

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

May, 2025

Dear Patrons of Paper Mill Playhouse,

The NEXT ACT has begun!

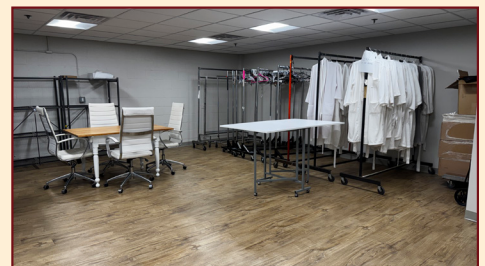
Paper Mill's long planned renovations are now underway. During the last several months we have been renovating our "back of house" spaces including dressing rooms, administrative offices, corridors, wardrobe room, and our green room. Check out some of the before and after photos! These spaces have not been touched since the 1980s and were in much need of refurbishment. We upgraded the lighting, plumbing, windows, and carpet, added new cabinets and racks for costumes, replaced the roof over the entire auditorium and stage, and upgraded much of the HVAC.

We are working floor by floor and plan to get the rest of the back of house completed by next season. The work has had minimal impact on our operations and is being well received by visiting artists, actors, and our staff!

BEFORE



AFTER



This coming summer, we begin renovations of the F.M. Kirby Carriage House Restaurant. This is an \$8 million project, largely funded by a grant from the State of New Jersey with additional support from Millburn Township and some private donors. The oldest rooms in the Carriage House (the current "Blue Room" and "The Loft") will receive only cosmetic improvements in order to keep the historic character of this building in tact. The large dining room and bar that was added in the 1990s will be demolished, and a new two-story wing will be constructed, adding an additional 2100 sq ft of dining, kitchen, and event space. We have been working with KSS Architects of Princeton, along with set designer Paul Tate DePoo III (*The Great Gatsby*) doing the interior design, and Corsi Associates designing the kitchen. The "new" Carriage House will feature a large bar and banquette seating on the first floor in a club-like atmosphere. The new second floor will be a dedicated space for special events, Carriage House Presents performances such as cabarets and murder mysteries, business meetings, rentals, and additional dining space when needed. Amenities include an elevator, six private bathrooms, LED video equipment, and a small stage. We will be adorning the walls with Paper Mill memorabilia, photographs, and posters that honor and celebrate our 86-year history.

THE NEXT ACT IS HERE



A key design element of the new Carriage House is a replica of the historic façade of the theater on the south side of the building, which will be newly constructed to create a “gateway” to the Paper Mill campus. As you approach Paper Mill from downtown Millburn, you will see the iconic entrance—clock tower and all. You will pass through the past into the future as you arrive at the new Paper Mill entrance and lobby, which will begin renovations in July 2026.

The Carriage House will be closed from July 1, 2025, through January 21, 2026, and will reopen to coincide with our recently announced production of *Come From Away*. We will have a soft opening, with limited dinner reservations, while the restaurant staff gets their sea legs within the space. Chef Jacques Marra and Manager Joe Medieros are already planning for the reopening.

For the first two shows of the season, *Bull Durham* and Disney’s *Frozen*, we encourage you to visit one of the many fine restaurants in downtown Millburn. We apologize for any inconvenience caused while our restaurant is closed for renovations. While the restaurant is closed, we look forward to creating a festive outdoor experience for you during the first two shows of the season.

While the Carriage House is under construction, the construction site should be limited to the perimeter of the restaurant. While it will definitely look like a construction site, there should be no other impacts on the courtyard, the theater entrance, the brookside walk, or our lobby.

Funding for all of our renovations are provided by the Next Act Campaign. To date, we have raised \$33 million toward our goal of \$43.7 million. We are grateful to the donors and funders who have already contributed. We are also grateful to Millburn Township and the State of New Jersey for their participation in this important campaign. For information about how you can participate, please call 973.315.1700.

Mark S. Hoebee
Producing Artistic Director

Michael Stotts
Executive Director