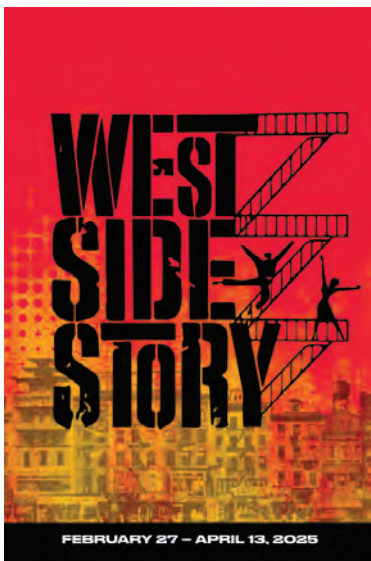




The Flame

NOV 2024

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND FRIENDS



“You don’t often get the chance to see a first rate, live professional production of WEST SIDE STORY . . . so you need to take advantage of it.”

The
FireSide

One of the Five Best Musicals Ever Written!

I HAVE LOVED THE AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE ALL MY LIFE AND HAVE BEEN A PROFESSIONAL DIRECTOR OF MUSICAL THEATRE FOR 55 YEARS. THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL MUSICALS AND I HAVE DIRECTED MOST OF THEM, BUT IT IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL THRILL, EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, TO DIRECT A TRUE MASTERPIECE. WEST SIDE STORY IS ONE OF THE FEW I WOULD PUT IN THAT CATEGORY. IT IS, IN MY OPINION, ONE OF THE FIVE BEST MUSICALS EVER WRITTEN!

WEST SIDE STORY was created by four of the giants in theatre - acclaimed director-choreographer Jerome Robbins; award-winning playwright Arthur Laurents; and the truly great composers Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim. What they achieved in this show is nothing short of miraculous.

They took the beautiful and tragic love poetry of Shakespeare’s ROMEO AND JULIET and combined it with the energy, tensions, conflict, and excitement of life on the teeming city streets of New York to create a musical that is so much more than just a musical.

It boasts of one of the most distinguished scores in Broadway history including such immortal hits as “Tonight,” “Maria,” “I Feel Pretty,” and many more. It contains some of the most spectacular dancing you’ll ever see on the musical stage as well as a love story that will touch your heart. It is a show you will never forget!

We pride ourselves on assembling terrific casts featuring some of the most talented and exciting stage actors including many with Broadway and National Tour experience.”

One of the things that distinguishes Fireside casts is the quality of the young



**CELEBRATING
60 YEARS
OF KLOPCIC
FAMILY
HOSPITALITY!**

dancers that we bring to our stage. You cannot do a great production of WEST SIDE STORY without dazzlingly gifted dancers and we will have some of the best.

You don't often get the chance to see a first rate, live, professional production of WEST SIDE STORY so this is a rare opportunity that you absolutely need to take advantage of. Many people have seen the acclaimed movie version which won a record 11 Academy Awards and while the movie is fabulous, I think the original stage production is more compelling and more romantic, and of course nothing compares to the thrill of live theatre!

Do I sound a little excited? Well, I am. I feel very passionately that this will be one of the truly memorable shows presented here at The Fireside and it would be a true shame for you to miss it.

Ed Paul

WEST SIDE STORY Photos
from our earlier productions.





THE INSIDE SCOOP

**Able Trek
(TOURS)**

Kim Doll's mission is to make travel and vacations available to everyone!

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER!

Just back from an extended trip to Ireland with ten special needs travelers and their five volunteers, Kim Doll reflected on a very busy past year or so as the new owner of Able Trek Tours based in Reedsburg, Wisconsin. Able Trek has a long history of offering both general public and special needs tours as well as charter services. Special needs travelers are accompanied by volunteers who make sure all their needs are met, so they can enjoy one-day trips and vacations throughout the year.

Kim is trained as a critical care nurse and spent 20 years volunteering with Able Trek to accompany travelers. When their special needs tour leader retired, she felt she was in a position in life to take on that challenge. Her children were grown, their college and wedding expenses were behind her. So she retired from ER travel nursing to join the Able Trek staff. Not that long after, Able Trek's founder Don Douglas approached her about taking on ownership of the company, as he was hoping to retire. With little time to prepare but having knowledge

of hospital leadership, ER supervision, payroll, budgets, and management Kim decided to take a leap of faith and buy the business.

Her next step was to learn everything she could about buses as she now owned three of them. This included DOT regulations, mechanics, brakes, hydraulics, tires, and more. Somewhere in the beginning of this new chapter of life she also got married! Now she and her husband, David, run a successful and highly respected travel company whose focus is serving the special needs community. The goal is to keep all three buses on the road as much as possible.

David, also a trained critical care nurse and firefighter medic, got his CDL so he could drive. They have five more drivers, a coach cleaner, Dori in the office taking care of reservations, a part time helper, Karen who is now the tour leader, and over 100 extremely dedicated volunteers. Kim plans the trips herself and is currently working on building the itineraries through May 2026. She also accompanies most

“It's like traveling with family and old friends. We'll do whatever needs to be done for them!”

of the special needs trips so she's on hand to take care of any issues that may arise. Even though she has already taken great care to make sure each traveler is matched up with the perfect caregiver, there can still be medical issues, travel delays, and so much more.

Able Trek serves thousands of special needs travelers from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa. They are picked up and delivered home from as far out as Appleton to LaCrosse, and Dubuque to Rockford. Volunteers are carefully screened, interviewed, and trip tested before they're allowed to be responsible for a traveler. They are, in Kim's words, "exceptional people."

Of the travelers, Kim had nothing but praise. "They make every day better. They never complain, and it is so rewarding to see the world through their eyes." Bless you, Kim, and good luck. What a gift you're giving!

**KNOW
WHAT'S
NEW!**

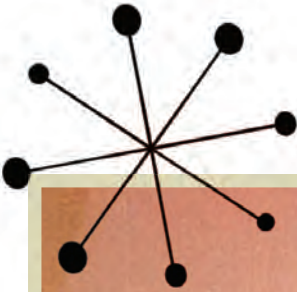
RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT THE FIRESIDE!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

NOT FADE AWAY ROCK 'N' ROLL REIGNITED

This is rock 'n' roll like you've never heard (or seen) before! This group has been taking the country by storm with their amped-up renditions of classic hit songs from legends like Buddy Holly, Elvis, Roy Orbison, The Beatles, Ritchie Valens, Jerry Lee Lewis, and more. These guys (and gal) will have any and all ages singing and dancing along, shaking things up, causing a riot, and leaving you completely blown away.

Orbison, The Beatles, Ritchie Valens, Jerry Lee Lewis, and more. These guys (and gal) will have any and all ages singing and dancing along, shaking things up, causing a riot, and leaving you completely blown away.



Our Celebration Menu includes our most festive entrees for you and your guests to choose from:

- Steak & Lobster or Lobster Only
- Beef Tenderloin Filet or Shrimp
- Steak & Shrimp or Steak & Scallops
- Baked Stuffed Pork Chop & More!

Prices range from \$109.95 to \$149.95 per person plus bar drinks, tax and gratuity for a full four-course dinner and this incredible show. Arrival time is Noon for the matinee and 6:00 p.m. for the evening - which also has dancing in the lounge after the show. Give us a call today to book your group's New Year's Eve Party!

A GREAT WAY TO JUMP START THE NEW YEAR!

SEE
WHAT'S
COOKING



FEATURED MENU

*For Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Matinees,
Saturday Evenings,* and Sunday MIDDAY.*

Lemon Chicken Orzo Soup

Garnished with Chives and Parsley

Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

Sliced Pork Tenderloin

Slow Roasted Pork Tenderloin, sliced and crowned with rich pork stock gravy, served with Herbed Stuffing and Cinnamon Applesauce.

Coconut Chicken

Skinless Breast of Chicken dipped in egg batter, rolled in Coconut and Panko Breadcrumbs, sautéed to a golden brown, glazed with Brandied Apricot Sauce.

Seared Halibut

A fresh Halibut Filet pan-seared to a golden brown, served with a Tamari Aioli.

Vegetarian Stuffed Bell Peppers

Coconut and Ginger Jasmine Rice and Asian Stir-Fried Vegetable.

Cherry Crisp

Warm Tart Michigan Cherries under an Old-Fashioned Cinnamon Oatmeal Crumb Crust topped with our Homemade Vanilla Frozen Custard.

Coffee, Tea and Milk

The Thursday Evening Signature Buffet begins with our Signature Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. Enjoy two special entrée selections in addition to Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Garlic and Herb Whipped Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Cherry Crisp for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

The Sunday Matinee Brunch begins with Pastries from our Bakery to enjoy with a Fresh Fruit Smoothie. We'll have two meats at the carving station along with the buffet of Eggs Benedict on Jones Canadian Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Jones Bacon and Sausage Links, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Buttermilk Pancakes, Breakfast Potatoes, a featured Beef Tenderloin dish, and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Cherry Crisp for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

Saturday Evening's menu also includes an Appetizer course.

For the run of WEST SIDE STORY we will be featuring a "newish" soup you may not have had before. We've had it on our Saturday night menu and it went over so well we're now including it with our Featured Menu. Our Lemon Chicken Orzo Soup starts with House Made Chicken Broth loaded with Carrots, Celery, Onions, Orzo pasta (which is a smaller rice shaped pasta), and chunks of Chicken Breast. We finish the soup with fresh herbs and lemon to awaken all the flavors. It's a perfect soup for February into April when this show runs.

We will also be featuring a new entrée - Seared Halibut. Our halibut filets are wild caught (not farmed) in coastal waters near the United States. We will be pan searing our Halibut to a golden brown. It will be served with a side of Tamari Aioli. Tamari is like Soy Sauce but it has a richer flavor and is less salty. Aioli is traditionally similar to mayonnaise but includes a generous amount of fresh garlic.

You and your group will be able to choose the Halibut, Coconut Chicken, Sliced Pork Tenderloin, or our Vegetarian choice - Stuffed Bell Peppers. Our Warm Cherry Crisp made with tart Michigan Cherries under an old fashioned Cinnamon Oatmeal Crumb Crust will go great with any of them. Served with a side of our Homemade Vanilla Frozen Custard it's among our most popular desserts!



Jeremiah Cook
Executive Chef



Coming Shows!

We look forward to helping you promote your trips to The Fireside. Promotional materials can be ordered for any of our upcoming shows through Group Sales or on our website.

GROUP SALES CORNER



For personal help with any of your bookings, call us at 920-563-9505 or email groupsales@firesidetheatre.com.

WEST SIDE STORY - think Romeo and Juliet meets the upper west side of Manhattan in the 1950's. The tragic story of two young lovers thwarted by circumstances beyond their control.

This is another musical I'm anxiously awaiting as I've never seen it. The excitement so many group leaders have had for it when booking just adds to my own excitement.

WEST SIDE STORY has stood the test of time not just because of its artistic mastery, but because of its universal message. As the show's original choreographer Jerome Robbins once said, the show is about intolerance all over the world, not just in 1950s New York. It's as magnificent as it is important!



Whether you still need to book for WEST SIDE STORY, 2025, or would like to give New Year's Eve a try, just call Monday through Friday from 10 - 5 at 920-563-9505 and ask for Group Sales. You can also email your requested dates and counts to groupsales@firesidetheatre.com. Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and blessed holiday season. We look forward to seeing you soon. Happy traveling!

Franki Elmore

Franki Elmore, Group Sales Lead



GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT



Shop online anytime
at firesidetheatre.com

Planning ahead for your visit next spring!



Imagine the first days of spring when you can take your coffee out onto the deck and enjoy the color coming back into the landscape. Decorating for Easter, both inside and out, is a beautiful sign of spring and our gift shops will be filled with beautiful pieces to choose from by the time WEST SIDE STORY hits the stage on February 27th.



Look for these and other favorite items:

- Pillows
- Towels
- Figurines
- Garden Flags
- Sassafras Mats
- Door Decor

From these and other favorite designers:

- Evergreen
- Kay Dee Designs
- Mud Pie





THE FIRESIDE, INC.
1131 JANESVILLE AVENUE
P.O. BOX 7
FORT ATKINSON, WI 53538

The Flame

NOV 2024

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THE FIRESIDE

CONTACT US TODAY AND SAVE!

CALL 920-563-9505

EMAIL groupsales@firesidetheatre.com

ONLINE FiresideTheatre.com

GROUPS ARE OUR SPECIALTY - SO SPECIAL DISCOUNTS APPLY!

WHAT IS A GROUP?

At The Fireside, there are many benefits for any group of 13 or more people (18 for the Sunday Middy). Our prices include both dinner and the show, however gratuity is not included.

Hold seating with a small deposit while you finalize your count, due four weeks before your visit. For weekday matinees, 18 paid tickets earns a complimentary package. For all other shows it's every 21st ticket. There is plenty of safe, free parking on-site for coaches and cars. The Fireside is accessible to guests with disabilities. Please let us know what special needs you have when making reservations.

- Save up to \$17.00 per person over individual ticket prices when you book a group of 13 or more. Please see our menu page for the menu choices for WEST SIDE STORY.
- The three-course dinner and show for groups of 13 or more is \$83.29 (\$78.95 tax exempt) per person - NO INCREASE FROM 2024.
- The Premier Group Rate offers an additional discount of \$3.00 per person when your group attends a performance of WEST SIDE STORY from February 27 - March 23, 2025.
- 2025 Premier Group Rate is \$80.13 (\$75.95 tax exempt) per person.
- The four-course Saturday Night Group rate is the same price as the other shows!
- 2025 Youth Group Rates for ages 14 and under with the youth meals are offered at \$60.08 (\$56.95 tax exempt) per youth.
- 2025 School Group Rates are available for Thursday and Friday matinees as low as \$72.95 tax exempt rate per student. Chaperones qualify for the Group Rate.