to perform in this production, at this marvelous historic theatre and make his professional debut. Love to his family and friends.

ADDIE FILARDI (*Crew Member & Junior Apprentice*) is a freshman in high school, attends ECA for creative writing, and is an aspiring writer. She is currently studying Japanese and has started a small business for the summer.

SAVIAH KNUDSEN (*Crew Member & Junior Apprentice*) has played the title role in *Alice in Wonderland*, Katie Nana, Chimney Sweep, and Ensemble in *Mary Poppins*, Stepsister in *Into the Woods*, the Queen in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and Daughter in *Rumpelstiltskin*. She is a freshman at Guilford High School and is thrilled to be a part of *Polkadots!*

JAMIE BURNETT (*Set & Lighting Designer*) is a Founding member of The Elm Shakespeare Company. The Summer of 2019's production of *Love's Labour's Lost* was his 23rd Season with the illustrious company. As resident Set and Lighting Designer for the Elm Shakespeare Company he designed lighting for every production for the past 23 years. He has designed sets for almost every production till 2009. International Festival of Arts and ideas 2018, Lighting design: *Requiem for and Electric Chair*, 2017 Never Stand Still, Iseman Theater. Collective Consciousness Theater company: Lighting Design. *Skeleton Crew, Rasheeda Speaking, Jesus Hopped the A Train, Sunset Baby, Top Dog Underdog* Also designed the past 4 seasons. SCSU shows include lighting design for *Stop Kiss, Much Ado about Nothing, The Boyfriend* and *Our Country's Good*. Sacred Heart University: *In The Heights, Jesus Christ Superstar*. The past few years he has lit the main hall in the New Haven Armory with artistic lighting for the Citywide Open Studios events serving the unique art installations there. With Projects for a New Millennium, he was Designer for the Stamford Train Station Façade Lighting. Producer/Lighting Designer/ Production Manager for 2014 hit Terra Tractus (The Earth Moves), Also (2005) Terra Mirabila, (2001) Terra Lumina and Terra Continuum (1999) the grand multimedia extravaganzas all performed in the Stony Creek Granite



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Quarry. He also designed PNM's Branford Luminata (2010) lighting the town hall on the Branford Green. He is a consultant, Lighting and Set designer, special events planner, and film/video Gaffer as well as a licensed electrical contractor. His company, Luminous Environments, specializes in Theater and TV Studio Renovations and site-specific public art installations involving specialized lighting. His latest Projects include Branford High school Theater, Fairfield Community Theater, Southington High School Theater and This very Theater as consultant and Lighting and rigging Systems design and installation. He is a 2005 recipient of the New Haven Arts Award.

RICH BURKAM (*Technical Director*) came to Connecticut to study music and music recording at UNH. And played in bands such as 4:20, Space Cushion, and Over The Line. His studies continued learning to be a luthier under Barry Lipman and Chris Tatalias, giving him a taste for fine woodworking. Richard now owns a woodshop that makes fine furniture, in a space which is shared with lighting designer Jamie Burnett. Together they have built sets for many production companies, including Elm Shakespeare, Yale Baroque Opera Project, and many small black box theater productions.

LOUIS IGOE (*Sound Engineer*) is happy to be joining us for the opening

of The Legacy! He has been the head sound engineer on several Broadway shows (*Tootsie, Beautiful, Nice Work..*) and is glad to see you, the audience, in the seats! Thanks to Cat and Sandy.

KEELY BAISDEN KNUDSEN (*Artistic Director & Co-Founder*) An award winning director, Keely has performed, directed, and choreographed internationally in plays, musicals, operas, and dance companies in hundreds of theatrical productions and has performed in 48 of the United States and in the UK. Realizing her vision of a new theater company on the Connecticut Shoreline, Keely's ideals of inspiring, inclusive work that uplifts the human spirit and connects communities formalized in the creation of the Legacy Theatre with Co-Founder Stephanie Stiefel Williams, a performing colleague and dear friend. Keely has directed, choreographed, and taught a myriad of performing arts courses at such institutions as Quinnipiac University, Yale University, Fairfield University, Hartt School of Drama, Southern Connecticut State University, Westminster College, and was the Director of Education of New Haven's acclaimed Elm Shakespeare Company for several years. Additionally a composer/lyricist and playwright, she is currently collaborating on two musicals and is a member of ASCAP. Her directing has been heralded by the Arts Paper as "...visually striking,



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emotionally moving” and “captivating” and of her direction of *Hamlet* it was said, “Knudsen has made the notoriously difficult Shakespearean language accessible.” Her creation of the Wheel Life Theatre Troupe has been an especially rewarding program as she acts and directs with those who ambulate with crutches and wheelchairs. Her BFA is from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, at which she graduated first in the class, and she received her Masters Degree in Drama on full scholarship from The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. Keely, her husband Brian, and five children (Saviah, Liviana, Wynter, Emery, and Reeves) reside in Guilford, CT, where she thoroughly enjoys running the Legacy with a tremendous staff and community support.

STEPHANIE STIEFEL WILLIAMS (*Co-Founder & Chairperson of the Board*) has spent her entire adult life as a professional performer in musicals, concerts, and plays throughout the Northeast. As Miss Connecticut, she represented the state at the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City. In addition to her position on Legacy’s Board, Stephanie is a member of the Board of Trustees at the Goodspeed Opera House and the Performing Arts Advisory Council at the University of Notre Dame. She has become involved on a producing level with productions

of *Gypsy* and *Showboat* in London’s West End, the recent award-winning revival of *Sweeney Todd* in New York, and Broadway’s *Escape to Margaritaville*. A former attorney, she received her juris doctorate with honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

GINA MARCANTONIO (*Development Director*) is the Immediate-Past President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Connecticut Chapter and a seasoned fund development professional with over 25 years of experience developing strategies to generate revenue and grow philanthropic programs for nonprofit organizations. She is an AFP Master Trainer who has raised millions for various causes and most recently managed \$8.0 million in endowments and other assets. Gina has coordinated capital campaigns since 1998.

COLIN SHEEHAN (*Artistic Coordinator & Director of Public Relations*) is a local arts enthusiast and serves as Director of The Branford High School Performing Arts’ Spring Musical, Artistic Director of Tabor Arts Branford and Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Shoreline Theatre Company in association with The Branford Parks and Recreation Department. He graduated from Branford High School in 2003 and continued his studies at Wagner College



Who's Who

(’07) with a B.A. in Theatre and Speech Performance. Colin founded the charity MusiKids CT, Inc. giving away over \$25,000 in scholarships. In 2003, he made his Broadway debut in the closing night production of *Les Miserables*. In ’99, Colin appeared numerous times on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* and worked for three seasons on *The Wendy Williams Show*. Colin has produced, directed, hosted, and performed in the tri-state area and abroad with Broadway Cruises, Nickelodeon Cruises, and R Family Vacations Cruises. Colin is also a philanthropist and has raised funds and awareness for many Branford organizations, Rosie's Theatre Kids, Children's Hospital Colorado, Pulse of Orlando, Make-A-Wish, and many more. For years, Colin worked for the Tony and Olivier and Award-winning Seaview Productions.

LAUREN ROSENAY (*Stage Manager & Company Manager*) is thrilled to be joining The Legacy Theatre during their inaugural season as Company Manager and as the first stage manager in their new building. She has been an actor, director, designer, stage manager, playwright and more. Lauren has been involved in recent Legacy Theatre productions as the stage manager of *Hamlet* and as actor in the role of Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other acting credits include Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Matilde in *The Clean House* (directed by Keely Baisden

Knudsen), and the Baker's Wife in *Into The Woods*. Lauren graduated from Quinnipiac University summa cum laude receiving the President's Scholarship Award, double majoring in theater and communications. In 2018, Lauren became a proud critic of the CT Critics Circle. She has been involved in The New Play Festival, produced at The Barrow Group, an Off-Broadway theater, as a playwright, director, actor and stage manager. She is currently co-writing a musical that will premiere this summer. Lauren will be starting Law School this fall to pursue entertainment law, but will always consider Legacy Theatre a home.

MARY LEE WEBER (*Community Outreach*) is a Marketing and Communications consultant who has lived in Branford since 1988. She held the position of Director of Marketing and Community Development for the ABC affiliate WTNH-8 for 17 years where she was responsible for non-traditional revenue and community partnerships. She currently advises CAS-CIAC, and the Stony Creek Museum both in Marketing positions. She helped with the Legacy Theatre productions while they were in residence at the Stony Creek Museum in 2018-19. She joined Legacy to help with Community Outreach. Her first memory of theater was Straight Wharf Theatre on Nantucket where she ushered as a young girl to be able



Who's Who

to see the productions for free. Some of her favorites included *The Fantasticks*, *Plaza Suite* and *Private Lives*. Since moving to Stony Creek you can often find Mary Lee walking with her lab, taking pictures of sunsets and enjoying long conversations with neighbors. She is thrilled to play even a small part in helping Legacy bring theater back to Stony Creek.

JEFF ZEITLIN (*House Manager*) A long-time resident of Guilford, CT, Jeff's love of theatre was taken to the next level when his daughter was a part of the Guilford High School Theatre Arts program. Jeff served as a Board Member of the school's Theatre Arts Parents Support. He then became the Box Office Manager and Front of House Advisor for GHSTA. He continues in that volunteer role today. Along with his wife, Alyson, he was an usher at The Ivoryton Playhouse. Most recently, he was a House Manager at The Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center ("The Kate") in Old Saybrook. He first became aware of The Legacy Theatre when attending a couple of fundraisers a few years ago. He was taken by the plans for the historic building and the prospect of bringing high quality Broadway productions and performers to the shoreline. Jeff's community involvement also extends to Guilford A Better Chance where he is a member of the Board of Directors. When not at the theatre, Jeff is Loyalty Manager

for IKEA in New Haven, focusing on Public and Community Relations. Jeff looks forward to welcoming theatre-goers from near and far to The Legacy Theatre!

NANCY SMITH (*Box Office Manager*) began a deep love affair with live theatre when she accompanied her mother on a buying trip to New York City in 1963 and attended a first-run performance of *Barefoot in the Park* starring Robert Redford and Elizabeth Ashley. She received a BFA from Oklahoma City University where she stage managed *Barefoot*. Nancy narrowly missed being cast in the role of Cory because at only 5 feet tall, the director thought she would look awkward next to the six-foot three-inch male lead! How exciting that *Barefoot* is Legacy's first main stage production. Upon graduation, her career spanned several "stages" from English Teacher, to a 20-year career at USAA in San Antonio, Texas. There she enjoyed a varied experience from customer service, Director of Compliance Documents for mutual funds, Diversity Training, Internal Change Management, and was a Specialty Senior Management Trainer at the time of her retirement. She was the voice of USAA for 14 years recording the employee and customer voice response messages and is now excited to use that voice to welcome theatre patrons to wonderful nights of professional theatre.



Who's Who

KASSIDY BERGER (*Communications Intern*) is thrilled to be joining the Legacy team as a Communications Intern. Currently a senior public relations student at Quinnipiac University, Kassidy has an immense love for theater. Previously, she interned at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in the Public Relations department, where she was responsible for daily press reports, event calendars, researching and writing press releases as well as editing playbills. She is also the Marketing Director for the university's student television station, Q30 Television.

KIERSTEN BJORK (*Production Intern*) is thrilled to be joining the Legacy Theatre team as a Production Intern. Currently a senior Theatre and English double major at Fairfield

University, she has had the opportunity to play a variety of roles, both onstage and off, for the University's resident theatre company, Theatre Fairfield. Favorite credits include performing as Percy in *The Spitfire Grill* and as Laertes in *Fortinbras*, as well as taking on the role of Scenic Designer for *Rabbit Hole*. She has held two internships with Theatre Fairfield, serving as Technical Production Intern for the 2019-2020 season, and Marketing Intern for the 2020-2021 season. She is also the President of the Fairfield University Glee Club. As a Branford resident with a love for theatre and music, she is beyond excited to be a part of Legacy and their mission to bring inspiring theatre to the community.

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Please contact Gina Marcantonio, Director of Development
at gina@legacytheatrect.org or 203-980-0628

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as of 4/20/21

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Branford Community Foundation,
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as of 4/20/21

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Summer 2021 at Legacy

“My daughter completely enjoyed her first experience with Legacy, and I was so very impressed with her and all the participants of Dive Into Drama: Summer Camp. Thank you for what you and Legacy Theatre are doing for our children.”

- Proud parent / Branford Resident

SUMMER 2021 WEEK-LONG YOUTH INTENSTIVES

Have you ever wanted to spend a week learning from Broadway and Television stars? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE! Join Stephanie Gibson (Broadway's *Cinderella*, *The Addams Family*, *Spamalot*), Andrew Pastides (*Blue Bloods*, *Law & Order*, *Suits*) and MORE this July at Legacy Theatre. You will spend the week learning the ins and outs of musical theatre. Each day will consist of music (song interpretation and presentation), acting (games, working with text and movement, monologues) and dance (learning original Broadway choreography). The intensive will culminate in a presentation for all to see what you worked on for the entire week!



STEPHANIE GIBSON



ANDREW PASTIDES

Space is Very Limited!
Register today at LegacyTheatreCT.org



Summer 2021 at Legacy

SUMMER 2021 WEEK-LONG YOUTH INTENSIVES

EMERGING ACTOR INTENSIVE

Students (ages 8-12) experience all aspects of production and performance
(up to 25 students)

July 12-16, 2021

Monday - Friday, 9am-3pm; Friday 7pm Performance

Tuition: \$350/week

Emerging Actors Showcase: Friday, July 16 at 7pm (\$10/ticket)

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INTENSIVE

Students (ages 13-18) experience all aspects of production and performance
(up to 25 students)

July 19-23, 2021

Monday - Friday 9am-3pm; Friday 7pm Performance

Tuition: \$350/week

Young Professionals Showcase: Friday, July 23 at 7pm (\$10/ticket)

Email Info@LegacyTheatreCT.org for more information.

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Fall 2021 Classes at Legacy

Classes are designed for all ages and all levels. Enjoy instruction from professional actors in intimate class sizes with collegiate Artist/Educators and leaders in the field. Classes culminate in a public performance in the newly restored Legacy Theatre. Classes and Intensives begin this summer, and space is limited.

Saturdays, October 2 - November 13, 2021

Class for Tots:

Toddler Dance, Storytime & Drama

up to 15 students

10:15-10:45am

Tuition: \$150/ 7 weeks

Young Professionals:

Acting ages 13-18

up to 15 students

1:00-2:00pm

Tuition: \$200/ 7 weeks

Young Apprentice Class:

Acting ages 5-8

up to 15 students

11am-11:30am

Tuition: \$150/ 7 weeks

Thespians:

Acting for Adults

up to 15 students

2:15-3:15pm

Tuition: \$250/ 7 weeks

Emerging Actors:

Acting ages 9-12

up to 15 students

11:45am-12:45pm

Tuition: \$200/ 7 weeks

Class Act:

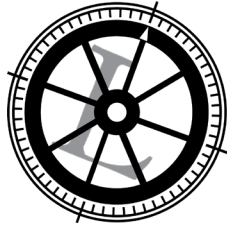
Cabaret Class for Teens & Adults

up to 15 students

3:30-5:30pm

Tuition: \$300/ 7 weeks

Email Info@LegacyTheatreCT.org for more information.



WHEEL LIFE THEATRE TROUPE

Introducing a theatre troupe for those who ambulate with crutches or use wheelchairs and their siblings!

Date and time flexible dependent upon enrollment
Tuition subsidized

Email Info@LegacyTheatreCT.org for more information.



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LEGACY THEATRE 2021 SEASON AT-A-GLANCE

MAINSTAGE



April 28 - May 23
BAREFOOT IN THE PARK



June 2-27
JUST DESSERTS



July 28- August 22
OEDIPUS REX



September 4-26
THE LAST 5 YEARS



December 1-12
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

SPECIAL EVENTS



Friday, April 23
**GRAND OPENING
with Broadway's TELLY LEUNG**



Saturday, July 3
CAROLE'S KINGS



Friday, July 9, Saturday, July 10
& Saturday, July 17
BLOOD TYPE: RAGU



Sunday, July 11
**EXPANDED VOICES:
THE GREAT 8**



Sunday, July 25
**EXPANDED VOICES:
JAMAL**



Sunday, August 29
FILM: ORSON REHEARSED

FAMILY SERIES



May 1-29
**POLKADOTS:
THE COOL KIDS MUSICAL**



June 5-26
JOAN JOYCE!



July 3
CARDBOARD EXPLOSION!

BROADWAY SPOTLIGHT CONCERTS



Friday, May 28
DEBBIE GRAVITTE



Saturday, May 29
**BRYCE PINKHAM &
SCARLETT STRALLEN**



Thursday, July 1
ARBENDER ROBINSON



Friday, July 2
ERIC SANTAGATA



Thursday, July 8
**ANNE RUNOLFSSON
& TESS ADAMS**



Saturday, July 10
RUBY LEWIS



Thursday, July 15
COCO SMITH



Thursday, July 22
MICHAEL DEMBY-CAIN



Saturday, July 24
STEPHANIE GIBSON



Thursday, August 26
MARTY THOMAS



Friday, August 27
VISHAL VAIDYA



Saturday, August 28
ELIZABETH WARD LAND

Tickets Now on Sale!
LegacyTheatreCT.org