

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE'S 44TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

FRIDAY, JUN 9



PROGRAM

ELTON
UNDRESSED

TODD ALSUP
SINGS
ELTON JOHN

CONCEIVED BY
ROB RUGGIERO &
TODD ALSUP



MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE



WWW.MRT.ORG | 978.654.4678

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

RED RIDING HOOD

BY ALLISON GREGORY



JANUARY 10-28, 2024

PERFORMED AT RICHARD AND NANCY DONAHUE FAMILY ACADEMIC ARTS CENTER

Wolfgang, the greatest actor in the world, is interrupted while performing his "one-man extravaganza" by a delivery person with a mysterious package. But the show must go on, and the two of them take on all the roles in this fast, funny, and surprising adaptation. The wolf may have dinner plans, but this Red is courageous, clever - and talented!

(Recommended for ages 5 and older.)

TICKETS

ADULT \$34 | CHILDREN \$15



JEANNE D'ARC
CREDIT UNION
STUDY GUIDE SPONSOR

PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
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WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY.



LIVE AUCTION PROCEDURES AND RULES

ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BID HIGH AND BID OFTEN!

Paddles with individual bid numbers have been provided upon check-in. Raising your paddle and being recognized by the auctioneer enters a bid. All bids are a binding commitment to purchase. The auctioneer reserves the right to reject any bid that, in the opinion of the auctioneer, is not commensurate with the value of the item being offered. The highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer shall be the buyer. In the event of any dispute, the auctioneer shall have the sole and final discretion to determine the successful bidder or to re-offer and re-sell the item.

All sales are final. No refunds will be given, nor will the cash value of the gift certificate be refunded. Unless otherwise specified, dates and times are to be arranged through the mutual convenience of the donor and the buyer. Descriptions and values are approximate and not guaranteed by the Merrimack Repertory Theatre. By their purchase, the buyer waives any claim of liability against Merrimack Repertory Theatre or the donor of the item or services. Neither Merrimack Repertory Theatre nor the donor is responsible for any personal injuries or damages to property that may result from the use of items or services sold.

All items purchased must be paid for the night of the auction by check, cash, or credit card which may be registered upon arrival through GiveSmart, the online platform for this event. Upon exiting the theatre, please visit the check-out table to process your payment and pick up your items.



PATRICK HAMILTON'S
GASLIGHT

A NEW VERSION FOR THE STAGE BY STEVEN DIETZ
DIRECTED BY COURTNEY SALE

OCT 18-NOV 5

PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CINCINNATI SHAKESPEARE COMPANY




A CHRISTMAS CAROL

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY COURTNEY SALE
BY CHARLES DICKENS

NOV 29-DEC 24

PHOTO BY MEGPIX/MEGHAN MOORE

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE
45TH SEASON
MRT.ORG



DISHWASHER DREAMS

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY ALAUDIN ULLAH
DIRECTED BY CHAY YEW

FEB 28-MAR 17, 2024

DISHWASHER DREAMS WAS PRESENTED AT HARTFORD STAGE AND WRITERS THEATRE

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BROSILOW



THE PORCH ON WINDY HILL


WRITTEN BY SHERRY STREGACK LUTKEN,
LISA HELMI JOHANSON, MORGAN MORSE,
& DAVID M. LUTKEN

CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY
SHERRY STREGACK LUTKEN

A NEW PLAY WITH OLD MUSIC

APR 3-21, 2024

PHOTO BY JONATHAN STEELE



SPIRITUS/VIRGIL'S DANCE

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY DAEL ORLANDERSMITH
DIRECTED BY NEEL KELLER

MAY 8-26, 2024

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BROSILOW. DAEL ORLANDERSMITH'S UNTIL THE FLOOD.

LIVE AUCTION ITEMS



ROCKET MAN DINNER WITH SCROOGE

Dinner with Scrooge herself, Ms. Karen MacDonald. You and your guest will join Scrooge at Cobblestones for a meal. Perhaps you'll help soften Scrooge's heart through a delicious dinner?

MINIMUM BID: \$500



STEP INTO CHRISTMAS A MILL CITY CAROL

Join this year's production of *A Christmas Carol* with a walk-on role. To prepare you for your MRT stage debut, you will receive a full costume fitting with the MRT costume shop staff. You also receive four tickets to the performance: one for you while you await your entrance and three others for your adoring fans.

MINIMUM BID: \$600



YOUR SONG A HOMEMADE HOOTENANNY

David M. Lutken, co-author and performer of next season's *The Porch on Windy Hill* will join you at your home for an Americana jam. You may remember him from his 2022 performance of *Woody Sez: The Music of Woody Guthrie* or from last year's gala! Discover for yourself the joys and roots of one of America's proudest and longest musical traditions, as David plays a thirty minute in home concert. MRT will supply desserts for the evening with your family & guests.

MINIMUM BID: \$800

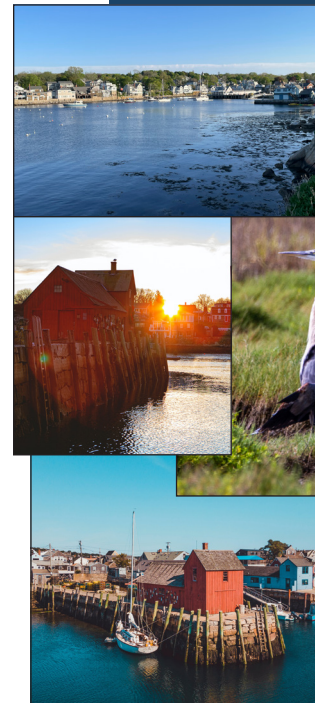
LIVE AUCTION ITEMS



I'VE SEEN THAT MOVIE TOO MRT HEADS TO BROADWAY

If you're yearning for a weekend in the big city, you're in luck! Our NYC getaway includes hotel for 2 nights and 2 tickets to *Funny Girl* with dinner prior with one of the show's musical arrangers David Dabbon (whose Broadway credits include *Dancin'*, *Beetlejuice* and *Sondheim on Sondheim*) & MRT's Courtney Sale. But that's not all, this package also includes 2 tickets to MOMA. (*Transportation is winner's responsibility and must take place in late July/early August 2023.*)

MINIMUM BID: \$1,800



IT'S ME THAT YOU NEED ROCKPORT GETAWAY

We New Englanders cherish our summers! What better way to experience our beautiful area than a week in Rockport, named one of the 10 best beach towns on the East Coast by *Condé Nast*. Overlooking Sandy Bay and nestled right downtown, you can soak up some rays & take a swim, enjoy a walk on Bearskin Neck filled with shops & restaurants, and watch the boats sail out. This family friendly home sleeps 12 and has three bathrooms.

Limitations: Weeklong stay must be scheduled in advance on a mutually agreeable date prior to June 1, 2024. Limited on season availability. Blackout dates include June 30-July 7.

MINIMUM BID: \$2,000

FUND-A-NEED



\$1,000

ONE CLASSROOM OF STUDENTS SEE A STUDENT MATINEE PERFORMANCE AT MRT



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RED RIDING HOOD



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PLAY GUIDES FOR ONE CLASSROOM



\$30

A TICKET FOR A LOCAL STUDENT



uml.edu

HAPPY 44TH ANNIVERSARY, MRT!



UMASS LOWELL is proud to support the vibrant work and artists of the Merrimack Repertory Theatre.



THE 39 STEPS

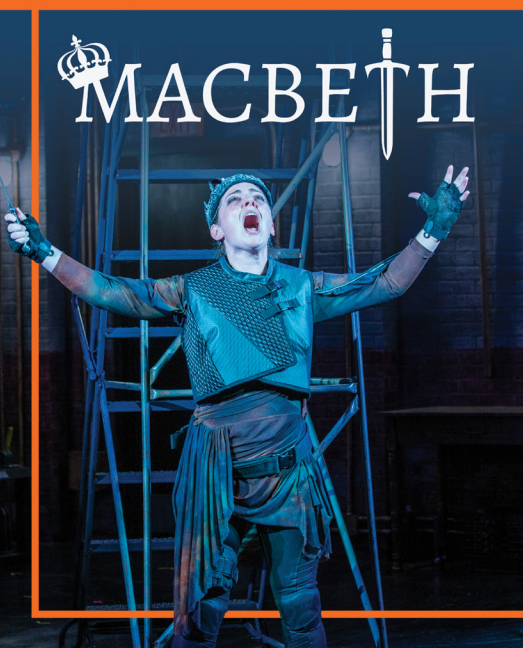


A CHRISTMAS CAROL

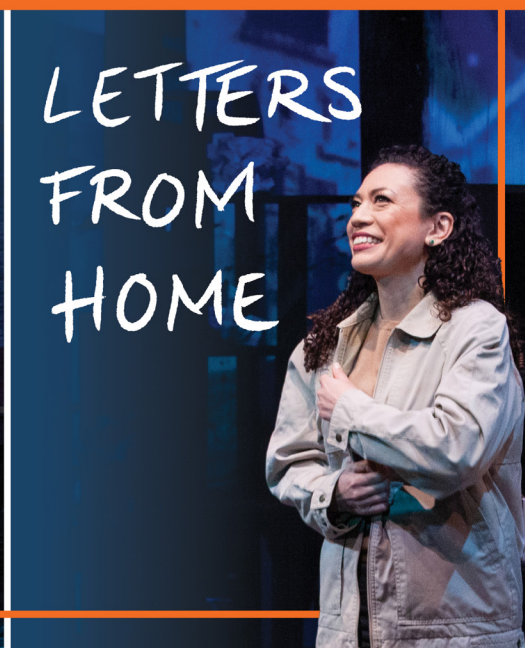
**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US
FOR OUR 22-23 SEASON!**

ALL PHOTOS BY MEGPIX/MEGHAN MOORE. TOP (LEFT, L-R) Tom Colner, Margaret Ivey, Ken Robinson, and Richard Nguyen Sloniker. Production of *The 39 Steps*. (RIGHT, L-R) Christina Acosta Robinson, Kyosin Kang, Karen MacDonald, Ken Robinson, and Tom Colner with our Red Youth Cast. Production of *A Christmas Carol*. BOTTOM (LEFT) Alexis Bronkovic. MRT's production of *Macbeth*. (RIGHT) Kalean Ung. Production of *Letters from Home*.

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE
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MACBETH



LETTERS FROM HOME

UMASS LOWELL | 2023
 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP
 CONFERENCE



JUNE 21

UMASS LOWELL INN &
 CONFERENCE CENTER



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how high the moon

THE MUSIC OF ELLA FITZGERALD



**AUDIENCES
 COULDN'T
 GET ENOUGH!**

"THIS IS A
MUST SEE.
 I ENJOYED
 EVERY MOMENT."

"TINA FABRIQUE
 IS NOT TO
 BE MISSED"

PHOTOS BY MEGPIX/MEGHAN MOORE



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THE MUSIC OF CHICAGO

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023



KEB' MO'

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023




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FEATURING CHINA FORBES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023



**LYLE LOVETT
& HIS LARGE BAND**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023



CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE:
CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL
CHRONICLE VOL. 1

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023



**ROBERT
CRAY BAND**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

MOVING FORWARD,

TOGETHER

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MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE

PRESENTS

44TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

WITH PERFORMANCES BY

TODD ALSUP

FEATURING EXCERPTS OF

ELTON UNDRESSED: TODD ALSUP SINGS ELTON JOHN

CONCEIVED BY ROB RUGGIERO AND TODD ALSUP

GUEST SPEAKERS

COURTNEY SALE, NANCY L. DONAHUE EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DR. ANTHONY ZAVAGNIN, PRINCIPAL, NOTRE DAME CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL
WIRMERY PAEZ, 9TH GRADE AT NOTRE DAME CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL
KALEAN UNG

VIDEO BY

BALL SQUARE FILMS/KATHY WITTMAN

AUCTIONEER

HENRI MARCHAND

DIRECTED BY

COURTNEY SALE

JUNE 9, 2023

CAST

Todd Alsup

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Maegan A. Conroy Production Coordinator
Sarah R. Katz Production Assistant
Adam Smith Sound Engineer
Matthew Pennebaker Light Board Operator
Kate Dyson Wardrobe Supervisor

THANK YOU

Todd Alsup
Rob Ruggiero
Dr. Anthony Zavagnin
Wirmery Paez
Kalean Ung
Kathy Wittman
Henri Marchand
Artisan Chef Catering Company
Bay State Flowers & Susan Mitchell
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MRT Staff & Volunteers

A special thank you to Nancy L. Donahue



Merrimack Repertory Theatre is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



Merrimack Repertory Theatre operates under agreements between the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), a consortium of regional theatres throughout the nation, and AEA (Actors' Equity Association), SDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society), and USA (United Scenic Artists).



PRESENTS

ELTON UNDRRESSED

TODD ALSUP SINGS ELTON JOHN

CONCEIVED BY

ROB RUGGIERO & TODD ALSUP

STARRING

TODD ALSUP

JUNE 10-11, 2023



GREATER MERRIMACK VALLEY
Convention & Visitors Bureau
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Funded by the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism

CAST

Todd Alsup

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Maegan A. Conroy	Production Coordinator
Sarah R. Katz	Production Assistant
Adam Smith	Sound Engineer
Matthew Pennebaker	Light Board Operator

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*Provide generous support of goods & services for our actors, creative teams, and audiences

*Provide generous support of goods & services for our actors, creative teams, and audiences

WHO'S WHO

TODD ALSUP (Singer, songwriter, and keyboardist) is a Detroit native and a proud New Yorker. His original songs and fresh arrangements of classic R&B and pop tunes have endeared him to audiences all over the world. His debut EP, "Facts & Figures" was hailed by critics and earned him a Yamaha endorsement. Songs from his LP, "Todd Alsup" were featured on MTV and PBS. His single "The Only Thing" won the OutMusic Award for Pop Song of the Year. His third studio album, "Currency" was recorded in Switzerland with Orlando Ribar. Todd has a close-knit group of fans affectionately known as THE TODD SQUAD. His other solo project "Freedom: The George Michael Experience," has wowed audiences all over the world. Check him out at www.toddalsup.com

ROB RUGGIERO (Director) has been a vital part of TheaterWorks Hartford's artistic leadership team for the past 30 seasons. His Broadway credits include *Looped* (starring Valerie Harper in a Tony-nominated performance) and *High* (starring Kathleen Turner) which had its world premiere at TheaterWorks. Rob conceived and directed the musical revue *Make Me A Song: The Music of William Finn* which ran off-Broadway, London, and was nominated for both the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards. He also conceived and directed the musical *Ella*, which saw sold-out runs in 24 regional theaters and was produced as a National Tour. Rob's work on plays and musicals has received multiple awards all over the

country, including his large body of work at Goodspeed Musicals. Internationally he directed *Fiddler on the Roof* in Athens, Greece. This summer he will direct a revival of *West Side Story* for The Muny in St. Louis where he directs regularly.

COURTNEY SALE (Director/Nancy L. Donahue Executive Artistic Director of MRT) she/her/hers. In March 2020, Courtney joined MRT, where she has directed *The 39 Steps*, *The Rise and Fall of Holly Fudge*, *A Woman of the World*, and *Wild Horses*. Commissioned writers under her tenure include Trista Baldwin, Vichet Chum, Kevin Kling, Melinda Lopez, Dael Orlandersmith, and Klean Ung. Courtney served as Artistic Director of Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT), the nation's leading generator of new work for young audiences. At SCT, she directed *Black Beauty*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, and *The Little Prince*. Commissioned writers under her SCT tenure include Idris Goodwin, Cheryl West, Allison Gregory, Karen Hartman, Trista Baldwin, Ramon Esquivel, and James Still. Selected directing projects: *Tiny Beautiful Things* at Seattle Rep; the world premiere of Steven Dietz's *The Ghost of Splinter Cove* at Children's Theatre of Charlotte; and *Support Group for Men* at Contemporary American Theatre Festival (CATF). Other credits: *The Cake*; *Wild Horses*; *Not Medea* (CATF); *Mr. Burns, A Post Electric Play*; *On Clover Road* (The Phoenix Theater); *Twelfth Night*, and *The Tempest* (Indy Shakes). Prior to

WHO'S WHO

SCT, she spent three years as Associate Artistic Director at Indiana Repertory Theatre. She has developed new work at Denver Center Theatre Company, New Harmony Project, Write Now, Dorset Theatre Festival, TheatreWorks (Palo Alto), New Plays for Young Audiences at NYU/Provincetown Playhouse, and The Orchard Project. Other distinctions included Indianapolis Business Journal's Forty Under Forty designation, Cornish College of the Arts Distinguished Alumni Award, and the keynote speaker at the 2017 International Council of Fine Arts Deans. Ms. Sale is a proud board member of the National Theatre Conference and the theatrical union the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. She is represented by Paladin Artists NYC. BFA, Cornish College of the Arts. MFA, The University of Texas at Austin.

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE (www.mrt.org) Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) celebrates 44 years this season as the Merrimack Valley's only professional theatre. With a steadfast commitment to new plays, MRT's season includes several premieres, in the 279-seat Nancy L. Donahue Theatre at Liberty Hall.

Under the leadership of the **Nancy L. Donahue Executive Artistic Director Courtney Sale**, MRT strives to fulfill its mission to "create remarkable new and contemporary plays that bring joy to our art form while engaging, entertaining

and enriching our community." The non-profit company guarantees that shows are accessible to audiences of all incomes; partners with businesses and other non-profits to fully engage the community; and contributes to the economic vitality of Lowell by attracting diverse audiences from throughout the region.

Recent acclaimed productions include *Best Summer Ever*, *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, the bestselling production in MRT's history, and *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*, both by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon; *Cambodian Rock Band* by Lauren Yee and *KNYUM* by Vichet Chum, works in celebration of Lowell's Cambodian community; *The Haunted Life*, a world premiere adaptation of Jack Kerouac's unfinished novel; the world premiere of *The Rise and Fall of Holly Fudge* by Trista Baldwin; and plays about the Black experience, including *Until the Flood* by Dael Orlandersmith, *Nina Simone: Four Women* by Christina Ham, and *Back Together Again: The Music of Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway*.



Photos of Merrimack Repertory Theatre's Young Company and student matinees by MegPix/Meghan Moore.

MRT YOUNG COMPANY

The MRT Young Company offers an educational theatre experience for students 14-18 years old. During our summer program, students participate in an intensive course of performance, scene analysis, and collaborative playwriting. Our generous funders guarantee admission through scholarships and grants.

JUL 10-28, 2023 | 9AM-3PM

YOUNG
Company

YOUNGER COMPANY

All the qualities of the Young Company in a weeklong intensive led by MRT Artists for ages 11 to 13.

JUL 31-AUG 4, 2023 | 9AM-3PM



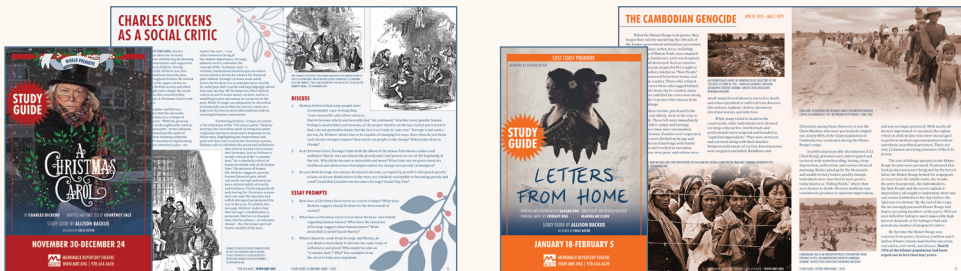
YOUNGER
Company

STUDENT MATINEES

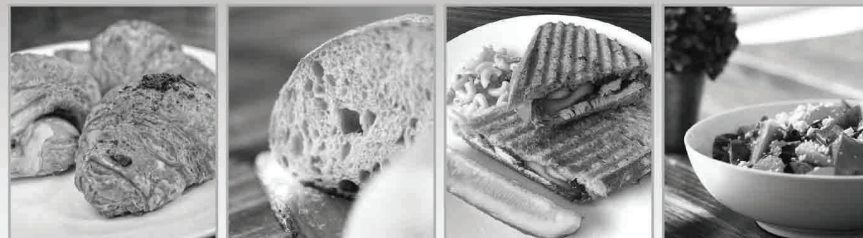
More than 3,000 local students attend our student matinees each season. The matinees offer many students their first exposure to professional theatre and teaches them new ways to explore storytelling and literature. Our **Partners in Education** program keeps the program affordable for all.

CONTACT | Eve Foldan, Enterprise Bank Box Office; box_office@mrt.org | 978.654.4678

STUDY GUIDES | With our commitment to Theatre Education, MRT creates seasonal Study Guides as a resource for educators, students, and patrons. These guides focus on Massachusetts learning standards and provide comprehensive articles, activities, and discussion topics related to the subject matter of each play.



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YOUNG ACTOR AUDITIONS FOR A CHRISTMAS CAROL

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE INVITES YOUNG ACTORS, AGES 8-16, TO AUDITION FOR A CHRISTMAS CAROL. STUDENTS WILL NEED TO PREPARE A ONE-MINUTE MONOLOGUE, POEM, OR STORY, AND BRING A RECENT PICTURE AND SHORT RÉSUMÉ TO THE AUDITION. STUDENTS WILL BE CALLED IN GROUPS OF 12 FOR A ONE-HOUR GROUP AUDITION. THE AUDITION WILL BE A FUN, SUPPORTIVE, AND COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP, LED BY MRT'S EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR COURTNEY SALE.

CHILDREN OF ALL CULTURES AND ETHNICITIES ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO AUDITION.

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Green Youth Cast in MRT's A Christmas Carol, 2022.
Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore.



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SAHEL
 RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
 AFRO-CARIBBEAN CUISINE



ABOUT US

The Sahel is a largely semi-arid belt of barren, sandy and rock-strewn land, the Sahel marks the physical and cultural transition between the continent's more fertile tropical regions to the south and its desert in the north. At Sahel Restaurant & Lounge "SAHEL", our leitmotiv is the quality of the food and service. Our menu represents the traditional culinary African and Caribbean cuisines with some Cameroonian-influenced alternatives. SAHEL is situated in the heart of downtown Lowell (City of Lowell, MA) in a 3,500 square feet of newly renovated space just about a mile away from the main campus of UMass Lowell. Sahel is open everyday from 11am to 10pm. SAHEL offers a 200 seats fine dining restaurant upstairs with 75 seats lounge area in the basement lower level.

WE'RE READY TO SERVE YOU

We are ready to plan your event A to Z. Please contact us and let's take care of everything.

CONTACT US

Phone : +1 978-455-3635
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Scan for our Full Menu



Back to School
PROMO
 UP TO 5% OFF ON ENTIRE FOOD ORDER FOR STUDENT DINE IN, ONLINE & PICK UP ORDERS ONLY! PROMO ENDS NOVEMBER 30, 2022.



WHAT WE DO AND OFFER?

SAHEL focus primarily on Afro-Caribbean menu with a touch of French and Cameroonian influence. The menu contains traditional favorites such as Ndole, Egusi Soup, Jerk Chicken, Motongo, Fufu, Puff-Puff, Attieke, Eru, Manfe, Jollof Rice, Achu Soup, Okra Soup, Burgers, Pasta, Burritos, Riz Cole, Griot and Plantains amongst others. These traditional dishes are prepared by recognized chefs. The consistency in delivery the same quality of food and services is the pride of the management.

SAHEL'S front of the house staff members are hired to communicate the menu and specials and enhance your overall dining experience. Our staff goes through extensive training, ensuring high quality customer service.

In addition to in-house dining, the restaurant will offer a full and complete take-out and catering services as well.



POPULAR DISHES

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DANCING JERK CHICKEN

Jerk chicken with pineapple salsa and our award winning jerk sauce. Served with rice of choice.



EGUSI SOUP & FUFU

Made with ground melon seeds, spinach and African spices, served with braised beef. Recommended sides are fufu or fried plantains.



BRAISED OXTAIL

Jamaican braised oxtail with white beans. Fall off the bone tender. Served with sauteed vegetables and rice of choice.



CURRY RASTA PASTA

Penne pasta in a creamy coconut curry sauce with bell peppers and red onions.



NDOLE

A traditional Cameroonian peanut stew made with bitter leaves. Flavored with garlic and crayfish and served with shrimp and beef. Served with rice of choice.



RED SNAPPER /TILAPIA

Baked or fried whole snapper or tilapia served with African tomato stew. Served with side of choice.



CHICKEN STEW (POLLO GUISADO)

Made with bone-in chicken, potatoes, spices, and olives, cooked until tender. Paired with rice of your choice.



WHY CHOOSE US?

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CONGRATULATIONS TO COURTNEY AND THE MRT STAFF FOR A YEAR OF GREAT PRODUCTIONS!



Kolean Ung in *Letters from Home*.
Photo by MegPix/Meghan Moore.

(l-r) Ken Robinson, Christina Acosta Robinson, and
Kyosin Kang in *A Christmas Carol*.
Photo by Megpix/Meghan Moore.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO NANCY DONAHUE FOR HER VISION FOR A THEATRE IN LOWELL

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MRT STAFF

Nancy L. Donahue Executive Artistic Director Courtney Sale

ARTISTIC

Young Company Director Robert Cornelius
Commissioned Playwrights Trista Baldwin, Vichet Chum, Kevin Kling, Melinda Lopez,
Dael Orlandersmith, Kalean Ung
Young Company Coordinator Kaitlyn Crockett

PRODUCTION

Lighting and Sound Supervisor Andrew Andrews
Costume Shop Manager Becca Jewett
Wardrobe Supervisor Kate Dyson
Props Manager Cassie Lentz
Interim Props Manager Karissa Roberts
Production Assistant Sarah Rachel Katz

ADMINISTRATION

Director of Finance Edgar Cyrus
Director of Development & Engagement Kristin A. McCauley
Graphic Designer & Marketing Associate Emily Boyer
Resident Dramaturg Allison Backus
House Manager John Dyson
Enterprise Bank Box Office Manager Eve Foldan
Enterprise Bank Box Office Representative Stephanie Rossmeisl
Part Time Enterprise Bank Box Office Representative Davira Kuy
Database Projects Manager E Larocque
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Video Kathy Wittman/Ball Square Films



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