TOTEM POLE PLAYHOUSE

A Season for Every Story

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT NO LONGER WAITS FOR SUMMER

For 75 years, Totem Pole Playhouse has thrived, nestled in the rich pines of south-central Pennsylvania and grounded in artistic excellence. Through that three-quarters of a century, Totem Pole has served as fertile ground for creativity and growth as a nationally recognized summer stock theatre. A beloved regional treasure, Totem Pole has gifted audiences decades of summers, memories, laughter, and moments of wonder.

Now, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we're launching a bold new chapter—**A Season for Every Story**—a campaign to transform Totem Pole into a three-season home for creative connection, immersive storytelling, and community connection.

This $750,000 campaign will usher in a future where Totem Pole's season doesn't set with the summer sun, but welcomes audiences from the first buds of spring through autumn's last felled leaf. Through critical investments in technology, building preservation, and seed funding, we'll expand our season, grow our audience, and remain a vital cultural anchor for generations to come. Each of our core priorities represent both a celebration of our roots, a dedication to our community, and an investment in a fertile future.

Why Now?

For decades, Totem Pole Playhouse has been more than a stage—it's been a destination. A proving ground. A creative home. Since our founding, legendary performers from Broadway and Hollywood have made Totem Pole their summer stage, adding to the rich artistic legacy that has earned us national recognition as one of the finest summer stock theatres in the country.

But times—and audiences—have changed.

Today, communities are seeking more than seasonal tradition. They want connection, culture, and creativity all year long. As a trusted and beloved institution with 75 years of excellence behind us, Totem Pole is uniquely positioned to meet that demand—not just with theatre, but with a vibrant mix of arts and programming that reflects the full scope of community life.

Now is the moment to ensure that this historic venue doesn't sit idle for most of the year. You can ensure Totem Pole becomes the year-round cultural hub our community needs—hosting intimate performances, educational workshops, live podcast recordings, variety and comedy shows, speaker series, concerts, and more. While Summer Broadway will always remain at our core, Totem Pole will now blossom into a place where new stories are told, new voices are heard, and the community intertwines in every season.

This campaign isn't about changing what makes Totem Pole special. It's about **making sure more people experience it—more often, in more ways, for more years to come.**

Campaign Priorities

1. Preserving the Historic Playhouse - $270,000

For decades, Totem Pole has been a cherished summer tradition, and now, with your support, we envision transforming it into a vibrant three-season cultural hub. Installing a modern, energy-efficient HVAC system will extend our season to include spring festivals and fall performances, making long-held dreams a reality. At the same time, preserving our iconic, hand-built wooden structure—through essential repairs like replacing deteriorating cedar eaves and reinforcing roofing supports—will ensure its safety, functionality, and historic charm for generations to come.

2. Theatrical Technology Enhancements - $150,000

To support modern productions while honoring our historic summer stock roots, Totem Pole Playhouse is investing in a cutting-edge video wall, along with upgraded sound and lighting systems. This integrated package will create visually striking, immersive environments with digital backdrops that reduce set change time while elevating production quality. These enhancements will empower our artists to push creative boundaries and offer richer storytelling. The investment opens doors for expanded programming, including guest speakers, comedians, workshops, live podcasts, concerts, and film screenings.

3. Root Building - $330,000

Transitioning from a summer-only model to multi-season programming means a significant expansion in expenses—including artist fees, equipment, production, marketing, box office operations, supplies, and grounds maintenance. Root Building support nourishes the foundation of Totem Pole during this vital season of rebirth and growth, ensuring we can sustain the creative, operational, and physical infrastructure needed to thrive year-round.

A Milestone that Marks a Movement

Launching this transformation during our 75th anniversary is no coincidence—it's a celebration of our rich past, a gift to our supportive community, and an investment in an even brighter future. What began as a summer stock tradition is now becoming a year-round invitation to gather, imagine, and create.

We believe every season brings its own stories.
And Totem Pole Playhouse should be here to tell them all.