

McANINCH ARTS CENTER Sep 28, 2025

Welcome to the McAninch Arts Center!



Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to welcome you to the McAninch Arts Center. Each season, our stage becomes a home for extraordinary artistry from around the world, and we are thrilled to share these experiences with you. From unforgettable music and breathtaking dance to thought-provoking theatre and laugh-out-loud comedy, our touring performances bring the very best of the arts right here to DuPage County.

Your presence here is more than just attending a show—it is a celebration of the arts and a vital part of keeping them alive in our community. Every ticket purchased, every standing ovation, and every shared moment in this theater helps us fulfill our mission to make the arts accessible, engaging, and transformative.

As you enjoy today's performance, I encourage you to explore everything the MAC has to offer—from our gallery exhibitions and educational programs to our local and international collaborations. Whether this is your first visit or your fiftieth, we are honored to share this experience with you and look forward to making you feel right at home.

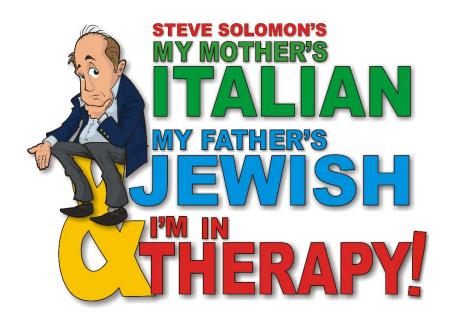
If you enjoy coming to the MAC, the greatest help you can offer us is to share your experiences with friends and neighbors. Word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful ways to keep the arts thriving in our community. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We look forward to entertaining you this evening, and we thank you sincerely for your support of the MAC.

With warm regards,

Diana Martinez Executive Director McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage presents



Written by and Starring - Steve Solomon

Directed by - Andy Rogow

Executive Producers – Abby Koffler, Steve Solomon

Personal Management – Penny Loafer Productions Inc.

The show will have a 15-minute intermission.

McAninch Arts Center acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Sun, Sep 28, 2025, 3p Belushi Performance Hall

ABOUT THE SHOW

STEVE SOLOMON'S MY MOTHER'S ITALIAN, MY FATHER'S JEWISH & I'M IN THERAPY - NEW STORIES AND NEW CHAOS!

One of the longest-running one-man comedies in theatrical history!

The world's gone wacko these days. Everyone could use a good laugh. Or three hundred of them. And the greatest universal subject to laugh about is... DYSFUNCTIONAL families.

This is why EVERYONE will simply adore "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy". And you don't have to be Jewish or Italian to love it! This hilarious PG-rated one-man show stars the incredibly talented Steve Solomon, who takes you on a wild and entertaining journey through his life, humorously navigating the challenges and absurdities of growing up in a mixed Jewish-Italian household. With his impeccable comedic timing, delightful dialects, wacky sound effects and witty storytelling, Steve brings to life a variety of colorful characters we all know, love, and tolerate from our own families, each with their own quirks and foibles...like Uncle Paulie who thinks KY Jelly is marmalade from Kentucky! You'll recognize your own parents, uncles, aunts, and second cousins twice removed as Steve shares relatable experiences, family anecdotes, cultural clashes, and stories about everything from doctors and air travel to Costco! And you'll laugh until you cry (or have to use the restroom!)

Almost a million people have seen this three time award-winning comedian known for delivering belly laughs and sheer joy. Call it "SEINFELD meets MANISCALCO."

PROGRAM NOTES

To say that an evening spent with Steve Solomon is like being with a dear, funny friend, is an understatement. In truth, an evening with Steve is more like being with dozens of hilarious friends and eccentric members of your own family.

Steve has taken the art of impersonation and honed it into a science. He masterfully weaves different dialects and crazy characters into his stories. These tales take on a life of their own as Steve recounts memorable moments from his past and makes hysterical observations

PROGRAM NOTES

on about the things we all relate to.

A native of Brooklyn, Steve grew up in the multi-ethnic neighborhood of Sheepshead Bay. This was the perfect training ground for a dialectician. As the class clown and as a very authentic sounding Chinese restaurant delivery boy, Steve learned at an early age how to use his gift for imitating accents to his advantage.

He also realized that he was a prolific writer of jokes; real jokes. And, blinded by the "glitz" of show business, he submitted dozens of his stories to periodicals, friends and stand up comics he knew in the business.

Steve's three-time award winning "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy" has met with rave reviews and great audience acclaim throughout the country; and became one of the longest running one-man shows in Broadway history. Steve's other hit shows include: "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm Home for the Holidays" and his new: "CANNOLI, LATKES & GUILT...the therapy continues" All these shows highlight the very best of his talents as a comedy writer and performer.

We meet the people that we're all too familiar with; the family members that make you remember why you left home in the first place. This time, however, we get to see greater nuances into the personalities of the dozens of characters we'll meet along the way....especially Steve's sister, "THE SMOKER."..... His X-wife. After the divorce, she got the ring...I got the finger! Well you get the picture.

"My Mother's Italian..." It's a laugh-filled fest of everybody you know, have known and some you'd want to forget but can't; all brought to life on stage by the comic magic of Steve Solomon.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back home for the Holidays....Steve brings us this masterpiece of family dysfunction. So prepare to laugh, prepare to cry and prepare to be delighted with "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy." After meeting Steve's family.... you'll leave wondering why more states don't have capital punishment.





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PROFILES



Steve Solomon (Author/Actor) A native of Brooklyn, Steve grew up in the multi-ethnic neighborhood of Sheepshead Bay. This was the perfect training ground for a dialectician and comedian. Steve learned at an early age how to use his gift for imitating accents to his advantage. He also realized that he was a prolific writer

of jokes and stories; real jokes. He submitted dozens of his stories to periodicals, friends and stand up comics he knew in the business. With the coming of the internet and e-mail, Steve now had an outlet for much of his comedy writings. One e-mail full of his jokes became ten, ten became hundreds, soon thousands of fellow e-mailers were enjoying Steve's humor; and so it went for over twenty years. To this day, Steve receives e-mail versions of his own jokes from all over the world. So, if some of the hilarious stories you hear "ring" familiar; trust me, they're probably Steve's. Using humor, dialects and sound effects in teaching, Steve became a Physics teacher and an assistant superintendent of schools on Long Island, New York.

He left his academic career behind and turned his attention to his latent love of making people laugh. As Steve puts it, "I decided to follow my heart and become an impoverished comedy writer and performer." Steve's show, the three-time award winning My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm In Therapy has met with rave reviews to sold out crowds throughout the United States, Canada and South Africa. The show became one of the longest running one-man comedy shows in history.

Steve has written four additional sequels to his original hit: My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm STILL in Therapy his hilarious holiday show; My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm Home for the Holidays! and Cannoli, Latkes & Guilt... the therapy continues, Steve's shows are currently touring the United States, Canada, and South Africa and have received critical acclaim including winning The Connecticut Critics Circle Award, The San Francisco Drama Desk nomination, Broadway.com Best new off-Broadway play. Steve's latest creation, From Brooklyn to Broadway in ONLY 50 Years!; has enjoyed wonderful reviews and sold out performances in Texas, New York, Canada, Las Vegas and many more cities. One note: All the voices you'll hear in the show tonight are Steve's. Enjoy!

PROFILES

Andrew Rogow (Director) holds a BFA from New York University and an MFA from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Rogow is currently a member of The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. He was the founder and Artistic Director of the Different Drummer Music Theater in Chicago, the only musical theater ensemble company in the country at the time. While there, he produced and/or directed such musicals as Working, an avant-garde production of The Fantasticks, and the Chicago premiere of the 1940's Radio Hour, which ran for six months at the Palmer House Hotel. Rogow is an award-winning actor who has worked all over the country. Favorite roles include Che in Evita, Hysterium in A Funny Thing...Forum, Ned in The Normal Heart, and Pooch in Good News. While living in Las Vegas he also worked as a singer at the Excalibur Hotel and Casino. Before joining the Hollywood Playhouse staff he was the Artistic Director of Cue Productions, based in New York City, which specialized in Jewish musicals. He directed their productions of Seymour Glick is Alive But Sick which allowed him the opportunity to work with comedy legend Steve Allen, Sophie, Totie and Belle, and Meet Me at the Pitkin. During his tenure at the Hollywood Playhouse he has directed Sally Struthers and Dawn Wells in Always, Patsy Cline, the world premieres of The Comet's Tale, Eye of the Beholder, Harry and Thelma in the Woods and critically acclaimed productions of The Fantasticks, Man of La Mancha, A Grand Night for Singing and Fiddler on the Roof, for which he received a Carbonell Award nomination for Best Director. Rogow is a member of Actors' Equity Association and The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. He also sits on the Board of Directors of the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and is the President of the Theatre League of South Florida. Rogow is the original director of Steve Solomon's MY MOTHER'S ITALIAN. MY FATHER'S JEWISH & I'M IN THFRAPY.

Abby Koffler (Producer) With 35 years' experience as an Arts Presenter in South Florida, *My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy* was the first time out for Koffler as a Producer. She met Steve sixteen years ago while he was doing stand-up comedy and after many lunches and long talks, they became good friends. Recognizing Steve's enormous potential and his ability to do more with his talent, she prodded him to work with her to create a vehicle that would better showcase those abilities and, as Steve remembers it, she gave him only

PROFILES

two hours to come up with a title for it. Together they created the title and the concept of *My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy*. Over a number of years, a lot of hard work and a very successful road tour, their dream of presenting the show in New York City came to fruition. The show ran for almost two years and after six thousand performances the show has become one of the longest running one man comedy shows in history! Koffler continues to manage Steve's career.

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The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
- Provides students and community members the opportunity to interact with artists
- Enhances quality of life in our community

Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

Arts Center and MAC-tastic Treat Seats Endowments

Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our "savings accounts," go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-3088 or foundation@codfound.org.

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McAninch Arts Center acknowledges and gives grateful thanks to those donors who have contributed in support of the MAC mission and vision. This list of donors reflects contributions made from January 1, 2024 – August 7, 2025. While we carefully prepared this list, we recognize that errors may have occurred. Please accept our apology if you are not properly represented on this list and contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-3088 so we may correct our records.

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For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Rob Nardini: nardinir@cod.edu | (630) 942-3705.

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- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
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- For Americans With Disabilities Act accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
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Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Managing Artistic Director	Gus Monany
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director	
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian New Philharmonic General Manager	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian New Philharmonic General Manager New Philharmonic Personnel Manager	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel Richard Arnold, Jr.
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel Richard Arnold, Jr. Sabrina Zeidler
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel Richard Arnold, Jr. Sabrina Zeidler Kimberly G. Morris
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian New Philharmonic General Manager New Philharmonic Personnel Manager New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian MAC Design and Technical Staff Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator Technical Theater Supervisor Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel Richard Arnold, Jr. Sabrina Zeidler Kimberly G. Morris Gretchen Woodley
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian New Philharmonic General Manager New Philharmonic Personnel Manager New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian MAC Design and Technical Staff Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator Technical Theater Supervisor Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher Production Manager	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel Richard Arnold, Jr. Sabrina Zeidler Kimberly G. Morris Gretchen Woodley
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian New Philharmonic General Manager New Philharmonic Personnel Manager New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian MAC Design and Technical Staff Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator Technical Theater Supervisor Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher Production Manager Sound and Lighting Specialist	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel Richard Arnold, Jr. Sabrina Zeidler Kimberly G. Morris Gretchen Woodley Joe Hopper Ben Johnson
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian New Philharmonic General Manager New Philharmonic Personnel Manager New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian MAC Design and Technical Staff Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator Technical Theater Supervisor Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher Production Manager Sound and Lighting Specialist Lighting Production Specialist	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel Richard Arnold, Jr. Sabrina Zeidler Kimberly G. Morris Gretchen Woodley Joe Hopper Ben Johnson Elias Morales
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel Richard Arnold, Jr. Sabrina Zeidler Kimberly G. Morris Gretchen Woodley Joe Hopper Ben Johnson Elias Morales Fisher Parsons
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian New Philharmonic General Manager New Philharmonic Personnel Manager New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian MAC Design and Technical Staff Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator Technical Theater Supervisor Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher Production Manager Sound and Lighting Specialist Lighting Production Specialist	Benjamin Nadel Paula Cebula Karen Dickelman Ryan Michel Richard Arnold, Jr. Sabrina Zeidler Kimberly G. Morris Gretchen Woodley Joe Hopper Ben Johnson Elias Morales Fisher Parsons Caitlyn Woods

MAC Administrative Staff











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