NOVEMBER 2026

THE BALTIMORE BULLETIN

VICTORIA PLAYERS CHILDREN'S THEATER UNVEILS SEASON 10

Season 9 began last December with The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe, followed by Disney's Frozen Jr., and Chicago Teen Edition in the summer

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who purchased tickets or helped with the production of these shows. It takes a surprisingly large team to stage live productions of this caliber.

We also appreciate our season's show sponsors. Sponsors included the Buckeye Automotive Family, Sitterley Law LLC, Gabby's Greetings, and Baum Law Office.

We're now proud to reveal VPCT's Season 10! The season will debut with a holiday show – Annie The Musical! Congratulations to the cast of this classic production. Rehearsals are now underway, with two weekends of shows in December. Watch our website for ticket information coming soon.





Season 10 continues through fall 2027 with Singin' in the Rain during the summer, and You're a Good Man Charlie Brown in late October.

Follow VPCT on Facebook (Victoria Players Children's Theater) or Instagram (vpctheater) to keep up with the latest developments and announcements.

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HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS PAGEANT RETURNS NOV. 14

Hometown Pageantry Productions recently became part of the BDRC family. That means we're even more excited to welcome the Hometown Holidays Pageant to the Opera House.
It's a golden opportunity for young ladies across Ohio who are ready to sparkle, shine, represent their hometown, and experience the magic of the Holiday season!
This year brings some changes for Hometown Holidays, including brand-new divisions and an exciting all
Queen court! Divisions include:

- Little | Ages 7–9
- Preteen | Ages 10–12
- Teen | Ages 13–16
- Miss | Ages 17–21





And look for more information soon about the new Hometown Holidays Baby Pageant! Divisions include newborn to age 6. For more information, contact Danay at hometownholidayspageant@gmail.com.



And more in the next newsletter about the Hometown Hearts Queens Pageant, which will begin accepting applications in February 2027.

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NEED A VENUE? RENT THE OPERA HOUSE FOR YOUR EVENT

No need to wait years for your venue to be available! Make magical memories in this historic space. Contact the BDRC for wedding package options and rates. The VOH is also available for parties, meetings, recitals, and other events, and offers flexible theater and ballroom spaces.







THE NOSTALGICS RETURN

Don't miss the return of Lancaster's premier big band, The Nostalgics! They will be playing a Christmas show on Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Opera House. Now under the direction of Baltimore's own Tom Young, this ensemble of talented musicians will have your toe (or more) tapping, and the dance floor will be open!



Admission is free, with donations happily accepted to support the ongoing renovation of the Victoria. Showtime is 3:30 pm, preceding the infamous Baltimore Lighted Holiday Parade which kicks off from Johnson Park at 6 pm. Make a holiday evening of it!

KROGER REWARDS SUPPORT THE BDRC

Do you shop at Kroger? It's super easy to support the BDRC, VPCT, and Opera House by signing up for Kroger Community Rewards. Just go to Krogercommunityrewards.com, sign in with your Kroger Plus card, click enroll, and designate the BDRC (#KU440) as the organization you wish to support. Then Kroger sends us a quarterly check as a reward for your purchases. Thanks to everyone who has listed us so far!

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SILENT VOICES – HANDS IN MOTION

Unspoken Events LLC brought a very meaningful event to the Opera House in Sept. The Silent Voices - Hands in Motion event featured three deaf presenters and a mix of deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people in the audience.

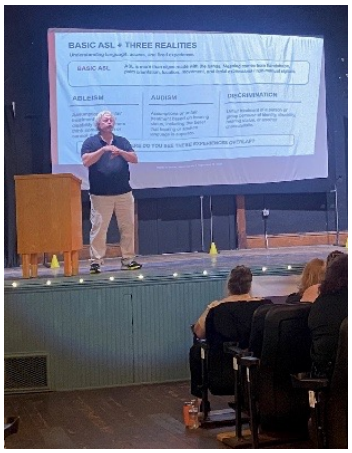
Interpreters from Heritage Interpreting made sure all could enjoy the evening's program, and Brandy Mimms, Aarron Loggins, and Brent Borden gave the audience plenty to consider and appreciate. It was a unique and memorable night.

Thanks so much to Liberty Union VFW Post 3761 and Greif for helping sponsor the event.









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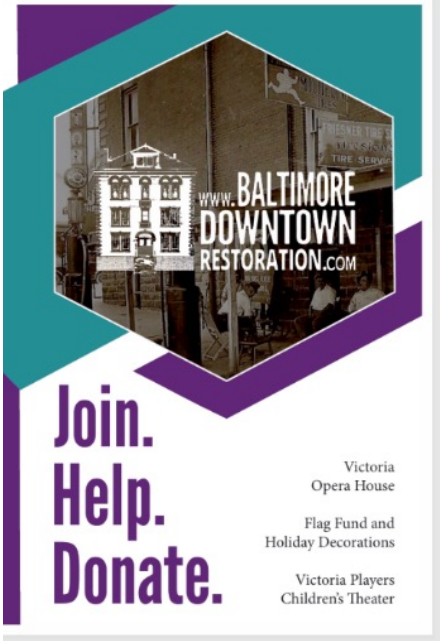
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BDRC

As a volunteer run 501 (c)(3) non-profit, the BDRC depends on revenue from donations, memberships, sponsorships, and events to operate. This is what makes all our programming and the ongoing restoration of the Victoria Opera House possible!

Memberships are available at different levels. In addition, anyone who contributes $500 or more per year has an annual recognition plaque hung in the Victoria Opera House.

Finally, annual sponsorships for the following programs and more are available.

- Victoria Players Children's Theater (multiple shows)
- Victoria Opera House Restoration
- Flag Fund (flags on Main & Market St.)
- Holiday Decorations
- Hometown Pageantry Productions



To join, sponsor, or donate, please visit us at baltimoredowntownrestoration.com!







VOH CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

We are STILL eagerly awaiting the new permanent movie screen installation. It's now scheduled for January, and will usher in a new era for the VPCT, for those having meetings or making presentations at the Victoria, and for movie nights at the Opera House.

And thank you to LUHS Senior William McCreery for his help with some maintenance and repair work around the Victoria. He's a handy guy! In addition, a big thanks to the members of the LU boys' basketball team who did some maintenance and heavy lifting for us this fall. Based on the players we saw, this year's team will possess great teamwork, and some size!

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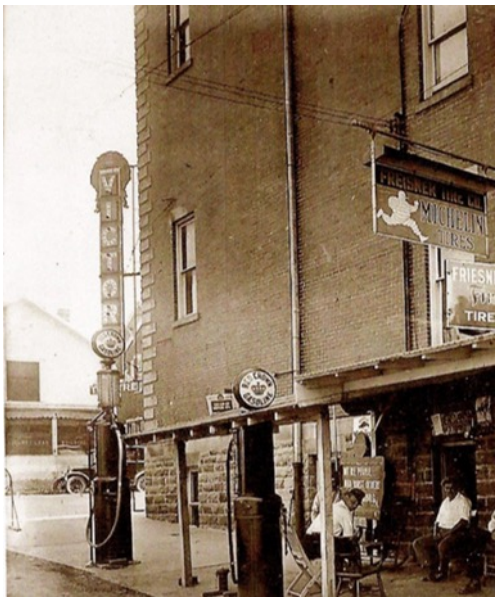
WHAT IS THE VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE??

With every event, we hear the same thing… "I've been past this building a hundred times, and never knew what was in here." We are now trying to do something about that. Baltimore Mayor Rick Ellas has offered to lead a fundraising initiative to install a new sign on the exterior of the building. Rick has boundless enthusiasm for the Village, and knows a golden opportunity when he sees one. The building was christened the Town Hall when it was built in 1905, and it housed many things over the decades: a public theater, The Knights of Pythias, doctors' offices, tinsmiths, a gas station, a blacksmith, an optician, the firehouse and hoosegow, the Masonic Lodge, and more, both documented and undocumented.

Today, the Village offices are in the walkout lower level, accessible only from the west entry (or back of the building). Above the offices is the Victoria Opera House, comprised of a theater level, mezzanine/balcony level, and what we now call the Ballroom level (formerly the meeting space for the Knights and Masons). The Opera House is being restored by the nonprofit BDRC, and we've been working on it for a decade. The building was originally lit with natural gas, and was electrified in the teens or 1920s. Back in the 1920s, the movie theater portion of the building was known as The Victoria, and that's the sign we want to bring back.

If you or someone you know would like to discuss a contribution towards this project, we'd love to hear from you. This is an ambitious undertaking, but it will help identify the Opera House as both a historic symbol of Baltimore, and a catalyst for economic growth and activity in the downtown area and beyond. Please contact Mayor Ellas or the BDRC for more information, and thank you to those who have already contributed.





Special thanks to Melissa Pickens for the rendering of the future sign.

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THEY CAME, THEY GROOVED

The Groove City Big Band offered another dynamite performance at the Opera House on Saturday, Oct. 24. They are always a treat, with a unique mix of traditional and not so traditional jazz. We look forward to their return next year!

Special guests the Liberty Union Band opened the evening with a rousing set in the ballroom. Great job Lions! We eagerly anticipate hosting the LU Jazz Band in the spring.

TRICK OR TREAT FUN

Trick or Treat on Oct. 29 was a blast as usual. Hundreds of kids streamed through the Opera House. We ended the night with 17 pieces of candy left out of over 1,000! Thanks to all who visited for treats, and to the Baltimore Festival Pageant Queens and Princesses who helped dish out the goods (L to R: Queen Avery, Jr. Princess Zoey, Jr. Queen Sophia, and Princess Autumn in their Alice in Wonderland costumes)!











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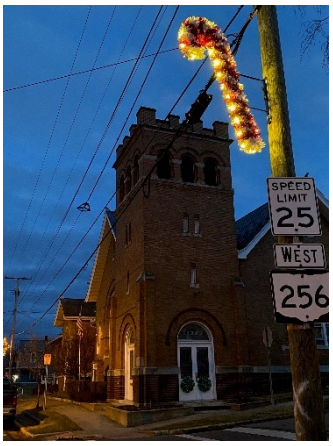



FLAGS WINTERIZED

Ken Mauger & company will be putting away the flags for the winter. The Village will follow that with installation of the lit holiday decorations donated by the BDRC. Thanks to Ken and to all who have contributed this year to the Flag & Decorations Fund. May your holiday season be bright and merry!

IN LOVING MEMORY

In July, the community and the Victoria Players Children's Theater family felt deep sorrow, as VPCT alum Kristin Morris Kirkpatrick and her husband Connor perished in a tragic accident. Our deepest condolences to her family and all who knew her.

Kristin loved music of all kinds, and was active in numerous groups and in theater, bringing joy and energy to each performance. To honor and remember her, the VPCT has established the *Kristin Morris Kirkpatrick Spotlight Scholarship.*

The scholarship will provide financial support to young performers who strive to carry on her legacy with the VPCT. She will never be forgotten.

Donations to the scholarship fund in her memory can be sent to:

VPCT Scholarship
PO Box 74
Baltimore, OH 43105

Or online donations can be made at: https://vpct.ludus.com/donate . Thanks so much to all who have already contributed.



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BDRC BOARD MEETINGS

The BDRC is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The group has a board of directors from the community, and elects officers annually. Without the countless hours and dedicated efforts of these people, the BDRC and Opera House would cease to function.

The Board meets at the Victoria Opera House on the third Thursday of each month, 7 PM, Jan. – Nov. of each year. Visitors are always welcome, and we have volunteer opportunities year-round.

If your group is interested in learning more, Board members are available to speak at your next meeting or event, or discuss potential collaboration. You can reach us at baltimoredowntownrestoration@gmail.com.

Board and Officers for 2026

- Steve Cothrel, Director
- Brandy McCreery, Assistant Director
- Andrew Todd, Secretary
- Michele Morrone, Treasurer
- Beth Volpe, Board Member
- Angi Miller, Board Member
- Ryan Westhoven, Board Member & VPCT Chair
- Joe Machado, Board Member
- Jill Henwood, Board Member & VPCT Artistic Director
- Melissa Pickens, Board Member

KEEP UP WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The BDRC and its many programs are on Facebook at:

- Baltimore Downtown Restoration
- Victoria Opera House
- Victoria Players Children's Theater – VPCT
- Hometown Holidays Queens Pageant

And of course, our website is up to speed with current events and programs. Questions? Email us at:

- baltimoredowntownrestoration@gmail.com
- vpctheater@gmail.com
- Instagram: vpctheater
- hometownholidayspageant@gmail.com

The Baltimore Bulletin is a periodic publication of the Baltimore Downtown Restoration Committee, a volunteer run 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.