PASA preview

ALL THE BEST OF THE PERFORMING ARTS



PASA

SEASON

2026/2027

pasaonline.org



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At Darnall, Sikes & Frederick, we admire the dedication, discipline, and passion that drive exceptional performance. Those same qualities shine brightly on every stage.

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Come Curious. Leave Changed!



CREDIT: PAUL KIEU

What more do you need to know? PASA's celebrating its sixth season with a rush of talent, the kind that makes our hearts—and yours—throb.

That's what Performing Arts Serving Acadiana (PASA) does, Every performance in this PASA season has a built-in rush, kicking off with the breathtaking pairing of Branford Marsalis and Dianne Reeves, followed by the Martha Graham Dance Company, the oldest dance company in America!

PASA's sweeping lineup guarantees great artists—from local to global—whose performances will surely bring laughs, gasps, tears, and cheers.

"Choosing artists to bring to our community is quite fun, but at the same time is challenging," says PASA Creative Director Jacqueline Lyle. "Our eyes are focused on talent, at the same time that we aspire to impact our community."

"In fact, of the artists who perform for PASA, few also perform anywhere else in Louisiana. We see almost every artist or group that we offer in a live performance or showcase before we book them. We can judge the merits of the performance, experience the audience response, gain instantaneous ideas that can later support our marketing, and—importantly—meet the artists.

PASA has done this season after season. It's a challenging selection process that creates the energy and excitement in PASA's imaginative and auspicious lineup, and it is what sets PASA apart from the other performing arts groups in our community.

We'll pop up again with three performances at the beloved Theatre at Baranco. Roger Guenveur Smith returns to perform *Frederick Douglass Now.* Rising star Skye Isaac heads to this stage, and Jill Butler returns with her Joyride Band for a Burt Bacharach night.

All of this staged entertainment is backed by other activities. Talks that illuminate the topics that inform some PASA performances are sketched out. Daytime Performances for Students at the Heymann Center. On Stage Afternoons at Baranco Elementary. We'll have masterclasses and activities for anyone, including you, so plan to be in your seat at the shows and meet up with PASA off the stage. There's so much!

So follow us on social media. Check out our website, or give us a call at 337-769-3231. We love hearing from you, and we learn so much!

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



BRANFORD MARSALIS & DIANNE REEVES CELEBRATE JOHN COLTRANE

SEPTEMBER 27, 3 P.M.
HEYMANN CENTER

Saxophonist Branford Marsalis joins the world's most pre-eminent jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves to kick off the PASA season. It's a spectacular celebration of the music of John Coltrane, along with the Branford Marsalis Quartet.

On stage together, these NEA Jazz Masters–the highest honor the United States bestows on jazz artists–are both Grammy Award winners and are two of the most important entertainers we could hope to bring together.



MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

OCTOBER 16, 7:30 P.M.
HEYMANN CENTER

The Martha Graham Dance Company reigns as one of the finest and oldest dance companies in the United States. Prepare to see some of today's most powerful dancers as the Martha Graham Dance Company, the nation's oldest dance troupe, steps on stage.

Martha Graham transformed the dance world when she created modern dance. For 100 years, the Martha Graham Dance Company has shaped modern dance with groundbreaking artistry and emotional power, blending athleticism, storytelling, and expressive movement into something exciting, inspiring, and unforgettable.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS NOW
STARRING ROGER GUENVEUR SMITH

NOVEMBER 13, 7:30 P.M.
THEATRE AT BARANCO



Actor, writer, and director Roger Guenveur Smith returns with this dramatic monologue inspired by the life and work of the self-liberated abolitionist, statesman, and orator Frederick Douglass.

Using Douglass' classic 19th-century texts, particularly his powerful 1845 autobiography that details the author's life in bondage and his escape to freedom, Smith has created a jazz-infused narrative, bookended by original, forceful writing, to produce the kind of edgy stylistic mash-up that defines vital contemporary theater.

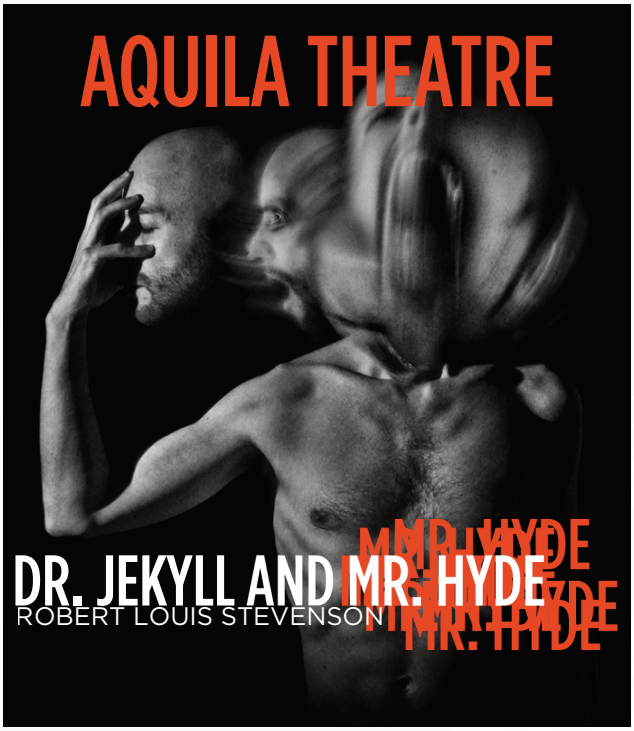


SKYE ISAAC: CINEMA SERENADE

FEBRUARY 19, 2027 7:30 P.M.
THEATER AT BARANCO

Expect an enchanting evening of unforgettable songs from the silver screen when Skye Isaac performs beloved classics and contemporary favorites from iconic movie soundtracks.

Join Skye, a Lafayette native whose talent has sparked national attention, and a special guest or two as she celebrates the music that has brought some of cinema's most memorable moments to life. Who doesn't love Prince's *Purple Rain* or Celine Dion's *My Heart Will Go On*?



DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE AQUILA THEATRE

MARCH 11, 2027 7:30 P.M.
HEYMANN CENTER

Aquila Theatre, at long last, returns with a bold and compelling new adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's timeless tale The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Aquila, one of only a few equity theater touring companies, puts its unique spin on this feverish dream in which Stevenson's Gothic horror exposes the treacherous and terrifying nature of a fractured self.

Unable to quell his darkest desires, Dr. Henry Jekyll becomes convinced he can separate the good and evil within. Using science, he believes he can sever his two identities and unleash a terrifying double life by creating Edward Hyde. What begins as a daring experiment spirals into a desperate struggle between the two identities, as each battles for survival.

SPECIAL EVENT!



JILL BUTLER & HER JOYRIDE BAND

PLAYS BURT BACHARACH

APRIL 16, 2027 7:30 P.M.
THEATER AT BARANCO



Jill Butler and Her Joyride Band are back, this time with a songbook of Burt Bacharach's hits: *Do You Know the Way to San Jose*, *Walk On By*, *What the World Needs Now*, and some of the most popular tunes ever recorded, many of them by Dionne Warwick.

Butler, a pianist, songwriter, and vocalist, brings powerhouse vocals, soulful piano, and a contagious sense of fun to every show.

With her silky, powerful voice, a talented band, and a stage presence that radiates joy, you're guaranteed a night of unforgettable music, big talent, and irresistible energy.

SUPPORT PASA

VOLUNTEER. PARTICIPATE. GIVE.

Every not-for-profit organization that is active in its community relies on support that fuels its growth and helps it thrive. That support comes in many shapes, and it is not always money that an organization needs.

Performing Arts Serving Acadiana (PASA) is no different. We thrive because of our donors, our volunteers, and people who participate in our performances and the activities that take place offstage.

Contributions from donors, corporate sponsors, and others make PASA's growth possible. These funds help us dream bigger, support our infrastructure, and secure our future.

Volunteers greet people at our off-stage events, help in the office, lend their expertise, usher at daytime student performances, plan special events, and help with a host of other activities.

We are confident we have a place for almost anyone and, in return for the gifts, talents, and time our supporters bring us, PASA rewards their generosity with experiences that express our gratitude and showcase our depth.

MONTHLY SUPPORT REALLY ADDS UP!

$25 PER MONTH = $300 PER YEAR

To pay for daytime student performances for local school students

$100 PER MONTH = $1,200 PER YEAR

To pay for PASAble accessibility and inclusion initiatives.

DONATE TODAY →

CONNECTING STUDENTS. CULTIVATING CREATIVITY.

For more than three decades, middle school and high school students have streamed through the doors of the Heymann Center for daytime performances of opera, dance, drama, and more because of the vision and dedication of PASA.

Thus began a long-standing tradition that took a brief hiatus in 2015. PASA re-launched this tradition in 2022. Since the 2022-23 school year, more than 28,000 middle schoolers in Lafayette Parish Public Schools have attended performances of dance, jazz, Broadway, circus, illusion, and drama.

"There's a whole lot of learning going on amidst these performances," observes Lyle. "These events support arts learning and the core curriculum with direct connections to what teachers teach and students learn. The support materials we provide are designed to reinforce the mandated foundation skills: communication, problem-solving, resource accessing and utilization, linking and generating knowledge, and citizenship.

"So many students have never had a chance to attend a performance in a theater," says Lyle, as she explains the additional importance of these presentations for students.

The PASA Daytime Performances are supported by a leadership grant from Love Our Schools, corporate sponsors, grants, and PASA donors. To learn how you can get involved or support these extraordinary opportunities for students, contact PASA at 337-769-3231.

PASA OFFSTAGE

TIME TO TALK, PLAY, MOVE AND LEARN

We know that the unique performances PASA brings to our venues are almost unheard of in a city this size. What is even less likely to take place are the types of activities that PASA offers off stage.

Whether it's a forum that reflects on the impact of the Jewish community on the development of Lafayette, Omnium Circus's juggling workshop, Roger Guenveur Smith's acting workshops, or Seth Ruetsky's Q&A for aspiring Broadway performers, these activities build understanding, train aspiring and seasoned performers, and enrich those of us who are curious and want to learn more.

This season, the Martha Graham Dance Company rehearsal director will lead a dance workshop. UL faculty member Candice Harrison will give a talk about Frederick Douglass. Roger Guenveur Smith and Aquila Theater will lead acting classes. Even if you're not an artist, you'll learn by observing, so plan to attend!

Find out more about these activities on PASA's website, www.pasaonline.org, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and keep an eye on the events we feature in our online newsletter. Don't receive PASA's newsletter? Head to pasaonline.org now and sign up! We're confident you will learn something new, and we will learn from you, too.

PASABLE

COME ONE, COME ALL!

When Performing Arts Serving Acadiana (PASA) opened its new season with Mutts Gone Nuts in October 2023, the organization also launched PASAble, an initiative designed to create inclusive theater and community experiences for all of Acadiana's entertainment fans, including people with exceptionalities

A team of representatives of organizations that serve people with disabilities came together to find ways that PASA can help normalize participation in its events and activities. The team includes D.R.E.A.M.S. Foundation, Affiliated Blind of Louisiana, Families Helping Families, LARC, the Life Learning program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the Down Syndrome Association, the Acadiana Autism Association, individuals with disabilities, families, friends, and others.

This is essential work, and PASA's goal is to eliminate as many hurdles as possible that discourage people from enjoying live entertainment and participating in PASA activities.



Interested in sponsoring PASAble, taking advantage of these special offerings, or to learn more? Contact the PASA office at 337-769-3231 or email jackie@pasaonline.org.

HERE'S SOME OF WHAT PASA HAS DONE:

In January 2025, dancers from the Cleo Parker Robinson dance company joined the Dance Challenge class that Lisa Mann Breaux leads at Jill Listi Dance Studio.

Both the professional dancers and the students in the class worked closely on signature moves and many of the students turned out to see the professionals perform at the Heymann Center.

Members of Omnium Circus, an all-inclusive troupe, led a juggling workshop at Sky Craft on General Mouton in Lafayette. Regardless of age or ability, everyone learned a few juggling tips and experimented with feathers, balls, and scarves.

The Heymann Performing Arts Center is an ADA compliant venue with handicapped restrooms and accessible entrances and seating areas. It also now has a designated accessible entrance. Infra-red listening devices, which amplify the sound from the stage, are available free-of-charge in the lobby, as well as large-print program notes.

We've added early seating for those who require extra time to reach their seats, and we've established a Quiet Zone in the lobby for individuals who may need a break from the show.

American Sign Language translation and programs printed in Braille are available with advanced notice.

The PASAble team continues to dream up activities and ways to amplify its impact on the community. Do you have any ideas? We'd love to hear from you.

MEET THE BOARD

2026-2027



PHOTO CREDIT: NOUVEAU PHOTO

Row I: Lisa Breaux, PASA Creative Director Jackie Lyle, Maria Doucet, MD., Sandra David, Daniel Wiltz, MD., Jenee Naquin, PASA Board President Tim Basden

Row II: Carolina Rogers, Miriam Margala, PhD., Kyle Choate, Jeanne Hudson, Mark Thomas, PASA Board Secretary Tammy Milam

Missing in Action: PASA Board Treasurer Janet Wood, Eric Singleton, Joel Bacque, Art Kilchrist, and Chloee Bello

The PASA Board of Directors hums with a brilliant mix of professionals with a variety of interests and skills who bring energy and enthusiasm to their roles.

This robust team makes up PASA's working board today, and they do it all! From artists' hospitality to ushering daytime performances, planning events, recruiting volunteers, fundraising, researching grant opportunities, chauffeuring artists, scouting performers, and countless other duties, the PASA board's commitment is why PASA has grown so quickly in five short seasons.

Join us in singing their praises when you see them at a PASA event or out in the community.

Interested in serving on the PASA board? Please email jackie@pasaonline.org or call the PASA office at 337-769-3231.

PASA STAFF

SMALL BUT MIGHTY



Jacqueline Lyle, Creative Director
(Bottom right)

The PASA staff is a lean machine, led by the Creative Director Jacqueline Lyle. With more than 30 years of performing arts experience and a background in sales, marketing, and newspaper publishing, she enjoys a national reputation for excellence and innovation in the performing arts field.

Under her direction, PASA programming encompasses a range of outreach and residency activities that engage audience members, diverse co-mmunity segments, and philanthropists. She sets the community standard for prospecting, recruiting, and sustaining corporate support, and for developing new income streams. In addition to scouting the highest-quality entertainment, she designs unique projects that enrich schools and engage our community.

Maleah Bocage, Administrative Director
(Bottom left)

Maleah Bocage, a graduate of the University of Louisiana's Music Business program, joined the PASA office as an intern. A native of New Orleans, Bocage graduated from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, a public high school arts conservatory, where she focused on vocal performance. She was instrumental in producing PASA's performances in its first season.

She graduated from ULL in December 2021 and remained with PASA as a part-time assistant to the executive director. In August, 2022, she joined the PASA staff as the operations/productions assistant. Her thorough understanding of PASA's work and vision for efficient operations led to her promotion to Administrative Director.

In addition to her work at PASA, Bocage is also an R&B composer and singer who performs and records her own work and shares stages with other artists.

Cynthia Zavala, Administrative Assistant
(Center)

The newest member of the PASA team, Cynthia Zavala, a recent graduate of UL's Music Business program, has become an integral part of PASA's staff. Originally from Morgan City, Cynthia's life has always revolved around music. She developed her passion at a young age when she joined the St. Andrew Church choir to sing for Spanish Mass. A multi-instrumentalist who plays guitar and saxophone, she performed in the Morgan City High School Mighty Tiger Band, as well as UL's Pride of Acadiana and Concert Band, sparking her lifelong dedication to the arts. While pursuing her degree in Music Business, Zavala interned at PASA. Her hard work and determination proved valuable and led to the professional position she holds today.

CURTAIN *Call*



CREDIT: PAUL KIEU

PASA launched a new concept, Curtain Call Society, in March 2026. In this partnership with the City Club at River Ranch, Curtain Call brings together entertainers and fans for intimate evenings of up-close performances and other gatherings, reminiscent of special events that took place high above Jefferson Street when the City Club of Lafayette existed.

Curtain Call events are open to the public and seating is limited.

PASA's first Curtain Call event, *La Noche Flamenca*, attracted a full house.

Guests stepped into The Ballroom at the City Club, which was transformed into a fiery scene of red and black that matched the evening's theme and entertainment. Of course, there were cigarette girls, cigars, and an air of excitement.

The four-course Spanish meal was overseen by City Club manager Donovan Broussard, each course paired with wines from Southern Glazers.

This unforgettable dining experience was caped by a performance by Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, who performed two nights later at the Heymann Center. The capacity crowd raved over the evening and watched in awe as the dancers and musicians took their places in the center of the room. With seating in the round, everyone had an exceptional view of the intricate footwork unique to flamenco.

We are very grateful to the City Club at River Ranch for embracing Curtain Call and for its energetic enthusiasm.

Plans for this season's Curtain Call events are underway, and we always welcome ideas! If there's someone you'd love to see or hear, please call PASA at 337-769-3231.

And don't miss out! Follow PASA's Curtain Call plans by subscribing to our online newsletter and following us on social media. You'll find PASA everywhere. @pasacadiana.

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