



# OTP

OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE

WHERE COMMUNITY COMES  
**TOGETHER**

Entertainment | Education | Cultural Enrichment



CELEBRATING

# 65

YEARS



OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

## MISSION

Together, as a volunteer driven organization, we **IMPACT** lives through Entertainment, Education and Engagement.



18k+

TICKETS SOLD

100+

PERFORMANCES

400+

VOLUNTEERS

750+

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

## DONATE NOW!

ONLINE: [OldTownPlayhouse.com](http://OldTownPlayhouse.com)

BY PHONE: 231.947.2210

YOUR SUPPORT  
MEANS THE WORLD TO US!



## Dear Friends and Supporters,

For 65 years, Old Town Playhouse has grown along with the Traverse region. Today, **vibrant** and **robust** describe our programming facets that span different formats of education and dramatic entertainment. We are excited about all that our **65th anniversary season** encompasses – more MainStage shows, the return of Studio Theatre to our newly renovated Mary Schmuckal Theatre, Aged To Perfection on-site and off-site performances and several special performances at off-site locations. There is truly something for everyone this season.

Our Young Company educational arm also offers **learning** and **fun** for all ages from five to eighteen. In addition to the on-stage opportunities, there are tech classes and workshops. Young people find their passion, make friends and develop life skills such as teamwork, planning, and creative thinking.

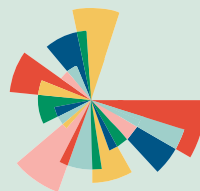
OTP strives to be the best it can be. This starts with a base of core values that guide our efforts: Creativity, Quality, Variety, Inclusiveness, Integrity and Viability. We enrich our region. We welcome everyone. We connect the community. We nurture transformation.

The arts are not a luxury but rather they are an essential part of thriving economies and communities. The breadth of impact ranges from individuals to communities at large.

Theatre is a team sport – and our team of volunteers, both on stage and backstage, as well as donors and sponsors, are what fuel our success. **Thank you** for supporting the Playhouse and making wonderful theatre possible in our community.

We are grateful to our **hundreds of volunteers** that do the work and give passionately of their time. And we are thankful to our donors and sponsors who fund the programming. OTP couldn't be the outstanding place that it is without them!

*OTP is where community comes together to produce incredible live theatre and educate our youth.*



*Deb Jackson*

Deb Jackson  
Executive Director







Sep 12 – 27, 2025  
Feel Good Disco Comedy



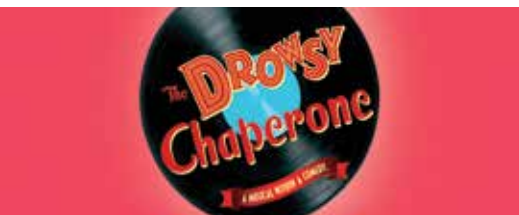
Oct 24 – Nov 1, 2025  
Campy Sci-Fi Musical



Dec 5 – 20, 2025  
Heartwarming Family Musical



Feb 13 – 21, 2026  
Classic Psychological Thriller



Apr 17 – May 2, 2026  
Nostalgic Musical Romp



May 15 – 23, 2026  
Feisty Comedic Hijinx



Jan 16 – 24, 2026  
Traditional Family Favorite



Mar 26 – 28, 2026  
Thought Provoking Drama



Nov 14 – 22, 2025  
Small-town Dark Comedy



Jan 30 – Feb 7, 2026  
Powerful Emotional Drama



June 5 – 13, 2026  
Comedic Fairy Tale



Mar 13 – 21, 2026  
Heartfelt Comedic Drama

## NEW THIS YEAR – OTP MYPASS!

The ultimate in convenience and you'll save money too! Purchase at least one ticket for four or more different MainStage or Studio Theatre shows in one transaction and you'll save \$4 on each ticket.

[OldTownPlayhouse.com/MyPass](http://OldTownPlayhouse.com/MyPass)



Vibrant, Courageous,  
Memorable Performances  
by students ages 5-18

Intimate, Daring,  
Small Stage, Big Impact

### STAGED READINGS

Readers Theatre productions;  
October 2025 and  
January 2026.

### AGED TO PERFECTION

ATP is our senior reader's theatre. Those over 55 meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Ten November**  
Nov 7 – 9, 2025  
Grand Traverse  
Yacht Club

# CELEBRATING 65 YEARS!

## April 1960

Elnora Milliken gathered Interlochen faculty and 40 local theatre buffs to form **the Traverse City Civic Players** and staged *You Can't Take It With You* at a local school.

## 1969

The Players' home stage moved to the **Park Place Dome**, home to the Cherry County Playhouse, and broadened its offerings, beginning with *Guys and Dolls*.

## 1975

The Players purchased the church facility and changed the name to **Old Town Playhouse**.

## 1978

**Studio Theatre** was introduced to offer audiences an intimate theatre experience.



## Early 1970s

The Players sought a home with a larger facility and found space at the First Christian Church which was originally built in 1903.

## 1983-85

**Phase One of reconstruction** included: elevator, new stairwells, boiler, HVAC improvements, relocation of restrooms, make up rooms and more.

## 1993

The **Traverse City Children/Teen Theatre** was incorporated as the educational arm of OTP, becoming **Young Company**.

## 1998

Due to fire code restrictions, the theatre was closed and faced more than **\$350,000 in required improvements**. OTP "took the show on the road," borrowing performance spaces.

## 1999

A huge vote of **community support and a major capital campaign** allowed the aging playhouse to undergo renovations to meet safety codes and make upgrades.



## 2000

OTP reopens at 8th and Cass with *Nunsense*.

## 2002

**Balcony renovation.**

## 2014

**Renovated Schmuckal**, installed new chairs in auditorium and removed stairs on House Right.

## 2008

Restructuring of the governance of the operations and **development of TREAT**, a centralized regional ticketing operation.

## 2006

**Mortgage on building was retired.** Additional building improvements including new windows and stage light reconstruction.

## 2023

**At the Corner of Art and Culture Mural Project** adds locally-sourced artwork to empty window spaces outside of the building.

## 2009

**Studio Theatre moves to the Depot.**

## 2019

**Energy efficiency improvements** began including lighting converted to LED.



## 2020

**Pandemic closes OTP** for a season. Improvements are made to the building including HVAC upgrades and new ticketing software. Studio at the Depot is discontinued.

## 2024

OTP hires first full-time **Artistic Director**.

## 2022

New windows installed. **New branding project** including logo, website and annual report.

## 2025

**Studio Theatre returns** to the newly renovated Mary Schmuckal Theatre.



Today the Playhouse presents MainStage shows, Studio Theatre, Young Company and Aged To Perfection Performances. The 25-26 season will add Staged Readings and two offsite productions.





## WE CONNECT THE COMMUNITY

Together we bring about positive change to individuals and our community.

The quality of theatre you experience at Old Town Playhouse could not happen on ticket sales alone – which only cover 40% of the operating costs.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF  
OUR GENEROUS DONORS.**

### OTP DONORS

#### GENEROUS DONORS THAT HAVE GIVEN \$100+ DURING THE PAST YEAR!

##### BENEFACTOR

Hans Bruehl  
Jeff Kroeger  
**PRODUCER**  
Ross & Brenda  
Biederman  
Shelley Spencer  
Chuck & Annie Moeser  
Rick Korndorfer

##### DIRECTOR

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Bingham  
Donald Harbold  
Dennis & Sandy  
Stockemer  
MacKenzie & Marcia  
Endo  
Phil & Joani Callighan  
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Kerr & Lorna Anderson  
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Kathleen Bowden  
Janice Boles  
Ward Gillett & Mary  
Bevans Gillett  
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Judy Heffron  
Denni Don Hunting  
Michael & Janice London  
Don Ringsmuth

Bradley Roswell  
Derek & Jerry Ann  
Strine  
Richard & Carol  
Thompson  
Greg Williams  
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Allison & Roy Heeren  
Evelyn & Mike  
Richardson  
Peg Brace  
Deb Bowman & Don  
Kuehlhorn  
Paulette & Grant Parsons  
Meridith Falconer  
Nan Worthington  
Jill Bert  
Tom Cole & Ellen Meeker  
Connie & Robert  
Schneider  
Carol Inman  
Tom & Alicia Power  
Chuck Steinmetz  
Tom & Marsha Andres  
Ginny Fey  
Peg & Dan Jonkhoff  
Paula J Austin-Stein

Michael Binstead &  
Terri Heffron  
Maria Bryant  
Susan Burks  
Leith & Gloria Butler  
Susan Buxton  
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Don Hirt & Lisa Hall  
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Ann Howser  
Earnest & Robbie Kafcas  
Diana & Steve Lett  
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Mark Richardson  
Michael & Loma  
Romanow

Dennis Svec  
Megan Valdez  
Kelly Wagner  
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Hedges Macdonald  
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Margaret & Bob  
Tipword  
Randall Toland  
Rick & Karen Cross  
Richard & Christine  
Walter

Katelyn Wilson  
Linda Barry  
Nancie & Randy  
Billingsley  
Jessica Presswood  
Pamela Radabaugh  
Dick & Mary Beth  
Hartrick  
Virginia Grove  
Evelyn Burbank  
Nancy Albrecht  
Good Dog Karma, LLC  
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Kara Ashworth  
Erica Austin  
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Mary Bales  
Emily Bluemer &  
Carolyn Green  
Linda Burkey  
Jeffrey Butts

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Shelley M Duke  
Diane Fall  
Robert & Joyce Gingras  
Dick & Marilyn Hanson  
Jennifer & Glenn  
Henbest  
Bill & Debbie Hershey  
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John Hunter & Susan  
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Meaghan Kenny  
John & Connie Kerns  
Jamie Lamont  
Michael Lautner  
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Todd McMillen  
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Denae & Tom Neirman  
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Patrick Pierce  
Robert Roberts  
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Donna Schaerer  
Clare Shipstead  
Melissa Sole  
Jon & Maggi Steele  
Maryjo Surma  
Alice Tang  
Jerry Taylor  
Ann Tisdale  
Kathy Verstraete  
Erica Christine Walsh  
Joe & Glenda Wierzbicki  
Pete & Ginna Woessner  
Sharon Wright

#### OTP PARTNERS 2024-25

#### A standing ovation to our OTP sponsors!

We are grateful to all of the businesses and foundations that support our theatre.



Les & Ann Biederman Foundation

Art and Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation

Oleson Foundation

If your business would like to partner with OTP to promote live local theatre, contact [office@oldtownplayhouse.com](mailto:office@oldtownplayhouse.com) or call 231.947.2210.

## WHERE EVERYONE PLAYS A ROLE

Every time you go to the theatre **YOU BECOME PART OF A STORY.**

Old Town Playhouse is made of thousands of stories from each person that has volunteered here in the last 65 years. This year, we'd like to share a little bit of those stories and say thank you. Our gratitude to each person that has shared their time, their life and their stories with us make this the special place it is.

**YOU ARE THE REASON WE RAISE THE CURTAIN EACH SEASON.**

## OTP VOLUNTEERS



*"No matter what I do at OTP, there is a family of friends waiting to make the task more fulfilling. The whole is always greater than the sum of its parts as the collaboration bears fruit in so many ways."*

— Michael Spry

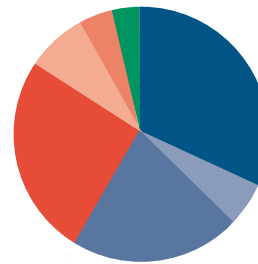
*"OTP is what made Traverse City my HOME and not just the city that I live in. It allowed me to find a community with shared interests, with new opportunities and support beyond what I could have ever asked for."*

— Katelyn Wilson



## OTP FINANCIALS

### INCOME

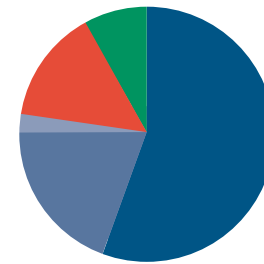


**DEVELOPMENT**  
**28%** Individuals  
**3%** Corporate  
**11%** Foundations

**PROGRAMS**  
**39%** Tickets  
**15%** Classes  
**2%** Concessions

**OTHER/ADMIN 2%**

### EXPENSES



**DEVELOPMENT**  
**11%**

**PROGRAMS**  
**59%** Productions  
**21%** Classes  
**1%** Concessions

**OTHER/ADMIN**  
**8%**

**TOTAL REVENUE = \$1,076,534**

Full Financial Info: [OldTownPlayhouse.com/about/important-documents](http://OldTownPlayhouse.com/about/important-documents)



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paul Jarboe, *President, Partner at Jarboe & Pfeil, Attorneys*  
Kerr Anderson, *Vice President, Retired Research Scientist at The Dow Chemical Company*  
Peg Brace, *Treasurer, Retired Accountant*  
Lindsay Raymond, *Secretary, Attorney and Partner at Danbrook Adams Raymond PLC*  
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Rita Whaley, *Interior Designer at Interior Design Studio, Inc. and Design 2 LLC*  
Deb Oetjens Jackson, *OTP Executive Director*

Full profiles and staff list: [OldTownPlayhouse.com/People](http://OldTownPlayhouse.com/People)

*"Old Town Playhouse has been a second home for our daughters for the last eight years. They have been welcomed into a creative community that inspires all to come together to tell important stories."*

— Ashlea Walter



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Traverse City, MI 49684

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