

Reston Community Center

THE LEILA GORDON THEATRE

2026/2027 *Professional
Touring Artists Series*

www.restoncommunitycenter.com

2026/2027 PTAS Season at a Glance

Bryan Stevenson, Author

Sunday, September 27

3:00 p.m.

The Seldom Scene

Saturday, October 3

8:00 p.m.

"Holding Liat"

Screening & Talk Back with
Director Brandon Kramer

Monday, October 12

7:30 p.m.

Vauhini Vara, Author

Wednesday, November 18

8:00 p.m.

Reduced Shakespeare Company

**Presents "The Ultimate
Christmas Show (abridged)"**

Saturday, November 21

3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Yungchen Lhamo

Sunday, November 29

3:00 p.m.

"Out With It" by Claire Saxe

Wednesday, December 2

8:00 p.m.

Happenstance Theater Presents

**"JUXTAPOSE: A Theatrical
Shadow Box"**

Sunday, December 20

3:00 p.m.

Sam Prather

"Funk of Our Fathers"

Sunday, January 17

3:00 p.m.

A Conversation With

Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. and Bryan Hill

Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Birthday Celebration

Monday, January 18

11:00 a.m.

"Hubba Hubba"

Sunday, February 14

3:00 p.m.

Lúnasa

Saturday, February 20

3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Robin Spielberg

"Dreaming of Summer"

Sunday, March 14

3:00 p.m.

Norm Lewis

Sunday, March 21

3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Trout Fishing in America

Sunday, April 11

3:00 p.m.

Blues Porteño

Sunday, May 2

3:00 p.m.

Cullen Jones,

Olympic Gold Medalist

Wednesday, May 12

8:00 p.m.

"We Choose Each Other"

Choreography by Sean Dorsey

Saturday, May 15

8:00 p.m.

Isle of Klezbos

Saturday, June 5

8:00 p.m.



Photo by Ryan Maxwell

Greetings

In "Life on the Mississippi," Mark Twain called "lagniappe" a word worth traveling to New Orleans to get. From the American Spanish "la ñapa," it traditionally meant a little something extra given with a purchase. Today, it simply means an unexpected bonus.

That is the spirit behind RCC's lagniappes: special extras woven throughout the Professional Touring Artists Series that add a little more to the experience.

This season, those extras include light fare and conversation with Bryan Stevenson, an audience gift exchange at the Reduced Shakespeare Company's "The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)," a physical comedy class with performers from Happenstance Theater and a post-film conversation with "Holding Liat" director Brandon Kramer.

Don't miss any of them. Keep a look out for this icon 🎁 throughout this guide.

There are even more ways to enhance your experience. Arrive early to enjoy the artwork in our gallery or stay after a performance to meet participating artists in the lobby for conversation, autographs and photos.

We're also happy to announce an "anti-lagniappe" – no extra ticket fees. Our new ticketing system eliminates add-on charges. See details on the Tickets page.

This season is full of memorable performances and a few welcome extras.

Come for the performance. Stay for the lagniappe.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul D. Michniewicz".

Paul Douglas Michniewicz
RCC's Director of Arts & Culture



PTAS Icon Legend

Look for these icons to quickly find events that match your interests.



Honoring America's
250th Anniversary



Performances offering a little
something extra

Bryan Stevenson

Sunday

September 27, 2026

3:00 p.m.

\$40 R

\$60 NR



Bryan Stevenson is one of the nation's leading voices on justice, equality and human rights. He is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), where he has spent decades challenging wrongful convictions, excessive sentencing and the unequal treatment of vulnerable people in the justice system.

Stevenson has argued and won landmark cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and his work has helped secure relief for scores of people who were wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced.

This is a rare opportunity to hear directly from a nationally respected advocate whose work has changed lives and influenced the national conversation about justice. Join us for an afternoon of powerful ideas, compelling stories and a perspective that will stay with you long after the program ends.

PTAS Opening Night Reception

A reception will follow in the Community Room from 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. All ticket holders are welcome.

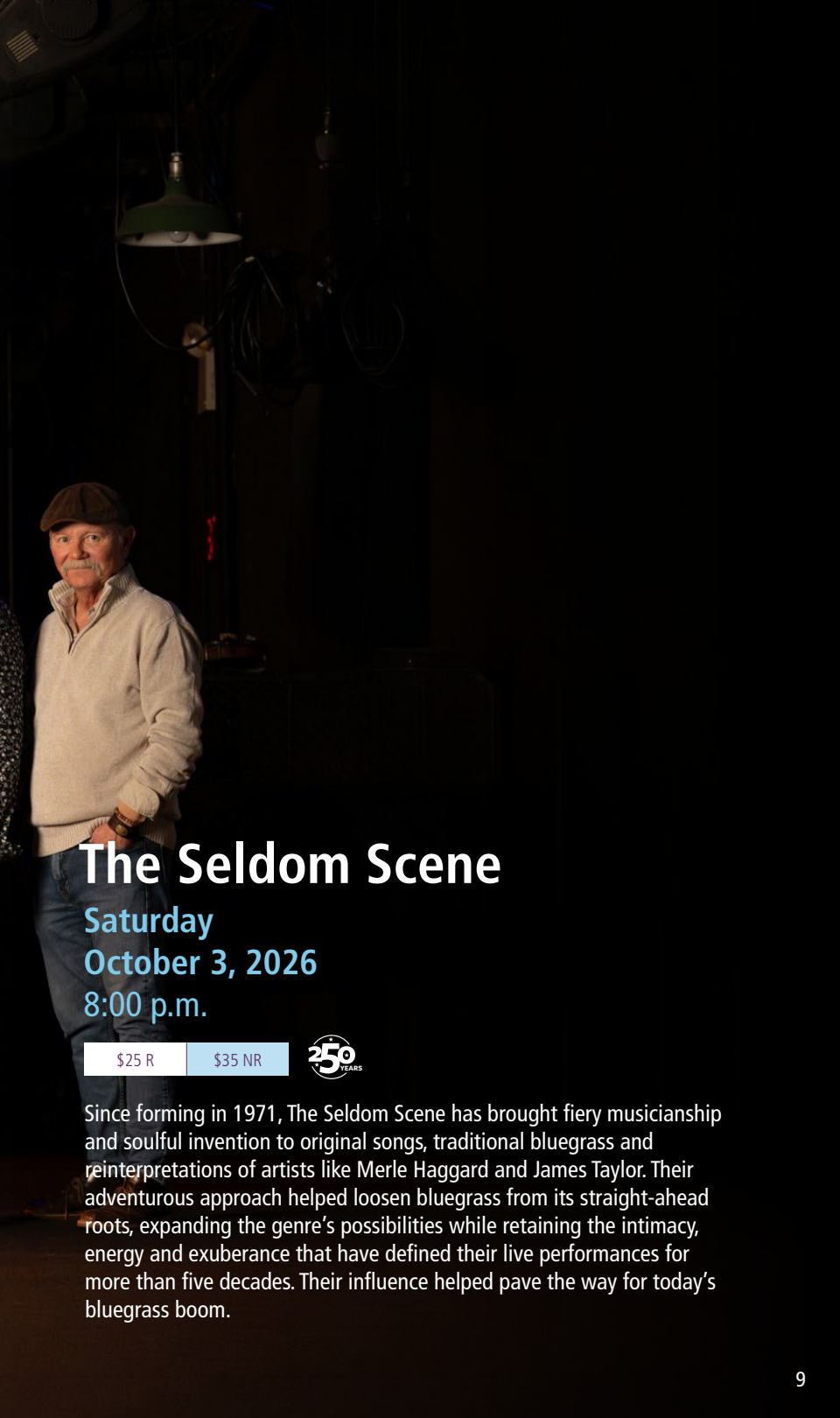
"Just Mercy," a film based on Bryan Stevenson's work, will be screened on October 21 at 7:30 p.m. at The Leila Gordon Theatre. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.



"... the legendary, Bethesda-born 'newgrass'
troupe that formed more than half
a century ago."

— The Washington Times





The Seldom Scene

Saturday

October 3, 2026

8:00 p.m.

\$25 R

\$35 NR



Since forming in 1971, The Seldom Scene has brought fiery musicianship and soulful invention to original songs, traditional bluegrass and reinterpretations of artists like Merle Haggard and James Taylor. Their adventurous approach helped loosen bluegrass from its straight-ahead roots, expanding the genre's possibilities while retaining the intimacy, energy and exuberance that have defined their live performances for more than five decades. Their influence helped pave the way for today's bluegrass boom.

"Holding Liat"

Screening and Talk Back with
Director Brandon Kramer

Monday

October 12, 2026

7:30 p.m.

\$5 R

\$10 NR



On the morning of October 7, 2023, Israeli American Liat Atzili and her husband Aviv were at home when Hamas attacked their kibbutz. By nightfall, they were among more than 250 people taken captive in Gaza, including 12 American citizens. Caught between international diplomacy and an escalating war, their family confronts uncertainty, grief and conflicting political perspectives in the fight for Liat and Aviv's release.

Watch the screening of the award-winning documentary, shortlisted for the 2026 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, then stay afterward for a discussion with director Brandon Kramer.

"Holding Liat" is part of the Washington West Film Festival.

"Politically potent and emotionally gripping ... a heartbreaking true story."

— Hollywood Reporter



Photo Courtesy of "Holding Liat"



Photo by Brigid McAuliffe

Vauhini Vara

Wednesday

November 18, 2026

8:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR

In her latest book, Vara blends journalism and memoir to expose how big tech exploits human communication – and how we’re complicit in this. “Searches: Selfhood in the Digital Age” has been widely celebrated: The New York Times and others named it one of their most anticipated books, Publishers Weekly named it one of their 10 Best Books of the Year and Esquire named it one of the best books of the year.

Join us as Vara explores themes from “Searches” and considers what it means to construct a self in the digital age.

Reduced Shakespeare Company Presents

"The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)"

Saturday

November 21, 2026

3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

\$25 R

\$35 NR



The fruitcakes of the Reduced Shakespeare Company (RSC) take audiences on an irreverent yet heartwarming trip through the holidays in "The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)." Festive, funny and packed with physical comedy, these Three Wise Guys playfully poke fun at favorite winter holiday traditions while celebrating the joy behind them.

You can even bring a wrapped Christmas gift of \$5-value or less and participate in the audience gift exchange.



"Delightfully twisted
holiday cheer."

— San Diego Theatre World

Photo Courtesy of Reduced Shakespeare Company



"Singer Yungchen Lhamo not only charmed with her sweetly broken English and sense of humor — she wowed."

– Rolling Stone

Photo Courtesy of Yungchen Lhamo



Yungchen Lhamo

Sunday

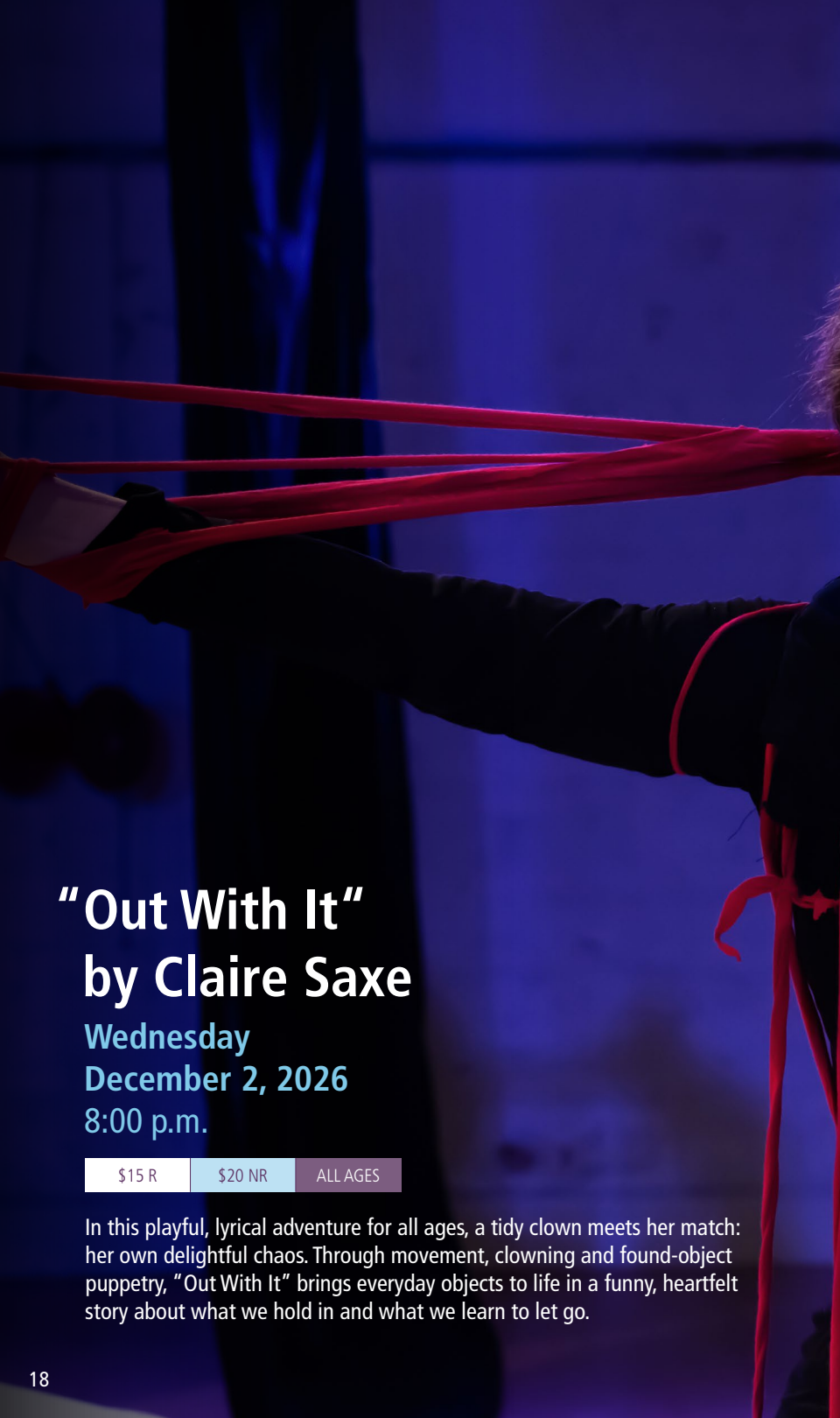
November 29, 2026

3:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR

Born and raised in Lhasa, Tibet, Yungchen Lhamo is a celebrated vocalist whose soaring, spiritual voice has carried Tibetan song to audiences around the world. Signed by Peter Gabriel to Real World Records, she released "Tibet, Tibet" in 1996 and went on to perform at Carnegie Hall, Lilith Fair and London's Royal Albert Hall. Along the way, she has shared stages with artists including Philip Glass, Michael Stipe, Natalie Merchant, Sarah McLachlan, Sheryl Crow, Jewel, Paul McCartney, Annie Lennox and Lou Reed.



"Out With It"

by Claire Saxe

Wednesday
December 2, 2026
8:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR

ALL AGES

In this playful, lyrical adventure for all ages, a tidy clown meets her match: her own delightful chaos. Through movement, clowning and found-object puppetry, "Out With It" brings everyday objects to life in a funny, heartfelt story about what we hold in and what we learn to let go.

"... luminous!"

— Chicago on the Aisle



Photo by Yvette Dostatni

"Spectacularly magical ...
Visually stunning."

— MD Theatre Guide



Happenstance Theatre Presents "JUXTAPOSE: A Theatrical Shadow Box"

Sunday

December 20, 2026

3:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR

AGES 10+



Step into a magical-realist tenement where eccentric neighbors struggle to coexist during the sixth mass extinction, until a human shooting star crashes through the roof and changes everything.

Inspired by the shadow boxes of Joseph Cornell and the films of Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Jacques Tati, this funny, surreal and visually inventive production transforms everyday objects and unexpected encounters into moments of wonder. Beneath the humor and theatrical surprises are thoughtful questions about fear, hope, connection and how we care for one another.

Best for ages 10+. Younger children are welcome if they are comfortable with loud sirens, flashing lights and a dramatic tone.

Learn from the pros! Study the art of physical comedy with Happenstance Theatre. Register here to "take the stage" and PLAY.



Sam Prather

"Funk of Our Fathers"

Sunday

January 17, 2027

3:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR



Sam Prather leads a high-energy celebration of Black music, tracing its rich journey from West African rhythms to funk, hip-hop and neo-soul. Blending electrifying live performance with powerful storytelling, this program honors the artists, sounds and traditions that shaped American music while inspiring the next generation of creators, listeners and innovators.





"Dr. Glaude was absolutely amazing!"

– Michigan Diversity Council



Photos Courtesy of Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. and Bryan Hill

Limit four (4) tickets per purchaser.

A Conversation with Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. and Bryan Hill

Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Birthday Celebration

Monday

January 18, 2027

11:00 a.m.

\$5 R

\$20 NR



Back by popular demand, Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. returns to Reston for a timely and candid conversation with Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill.

Drawing from his latest book, "We Are the Leaders We Have Been Looking For," Glaude will explore what leadership looks like beyond traditional politics, from grassroots action and shared responsibility to the role each of us can play in strengthening democracy.

Continue the conversation with friends, neighbors and community members at RCC's Community Luncheon immediately following the program.

Stop by RCC's Hunters Woods Gallery to meet the talented South Lakes High School student artists featured in this year's MLK-themed exhibit and hear what inspired their work at a special reception.

"Hubba Hubba"

Sunday

February 14, 2027

3:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR

ALL AGES



Love is strange, funny, tender and wildly unpredictable in "Hubba Hubba," a playful new show from Jim Henson Foundation grant-winning artists Alex and Olmsted. Through inventive puppetry and physical comedy, this 70-minute production celebrates romance in all its awkward, hilarious and heartfelt forms.

Created and performed by the acclaimed duo behind "Milo the Magnificent" and "MAROONED! A Space Comedy," "Hubba Hubba" is a joyful, all-ages look at love and all its quirks.

Save the date for a playful, interactive "Shadow Puppetry Workshop" with Alex and Olmsted on Presidents' Day. Registration opens December 1.

"If you'd like to see something sweet, see 'Hubba Hubba.' If you want to see something technically beautiful, see 'Hubba Hubba.' If you want to enjoy something you've never experienced before, see 'Hubba Hubba.'"

— DC Theatre Arts



Photo by Ryan Maxwell

"The best Irish band on
the planet" – Irish Echo



A photograph of two men standing in front of a light-colored brick wall and a dark green door. The man on the left has long, light brown hair tied back and is wearing a dark jacket over a dark shirt. The man on the right is wearing a dark cap, a dark jacket over a dark shirt, and has his arms crossed. Both are smiling.

Lúnasa

Saturday

February 20, 2027

3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

\$25 R

\$35 NR

Named for the ancient Celtic harvest festival honoring Lugh, the Irish god and patron of the arts, Lúnasa brings together some of Ireland's finest traditional musicians. Its members have played key roles in many of the country's most acclaimed ensembles, creating a sound that is vibrant, masterful and unmistakably Irish.

Robin Spielberg

"Dreaming of Summer"

Sunday

March 14, 2027

3:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR



Robin Spielberg brings warmth, artistry and a deeply personal touch to the piano. A longtime elite member of the prestigious Steinway Artist Roster, she has reached listeners around the world with more than half a billion streams and 24 studio recordings, several of which have charted on Billboard's classical crossover and new age charts.

Hailed as one of America's most beloved contemporary female pianists and composers, Spielberg creates music that is intimate, expressive and unforgettable.



Photo Courtesy of Robin Spielberg



"Exceptional dramatic power"

— The New York Times

Norm Lewis

Sunday

March 21, 2027

3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

\$25 R

\$35 NR



Broadway powerhouse Norm Lewis brings his booming baritone, magnetic charisma and nearly three decades of stage brilliance to an unforgettable evening of song.

The SAG, Grammy and Tony Award-nominated star will perform a hand-picked revue from his celebrated career, along with jazz, blues, soul, pop and classic American favorites, all delivered with the warmth, range and commanding presence that have made him one of musical theatre's most beloved leading men.

Trout Fishing in America

Sunday

April 11, 2027

3:00 p.m.

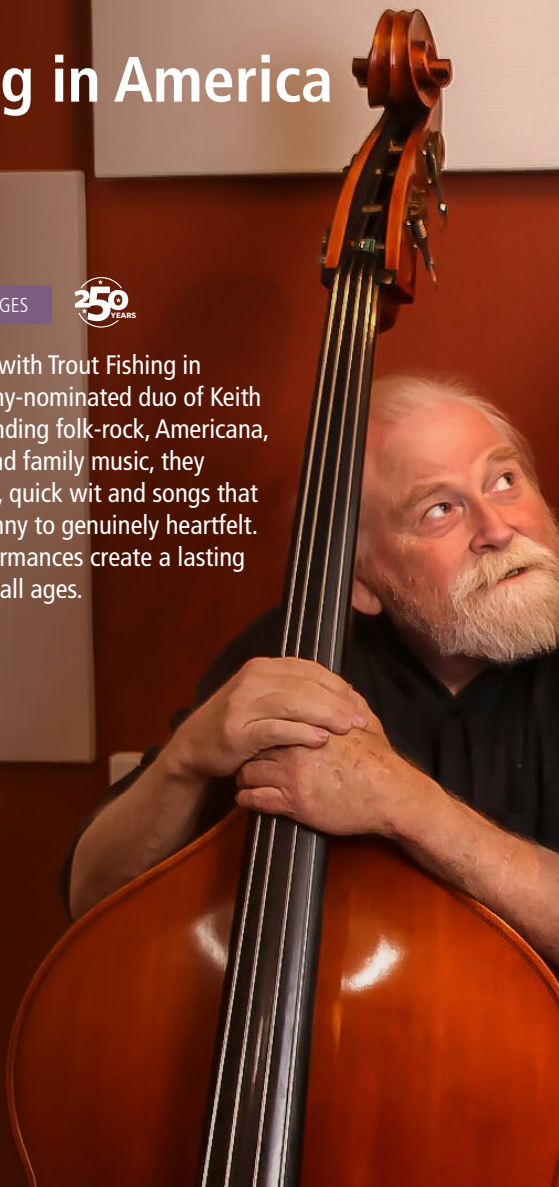
\$5 R

\$10 NR

ALL AGES



Celebrate 50 years of touring with Trout Fishing in America, the four-time Grammy-nominated duo of Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet. Blending folk-rock, Americana, roots, blues, swing, country and family music, they bring irresistible musicianship, quick wit and songs that move from laugh-out-loud funny to genuinely heartfelt. Their joyful, high-energy performances create a lasting connection with audiences of all ages.



"...the Lennon and McCartney of
kids' music." – National Public Radio



Photo Courtesy of Trout Fishing in America



"Gambarini has probably established herself as the finest female jazz vocalist in the world."

— Richard J Salvucci, All About Jazz

"This is music at its finest, played in an atmosphere that is singularly free. This is Pablo Ziegler's world and it is mesmerizing and irresistible."

— María Cabeza, Latin Jazz Network

Photos Courtesy of Blues Porteño

Blues Porteño

Sunday

May 2, 2027

3:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR

Pablo Ziegler brings the passion of tango and the freedom of jazz together in "Blues Porteño," a thrilling new collaboration with acclaimed vocalist Roberta Gambarini. A longtime pianist for the legendary Astor Piazzolla, Ziegler is celebrated for his lush melodies, fiery playing and genre-defining approach to nuevo tango.

Roberta Gambarini, twice named Female Jazz Singer of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association and declared "the best singer to emerge in the last 60 years" by Hank Jones, brings a voice of extraordinary warmth, swing and sophistication.

Together with Ziegler's quintet, these world class artists create an unforgettable evening where Argentine tango, jazz and song meet in dazzling style.

Cullen Jones

Olympic Gold Medalist

Wednesday

May 12, 2027

8:00 p.m.

\$5 R

\$10 NR

ALL AGES

WATER SAFETY
MONTH

May is National Water Safety Month and we're marking the occasion with a special event on why water safety matters for every family. Join Olympic Gold Medalist Cullen Jones as he shares his powerful journey and how swim skills can save lives and open doors for kids in every community.

Born in the Bronx and raised in New Jersey, Cullen nearly drowned at age 5 at a water park, prompting his mother to enroll him in swim lessons. He soon excelled, earning a scholarship to North Carolina State University, where he became a four-time ACC and NCAA champion.

In 2008, Cullen swam the third leg of the legendary come-from-behind 4x100-meter relay in Beijing, becoming the first African American male swimmer to set a world record. He later set an American record in the 50-meter freestyle and added a gold and two silvers at the 2012 London Olympics.



"Exquisite ... poignant and important"

— Ballettanz



Photo by Kegan Marling



"We Choose Each Other"

Choreography by Sean Dorsey

Saturday

May 15, 2027

8:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR



Sean Dorsey Dance's "We Choose Each Other" is a powerful evening of dance created as a balm for this moment in America. Blending full-throttle movement, lush partnering, intimate storytelling and theatre, the work explores connection, resilience and what it means to choose one another.

Sean Dorsey is an Emmy Award-winning trans and queer choreographer, dancer, writer, educator and activist whose work has toured to more than 35 cities across the United States and internationally. A Doris Duke Artist, United States Artists Fellow and Dance/U.S.A. Artist Fellow, Dorsey has been praised for work that is "trailblazing" (San Francisco Chronicle) and "evocative, compelling, elegant" (L.A. Weekly).

Isle of Klezbos

Saturday

June 5, 2027

8:00 p.m.

\$15 R

\$20 NR



New York City-based Isle of Klezbos brings wit, warmth and serious musical fire to klezmer tradition. Celebrating more than 25 years together, this all-women sextet has toured internationally and built a devoted following with performances that are both joyful and fearless.

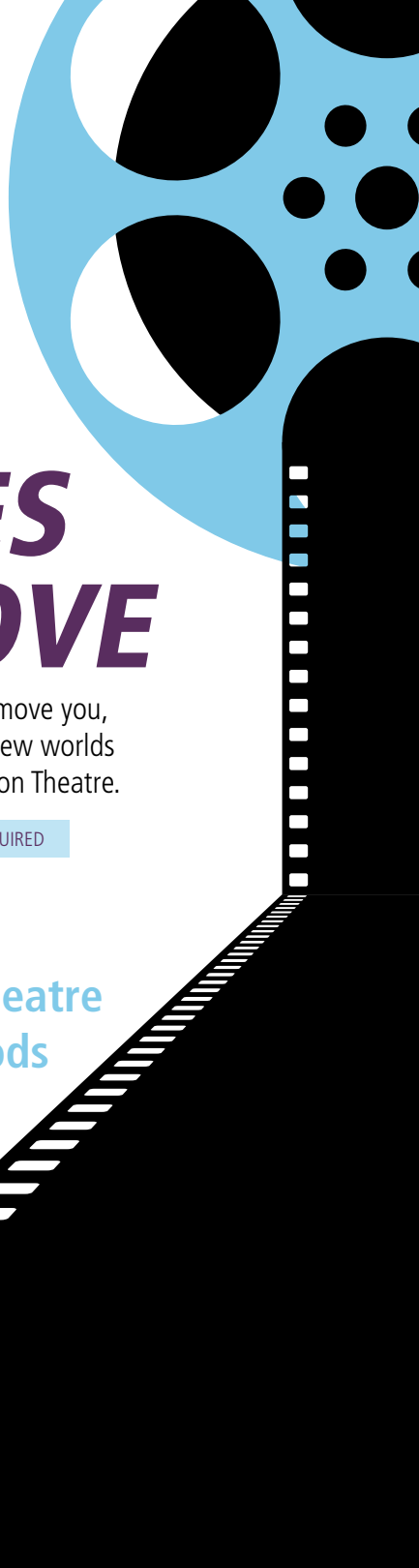
Their sound moves easily from spirited folk dances and haunting melodies to Yiddish swing, tango, reimagined standards and bold originals. With dazzling musicianship, inventive arrangements and irresistible energy, Isle of Klezbos offers a fresh, genre-blending take on klezmer that welcomes longtime fans and curious newcomers alike.

"Rapturous and rollicking"

— Los Angeles Blade



Photo Courtesy of Isle of Klezbos



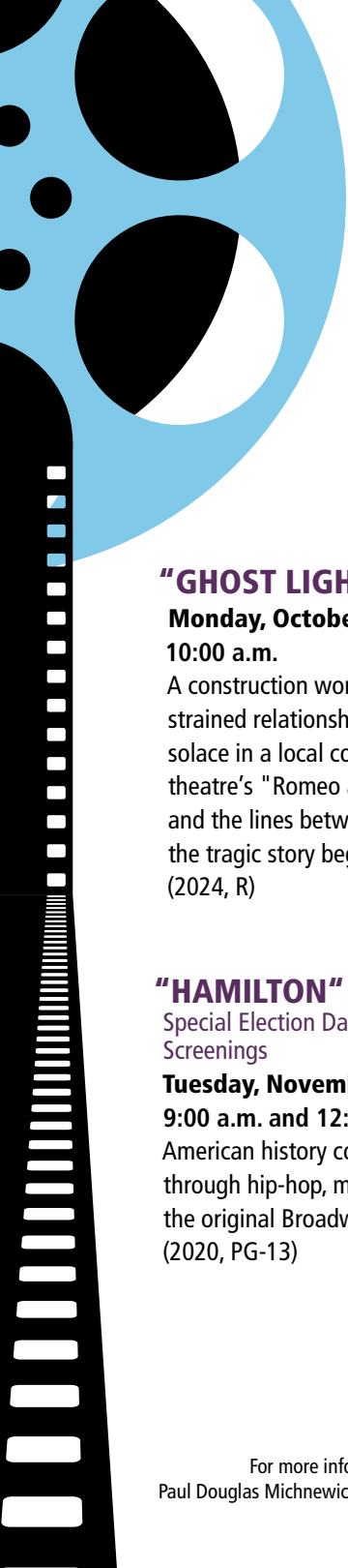
MOVIES THAT MOVE

Experience captivating films that move you,
transporting your imagination to new worlds
from the comfort of The Leila Gordon Theatre.

FREE

NO TICKETS REQUIRED

**The Leila Gordon Theatre
RCC Hunters Woods**



"MAUDIE"

Monday, September 14, 2026

10:00 a.m.

"Maudie" tells the true story of folk artist Maud Lewis and her unlikely romance with a hardened recluse. (2016, PG-13)

"GHOST LIGHT"

Monday, October 5, 2026

10:00 a.m.

A construction worker in a strained relationship finds solace in a local community theatre's "Romeo and Juliet" and the lines between life and the tragic story begin to blur. (2024, R)

"JUST MERCY"

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

7:30 p.m.

A powerful true story that follows Bryan Stevenson as he takes on the case of a wrongfully convicted man on Alabama's death row. (2019, PG-13)

"HAMILTON"

Special Election Day
Screenings

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

American history comes alive through hip-hop, music and the original Broadway cast. (2020, PG-13)

"FLOW"

Monday, December 14, 2026

10:00 a.m.

A cat, capybara, lemur, bird and dog search for land after a great flood in a visually stunning animated adventure about environmental fragility and the power of community. (2025, PG)

PTAS Tickets

NEW

FEE-FREE TICKETS

Tickets for PTAS performances in The Leila Gordon Theatre are now available through myRCC. New users can create an account and will receive login information within 48 hours.

Scan Here to Buy Tickets



BY MAIL

Return a Ticket Order Form to:

RCC Box Office, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191

Ticket Order Form available at:

www.restoncommunitycenter.com. From the top menu, select "Info" and then select "Find Your Form."

IN PERSON

RCC Box Office Hours

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Two hours prior to curtain time.

BY PHONE

703-476-4500, Press '3' • TTY 711

DISCLAIMER

To prevent the unauthorized resale of tickets to high-demand events, the RCC Box Office will limit purchases (online or in-person) to a maximum of four tickets per purchaser for the following performances:

Bryan Stevenson, Author

**A Conversation With Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr.
and Bryan Hill (MLK Keynote)**

GROUP SALES

Reston-based organizations or clubs wishing to make a group sale purchase should contact the Box Office Manager, William D. Parker, at 703-390-6188 or via email at William.Parker@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please note: there are no discounts for group sales; ticket prices are already heavily subsidized.

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Photo by Reston Community Center