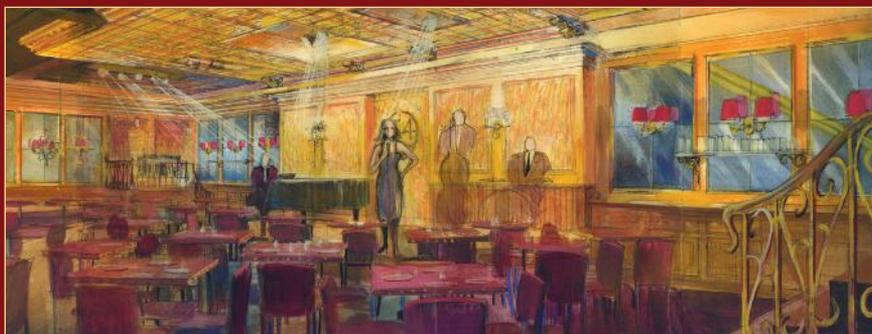




THE
FIRST
ANNUAL
54 BELOW
GALA

MARCH 23, 2026





TOP (L-R): Tom Viertel, Steve Baruch, and Richard Frankel. 54 Below's founders.

MIDDLE: John Lee Beatty's 2011 rendering of 54 Below.

BOTTOM: Lillias White, 2022. Photo by Nina Westervelt for *The New York Times*.

WELCOME TO 54 BELOW

From all of us at 54 Below, it's with full hearts that we welcome you to this very special evening.

When we first opened our now iconic red door more than a decade ago and just steps from the lights of Broadway, we dreamed of creating a home for artists and audiences: a place where personal storytelling and song could live side by side, and where guests could experience the thrill of live performance and the comfort of community while enjoying an exquisite meal and stellar hospitality.

What began as an ambitious idea has grown into something far greater than we ever could have imagined.

Over the years, 54 Below has become more than a venue. It's no coincidence that we've become known as Broadway's Living Room. This room, your room, has become a gathering place for Broadway's finest, for emerging voices, for longtime friends, and for first-time guests who leave feeling like insiders. We've witnessed unforgettable debuts, Broadway cast reunions, standing ovations, and even a few love stories that led to weddings and marriage proposals celebrated on this stage. That magic belongs to all of you.

Tonight, as we celebrate 54 Below in its third year as a nonprofit venue, we're reminded that the future of this extraordinary space depends on a community that believes deeply in the power of live musical performance.

Your presence here tonight, and your generosity, ensures that we can continue to provide opportunities for artists, broaden access for audiences, and preserve and expand the art of cabaret that comes to life here every night.

Thank you for believing in this dream and for carrying it forward with us. The spotlight shines a little brighter because you are in this room.

**With deepest gratitude,
The Board and Staff of 54 Below**

The club opened in June 2012 under the leadership of Tony Award®-winning producers Tom Viertel, Marc Routh, Richard Frankel and Steve Baruch (*The Producers*, *Hairspray*, *Angels in America*), who brought together Broadway's and New York's most creative artists and designers as well as top food and hospitality professionals to launch and oversee this only-in-Manhattan, matchless nightspot. Designed by Tony Award® winners John Lee Beatty (restaurant design), Ken Billington (lighting), Peter Hylenski (sound), and architect Richard Lewis, 54 Below's creative team is led by Creative and Programming Director Jennifer Ashley Tepper while the restaurant is led by Executive Chef James Klapak and General Manager Mandisa Boxill.

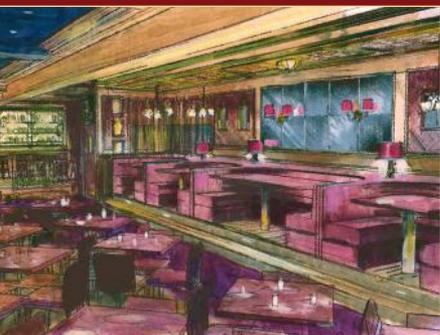
In May 2022, almost exactly 10 years after it opened, 54 Below received the Tony® Honor for Excellence in the Theatre, becoming the only cabaret venue bestowed with such a recognition. In 2023, 54 Below transitioned to a not-for-profit organization to better and more sustainably serve the mission it has always pursued: to preserve and expand the art of cabaret. Today, 54 Below sets a new standard in radical hospitality and culinary excellence for New York City entertainment venues.

54 BELOW THROUGH THE YEARS



RIGHT: Patti LuPone.
ABOVE: Sarah Tuohy, Sam Primack,
Mallory Bechtel, Jeffrey Cornelius.
Photos by Sir Michael Allan Galvez.





TOP LEFT: John Lee Beatty's 2011 rendering of the seating in the club.

TOP RIGHT: Tables and banquette seating as seen today. Photo by Joseph Moran.

ABOVE: Construction crew in the cellar in 2011.

THE 54 BELOW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steven Baruch
PRESIDENT

Richard Frankel
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Thomas Viertel
CHAIRMAN

Brenda Braxton

Christopher Cowen

Robert L. Dilenschneider

Robert Downey

Sanford Fisher

Ken Greiner

Tom Hood

Brian Kaltner

Debby Landesman

Matt Miller

Howard Morgan

Lee Perlman

Todd Petzel

Susan Raanan

Stanley Richards

Megan Roach

Marvin Rosen

Lucille Werlinich

THE 54 BELOW STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE

Exec. Asst. to Richard Frankel/
54 Below Concierge.....**Stephanie Lazard**
Exec. Asst to Tom Viertel &
Steve Baruch/Board Secretary....**Georgia Ossorguine**

FINANCE

Director of Finance/Board Treasurer.....**Heidi Libby**
Finance Associate.....**Daphnee Simeon**

DEVELOPMENT

Director of Development.....**Kathleen Germann**
Patron Program Coordinator.....**Katie Housley**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Director of IT.....**Ben Bigby**
Level II Help Desk.....**Patrick Meade**

MARKETING

Marketing Director,
Creative & Digital Media.....**Sir Michael Allan Galvez**
Marketing Director,
Communications & Analytics.....**Katie O'Donnell**
Marketing Manager.....**Audrey Rowland**
Digital Marketing Associate.....**Grace Flavian**
Marketing & Analytics Associate.....**Adelina Correa**

PRIVATE EVENTS

Director of Private Events.....**Sandra Bowers**

PRODUCTION

Production Manager
& Head of Audio.....**Amanda Raymond**
Production Coordinator
& Head of Lighting.....**Becky Morris**
Livestream Director.....**Ben Takitch**
Audio Staff.....**Aidan Fuller,**
Sarah Goodman, Yoni Hirshfield,
Megumi Katayama, Abbey Nettleton,
Kathryn Ruvuna, Aidan Sturgeon,
Davie Voelker
Lighting Staff.....**Gabriel Esparza,**
Brianna Fodera, Indigo Garcia,
Sarah Goldstein, Ashley Kok,
Kat Morrill

PROGRAMMING

Creative & Programming
Director.....**Jennifer Ashley Tepper**
Deputy Programming
Director.....**Pier Lamia Porter**
Asst. Programming Directors.....**Alexa Spiegel**
Macon Prickett

RESTAURANT

General Manager.....**Mandisa Boxill**
Executive Chef.....**James Klapak**
Sous Chef.....**Antonio Martinez**
Asst. General Manager.....**Rachel Castillo**
Pastry Chef.....**Sri Elleston**
Guest Relations Manager.....**Mark Beyer**
Floor Manager.....**Karen Muriel**
Culinary Team.....**Andres Acevedo,**
Alberto Cajas, Abner Castro,
Leonte Cepeda, Filadelfo De la Cruz,
Juan David, Abdou Diop,
Sierra Elleston, Elvis Galvez,
Carlos Guzman, Edgar Ortiz,
Anthony Les Pierre, Luis Reyes,
Pablo Reynoso, Jose Rios,
Rodrigo Rodriguez,
Marco Carrion Sosa
Maitre d'.....**GG, Cassi Mikat,**
Shayna Rives

Guest Relations Associates/
Hosts.....**Ben George,**

Isa Harris, Malcolm Holmes,
Paula Lemos, Kat Rodriguez,
Niqo Torrez

Service Team.....**Jeremy Abram,**
Catherine Arias, Rae-Ann Cabralis,
Jonathan Cardenas, Maria Canizares,
Abner Chiroy, Edgar Corona,
Fernanda Dellacroce, Jennifer Dutan,
Jorge Flores, Oscar Fonseca,
Karoline Hood, Wilfrido Marin,
Alex Martins, Wladimir Morales,
Ingrid Orjuela, Luis Palomino,
Juan Patino, Rodrigo Rodriguez,
Evelyn Ruiz, Gretchen Schneider,
Camila Tabares, Leonardo Vega,
Leonel Meyo, Edgar Ortiz

**Congratulations to
54 Below on the
Inaugural Gala
Celebration!**

- Sandy and Isanne Fisher

We have been coming to 54 Below since the very beginning. We are proud to be Patron Program Members and are thrilled to be at the 1st Annual Gala. Thank you to Steve, Richard, Tom, and all of the Staff!

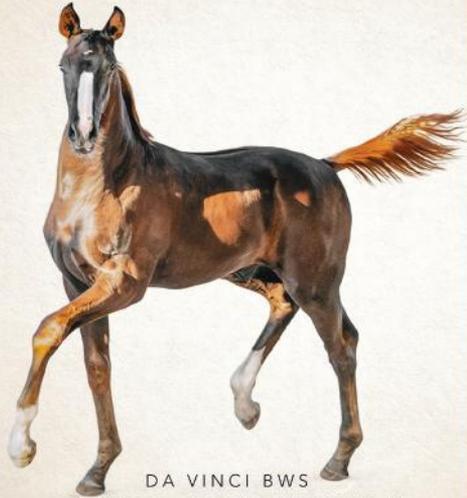
- Ira Mont & Jill Cordle Mont



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PBAC 3.0 LLC, a manufacturer's representative serving the foodservice industry throughout the tri-state area for more than three decades, has proudly hosted its annual Food Service Consultant Event at 54 Below for the past five years.

The venue consistently provides an exceptional setting, highlighted by its skilled production staff, attentive guest service, outstanding dining experience, and remarkable entertainment featuring many of Broadway's finest musical talents.

Year after year, 54 Below has proven to be an ideal partner and remains the venue of choice for PBAC 3.0!



EXPERIENCE 54 BELOW LIKE NEVER BEFORE



DISCOVER MORE AS A MEMBER.

Get exclusive benefits like access to headliner pre-sales, free cover charge offers throughout the year, exchange privileges, and more!

Enjoy all of this while knowing that your tax-deductible donation help fund our artist and audience initiatives to make cabaret more accessible to both performers and audiences.

Membership tiers start at \$100.

CONNECT DEEPER AS A PATRON.

54 Below Patrons enjoy VIP access to everything we have to offer, from a variety of ticket benefits for both in-person and livestream shows to one-of-a-kind experiences and opportunities to further engage with 54 Below and the wider Broadway community.

Patron levels start at \$500.

READY TO BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY?

Lead the charge in helping us preserve and expand the art of cabaret. Join us by scanning the QR code below or by going to

54below.org/PatronsAndMembers



A portrait of Lea Salonga, a woman with dark hair pulled back, smiling warmly. She is wearing a red, sequined, long-sleeved dress and large, sparkling earrings. Her hands are clasped near her chest.

Lea Salonga

DEC 1 BENEFIT PERFORMANCE
TICKETS: \$265-\$360, PREMIUM \$390
\$200 IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Lea Salonga returns to the 54 Below stage for the first time in a decade! Best known for her leading roles in *Miss Saigon*, *Les Misérables*, *Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends*, *Once On This Island*, and *Allegiance*, this global artist was bestowed the honor of "Disney Legend" for her signature singing roles in *Aladdin* and *Mulan*. Lea returns to 54 Below with a show for all ages sure to get you in the holiday spirit.

Doors will open at 5PM. Guests will be greeted with complimentary prosecco and the regular menu will be supplemented by festive specials available only for this special evening.

A portion of the proceeds on December 1 will benefit our accessible ticket initiative.

BUY TICKETS AT
54BELOW.ORG/LEASALONGA

JUNKYARD DOG
PRODUCTIONS

CELEBRATES
54 BELOW!

Best Wishes to all
for the First Annual
54 Below Gala

- Terry Schnuck

NEDERLANDER ORGANIZATION

Congratulates

54 Below

*Exclusive Live Streaming Event
direct from Broadway's Couch!*

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING THE ARTS!**

JAMES L. NEDERLANDER
PRESIDENT & CEO



NICK SCANDALIOS
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



Home Care for New Yorkers *Built on Connection*

At Duet, we believe home care should feel less like a service and more like a relationship.

For the last decade, hundreds of caring and creative New Yorkers – artists, writers, educators, natural conversationalists – have worked with us to enrich the lives of older adults who have so much to share.

So we're honored to support tonight's performance at 54 Below, a place where community and creativity meet.



CHEERS TO 54 BELOW!

Thank you for giving us such wonderful cabaret experiences! We are delighted to support this inaugural gala and the art of cabaret!

- **Jeff and Cassandra Short**
Indianapolis, Indiana

Always and forever
our favorite nightclub in NYC!

- Larry Lelli

Lelli-Pop
PRODUCTIONS

Michael J. Sinder, Esq.

Theater Law

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LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

PERFORM ON THE 54 BELOW STAGE

This exclusive auction experience offers you the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform a song in ***The 54 Below Staff Show*** on July 18, 2026, sharing your talent with the world, from this room, on this stage.

The 54 Below Staff Show is usually live streamed.

This unforgettable evening puts you in the spotlight. You'll be surrounded by the warmth, support, and joy that define 54 Below's community of artists, audiences and staff. It's a celebration of creativity, courage, and cabaret, all in support of 54 Below's mission to nurture artists and keep this iconic space thriving. No matter your level of experience, this is your night to shine, and a memory you'll treasure long after your final note.

CURATED DINNER FOR SIX AT 54 BELOW

Enjoy a curated dinner for you and five guests. Your dinner will be created by 54 Below's Executive Chef **James Klapak** and will include an expertly selected wine pairing. You and your guests will also enjoy tickets to a 54 Below performance.

CURATED DINNER FOR SIX IN YOUR HOME

Prefer to dine at home? 54 Below's Executive Chef **James Klapak** will bring dinner to you and five guests so that you can impress your guests without leaving home. Your dinner will include an expertly selected wine pairing.

LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

54 BELOW'S GUIDE TO NYC THEATER

Experience the magic of New York theater with this exciting ticket package featuring five incredible productions across Broadway and Off-Broadway stages: ***The Rocky Horror Show***, ***Beaches***, ***Masquerade*** (an immersive Off-Broadway experience), ***Operation Mincemeat***, and ***Ragtime***. From cult-classic fun and heartfelt storytelling to immersive theatrical adventure and sweeping Broadway spectacle, this collection offers something for every theater lover. In addition to the tickets, you will enjoy a \$200 voucher for the theater district staple, Orso, for dinner or drinks after your show.

PENN & TELLER EXPERIENCE IN VEGAS

This exclusive auction experience includes four tickets to see Penn & Teller live in Las Vegas, plus a two-night stay at the iconic Rio Hotel. Enjoy mind-bending magic, sharp wit, and VIP treatment fun from one of the most legendary duos in entertainment, then relax and recharge in true Vegas style.

A dazzling getaway that delivers surprise, laughter, and world-class performance.

DINNER WITH THE FOUNDERS

You and your guest will enjoy a private dinner with **Steve Baruch**, **Richard Frankel** and **Tom Viertel**, long-time Broadway producers and the founders of 54 Below. You'll get an insider's view of how 54 Below came to be, and a rare opportunity to connect personally with the visionaries behind one of New York City's most iconic venues.

Congratulations!

- **Jeffrey Richards Associates**
(Jeffrey Richards, Patrick Jones,
Maia Glasman, Brandon Schwartz,
Katie Orenstein)

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE

54 Below would like to thank
the following for their generosity:

54 Below Board of Directors
54 Below Gala Committee
Baldor Specialty Foods
Beaches Broadway
Chef's Warehouse
Duet Care at Home
Evan Bernardin Productions
Debby and Rocco Landesman
Lincoln Center Theater
Operation Mincemeat Broadway
Roundabout Theatre Company
UrbanStems

URBANSTEMS

UrbanStems is proud to support the diverse community of performers celebrating the art of Cabaret at 54 Below.



*Fresh, Modern Bouquets Designed in NYC |
For the Moments that Matter*



**The Shubert Organization
is proud to support
54 Below.**

