



PARAMOUNT THEATRE

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For Immediate Release

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[Click here to download images from Paramount's Jeff-nominated shows.](#)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE'S *WEST SIDE STORY* WINS JEFF AWARDS FOR BEST MUSICAL, BEST CHOREOGRAPHY AND BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

AURORA, October 16, 2016 – The Paramount Theatre is pleased to announce it won three Jeff Awards for its Spring 2016 production of *West Side Story*, including the night's top honor – Best Musical/Large Theater – at tonight's 2015-16 Joseph Jefferson Equity Awards ceremony.

This is the second consecutive year Paramount has taken home the Best Musical trophy at the Jeff Awards, commonly known as the "Tonys" of Chicago theater. Paramount's production of *Les Misérables* took the top musical award last season.

Paramount's production of *West Side Story* also snared top honors in the annual derby of Chicago's best professional plays and musicals for Best Choreography/Large for William Carlos Angulo, as well as Actress in a Supporting Role – Musical/Large for Mary Antonini (Anita).

Paramount was the most nominated theater in Chicago at this year's Jeff Awards with 14 nominations, earning nods for all four shows in its 2015-16 Broadway Series – *OKLAHOMA!*, *A Christmas Story – The Musical*, *Hairspray – The Broadway Musical* and *West Side Story*.

"Thank you Jeff Committee, so much," said Jim Corti, Paramount Theatre Artistic Director and Director of *West Side Story*. "*West Side Story* is hard to do because we wanted to take the responsibility of holding that mirror up to life. And it's not pretty all the time. But we have to understand how strong we are when we have love. That's what we wanted to make a play about at Paramount – when that love isn't there, what happens?"

"This is what happens when a community believes in the arts. Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner is with us tonight. With his support, Aurora is a community that is actively investing in the arts," added Tim Rater, President and CEO, Paramount Theatre. "Thanks as well to the artists for sharing your gifts with us. We're grateful that you're part of the Paramount."

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Just two seasons ago, the Jeff Committee recognized that if it was truly to be judging the best professional theater in all of Chicagoland, then it needed to expand its geographic boundaries to include the Paramount. In 2014–15, the Paramount's first year of eligibility, Paramount won five Jeff Awards out of an unprecedented 16 nominations.

To see the full list of 2015–16 Equity Jeff Award winners, visit jeffawards.org.

More about Paramount's 2016–17 Broadway Series

Paramount Theatre's current 2016–17 Broadway musical series includes ***Mamma Mia!*** (now through Oct. 30), ***Disney's The Little Mermaid*** (Nov. 23–Jan. 8, 2017), ***Sweeney Todd–The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*** (Feb. 8–Mar. 19, 2017) and ***Jesus Christ Superstar*** (Apr. 19–May 28, 2017). More than 30,000 subscribers are already taking advantage of Paramount's now-familiar "Buy Two, Get Two" offer, or four musicals for no more than \$29.50 per show. The rewards are ample – four amazing, Broadway-quality, award-winning classic American musicals at one of the most majestic theaters in the Midwest, all for the price of one show in downtown Chicago.

To purchase subscriptions or single tickets, visit ParamountAurora.com, call **(630) 896-6666** or visit the Paramount Theatre box office, 23 E. Galena Blvd. in the heart of downtown Aurora.

Paramount's 2016–17 Broadway Series is sponsored by **BMO Harris Bank, The Dunham Fund, Rush–Copley Medical Center, Gerald Kia** and **ComEd**.

About The Paramount Theatre

The Paramount Theatre (ParamountAurora.com) is the center for performing arts, entertainment and arts education in Aurora, the second largest city in Illinois. Named "One of Chicago's Top 10 Attended Theatres" by the League of Chicago Theatres, the 1,888-seat Paramount, located in downtown Aurora at 23 E. Galena Blvd., is nationally renowned for the quality of its presentations, superb acoustics and historic beauty.

The Paramount self-produces its own Broadway Musical Series, presents an eclectic array of comedy, music, dance and family shows, and on most Mondays screens a classic movie.

The Paramount Theatre continues to expand its artistic and institutional boundaries under the guidance of Tim Rater, President and CEO, Aurora Civic Center Authority; Jim Corti, Artistic Director, Paramount Theatre; a dedicated Board of Trustees and a devoted staff of live theater and music professionals.

For tickets and information, go to ParamountAurora.com or call **(630) 896-6666**.

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