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Village Theatre Opens 2026-2027 Season with the Tony Award-Winning Epic Musical *Ragtime*

**A sweeping theatrical event celebrating the American experience
during the nation's 250th anniversary**

September 15–November 15, 2026 | Issaquah + Everett

**Book by Terrence McNally
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Based on the novel "RAGTIME"
by E.L. Doctorow**

**Directed by Joe Calarco
Choreographed by Jimmy Shields
Music Supervision by
Tim Symons and
Sheilah V Walker**

ISSAQUAH, WA (August 18, 2026) – As the nation marks its 250th anniversary, Village Theatre launches its 2026-2027 Mainstage season with the Tony Award-winning epic musical *Ragtime*. Hailed as one of Broadway's most beloved modern classics, *Ragtime* weaves together three unforgettable stories -- a daring Harlem pianist, a determined Jewish immigrant, and an affluent society woman – painting a vivid portrait of the people who built this country with hope for a brighter tomorrow. Featuring the award-winning score of **Lynn Ahrens** and **Stephen Flaherty** and a book by **Terrence McNally** based on the novel by **E.L. Doctorow**, this sweeping theatrical event explores the hopes, struggles, and dreams that helped shape America.

Fresh from its Tony Award-winning Broadway revival, *Ragtime* continues to captivate audiences nearly three decades after its original debut. The original Broadway production earned Tony Awards for Best Book of a Musical, Best Original Score, and Best Orchestrations, establishing the musical as a timeless Broadway masterpiece. Village Theatre's new production invites audiences to experience this landmark work in Issaquah from September 15 through October 18, 2026, and in Everett from October 24 through November 15, 2026. Tickets and information are available at VillageTheatre.org/Ragtime.

More than a musical, *Ragtime* is a moving exploration of the promise of the American Dream and the diverse voices that have shaped our nation. Drawing from history while telling a deeply human story, the musical examines immigration, racial justice, opportunity, and identity through a tapestry of intersecting lives. Its themes remain as resonant today as ever, making *Ragtime* both a compelling work of historical fiction and a vital reflection on the American experience.

"The American Dream is complicated and powerful and hopeful and very dangerous," says director **Joe Calarco**, "but it's not the same for everyone, nor is it fair for everyone." Despite its weighty themes, Calarco is emphatic that *Ragtime* is, at its core, a deeply rewarding night of theater. "These are three of the greatest writers of all time," he says of the show's creators. "They know how to give the audience a deeply satisfying, emotional experience; and yet also make them question, and hopefully positively change, the world they'll walk back into after leaving the theatre."

"*Ragtime* is one of the most powerful and extraordinary musicals of our time," says Village Theatre Artistic Director **Adam Immerwahr**. "When I saw the chance to share this show with our audience as we acknowledge the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, I leapt at it. With beautiful music and a fascinating and gripping story, this musical promises to be a theatrical experience that you will never forget."

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Ragtime features book by **Terrence McNally**, music by **Stephen Flaherty**, and lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**. It is based on the novel of the same name by **E.L. Doctorow**.

The *Ragtime* cast includes **Brandi Birdsong** (Harlem Activist and Others), **Zachary Bruce III** (Coalhouse Walker III), **Kooper Campbell** (Younger Brother), **Jaden Dominique** (Sarah), **Ari Hunter** (Coalhouse Walker III), **Mark Ivy** (J.P. Morgan and Others), **Eric Polani Jensen** (Grandfather and Others, Fight Captain), **Zhanea June** (Sarah's Friend and Others, u/s Sarah), **Sloane Lewis** (Little Girl), **Donovan Mahannah** (Harlem Trumpet Player and Others), **Nick McCarthy** (Harry Houdini and Others, u/s Tateh), **Will Pengelly** (Little Boy), **Matthew Posner** (Father), **Jed Resnick** (Tateh), **Yusef D Seevers** (Coalhouse Walker, Jr.), **Sawyer Settles** (Little Girl), **Owen Shaflik** (Little Boy), **Jasmine Jean Sim** (Emma Goldman and Others), **Charles L. Simmons** (Harlem Barber and Others, Dance Captain, u/s Booker T. Washington), **Brianna Sims** (Coalhouse Walker III), **Arlando Smith** (Booker T. Washington and Others), **Mike Spee** (Henry Ford and Others, u/s Father), **Allison Standley** (Mother), **Chandler T. Thomas** (Harlem Lawyer and Others, u/s Coalhouse Walker, Jr.), **Miranda Antoinette Westman** (Evelyn Nesbit and Others), **Cameron Widmark** (Willie Conklin and Others), **Ania Briggs** (u/s Sarah's Friend and Others, u/s Harlem Activist and Others), **Will Chadek** (u/s Younger Brother, u/s Harry Houdini and Others, u/s Henry Ford and Others), **Cherisse Martinelli** (u/s Evelyn Nesbit and Others, u/s Emma Goldman and Others), **Christopher Puckett** (u/s J.P. Morgan and Others, u/s Grandfather and Others, u/s Willie Conklin and Others), **Elijah Yale** (u/s Harlem Trumpet Player, Barber, Lawyer, and Others) and **Jessica Ziegelbauer** (u/s Mother).

The creative team transforming the stage into early 20th century New York includes Director **Joe Calarco**, Choreographer **Jimmy Shields**, Music Supervisors **Tim Symons** and **Sheilah V Walker**, Scenic Designer **Christopher J Mumaw**, Costume Designer **Sarita Fellows**, Lighting Designer **Sherrice Mojgani**, Sound Designer **Gino Scarpino**, and Stage Manager **Colleen Nielsen**, Associate Director **Bretteney Beverly**, Associate Choreographer **Katie J. Newbury**, Associate Music Director & Conductor **Rebecca Smith**, Assistant Lighting Designer **Trevor Cushman**, Costume Design Associate **Matthew Lott**, Cultural Consultant & Dramaturg **Cessalee Stovall**, Dialect Coach **Gin Hammond**, Vocal Coach **Aaron M. Davis Norman**, Intimacy & Fight Director **Geoffrey Alm**, and New York Casting by **Geoff Josselson, CSA**.

Single tickets can be purchased now at VillageTheatre.org/Ragtime, by phone at (425) 392-2202, or through

Village Theatre's box office in-person in Issaquah (303 Front Street N) or Everett (2710 Wetmore Avenue).

ABOUT VILLAGE THEATRE

Based in Issaquah, Wash., with operations in Everett, Wash., Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theater in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining, quality productions since 1979, Village has grown into one of the region's best-attended theatres. Village is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having supported the creation of more than 180 new works to date; and also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its Youth Education programs, serving thousands of young people and their families annually.

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FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS

WHAT:

Ragtime

Book by Terrence McNally

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Based on the novel "RAGTIME" by E.L. Doctorow

WHERE:

Village Theatre

Francis J. Gaudette Theatre

303 Front Street N, Issaquah

Everett Performing Arts Center (EPAC)

2710 Wetmore Avenue, Everett

WHEN:

Sep 15, 2026–Nov 15, 2026

Issaquah: Sep 15–Oct 18, 2026

Everett: Oct 24–Nov 15, 2026

TICKETS:

SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW starting at \$42

For tickets and information >> VillageTheatre.org/Ragtime

CONNECT WITH VILLAGE THEATRE

VillageTheatre.org

Facebook - [/VillageTheatre](https://VillageTheatre)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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