

# SHOWGUIDE

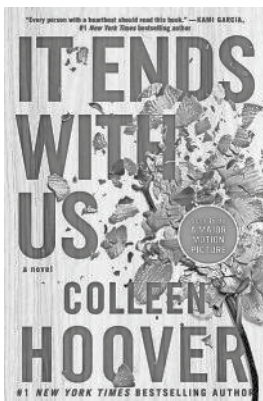
## TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS



Actor **Tom Skerritt**, turns 91. Singer **Walter Williams** (The O'Jays), 81. Singer **Gene Simmons** (KISS), 75. Singer-songwriter **Elvis Costello**, 70. Director **Tim Burton**, 66. Singer **Billy Ray Cyrus**, 63. Singer **Jeff Tweedy** (Wilco), 57. TV chef **Rachael Ray**, 56. Model **Claudia Schiffer**, 54. Actor **Alexander Skarsgård**, 48. Actor **Kel Mitchell**, 46. Designer **Bobby Berk**, 43. Actor **Blake Lively** (shown), 37. — USA TODAY Network

## USAT BESTSELLERS

1. "It Ends with Us" by Hoover, Colleen (Atria Books)
2. "It Starts with Us" by Hoover, Colleen (Atria Books)
3. "Shameless: Republicans' Deliberate Dysfunction and the Battle to Preserve Democracy" by Cohen, Brian Tyler (Harper)
4. "The Book of Bill" by Hirsch, Alex (Hyperion Avenue)
5. "Born of Blood and Ash" by Armentrout, Jennifer L. (Blue Box Press)
6. "A Crown That Lasts: You Are Not Your Label" by Tebow, Demi-Leigh (Thomas Nelson)
7. "A Court of Thorns and Roses" by Maas, Sarah J. (Bloomsbury Publishing)
8. "Men Have Called Her Crazy: A Memoir" by Tandler, Anna Marie (Simon & Schuster)
9. "The Pairing: Special 1st Edition" by McQuiston, Casey (St. Martin's Griffin)
10. "What to Cook When You Don't Feel Like Cooking" by Chambers, Caroline (Union Square & Co.)
11. "Angel of Vengeance: Volume 22" by Preston, Douglas (Grand Central Publishing)
12. "Little Blue Truck's Halloween: A Halloween Book for Kids" by Schertle, Alice (Clarion Books)
13. "The Perfect Son" by McFadden, Freida (Poisoned Pen Press)
14. "Boo! Bluey's Halloween: A Magnet Book" by Penguin Young Readers Licenses (Penguin Young Readers Licenses)
15. "The Art of Power: My Story as America's First Woman Speaker of the House" by Pelosi, Nancy (Simon & Schuster)
16. "The Housemaid" by McFadden, Freida (Grand Central Publishing)
17. "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" by Vance, J D (Harper Paperbacks)
18. "Masters of Death" by Blake, Olivie (Tor Books)
19. "The Women" by Hannah, Kristin (St. Martin's Press)
20. "The God of the Woods" by Moore, Liz (Riverhead Books)
21. "Gravity Falls: Journal 3" by Hirsch, Alex (Disney Press)
22. "A Mission Without Borders: Why a Father and Son Risked It All for the People of Ukraine" by Robichaux, Chad (Thomas Nelson)
23. "Good Energy: The Surprising Connection Between Metabolism and Limitless Health" by Means, Casey (Avery Publishing Group)
24. "Iron Flame" by Yarros, Rebecca (Entangled: Red Tower Books)
25. "Offer from a Gentleman & Romancing Mister Bridgerton: Bridgerton Collector's Ed" by Quinn, Julia (Avon Books)
26. "Bluey: Little Library 4-Book Box Set" by Penguin Young Readers Licenses (Penguin Young Readers Licenses)
27. "Verity" by Hoover, Colleen (Grand Central Publishing)
28. "All the Colors of the Dark" by Whitaker, Chris (Crown Publishing Group (NY))
29. "What's Next: A Backstage Pass to the West Wing, Its Cast and Crew, and Its Enduring Legacy of Service" by McCormack, Mary (Dutton)
30. "Lady Macbeth" by Reid, Ava (Del Rey Books)



# A guide to fairs, festivals, concerts and performing arts events this week

**Elaine Rewolinski**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

## FREE CONCERTS

- Lions Legend Park Bandshell:** The Wolffs Band, 1:30 p.m. Aug. 25. 9229 W. Loomis Road, Franklin.
- Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum:** Crook and Co., 10:30 a.m. Aug. 25. 2220 N. Terrace Ave.
- Lake Park Summer Stage:** Gizzae, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 26. 2975 N. Lake Park Road.
- Humboldt Park Chalet:** Bright Eyed & Blind, Louie & The Flashbombs, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 27. 3000 S. Howell Ave.
- Red Arrow Park:** Tigera, noon Aug. 28. 920 N. Water St.
- Riverfront Plaza:** Ken Williams, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 28. 29 Riverfront St., Waukesha.
- Rotary Amphitheater at Discovery World:** Reverend Raven & the Chainsmokin' Altar Boys, 6 p.m. Aug. 28. 500 N. Harbor Drive.
- St. Ann Center Bucyrus Campus:** Christopher's Project, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 28. 2450 W. North Ave.
- Washington Park Bandshell:** Evan Christian & Peter Thomas, Marcy Daneille Group, 6 p.m. Aug. 28. 4599 W. Lloyd St.
- Boerner Botanical Gardens:** Almighty Vinyl, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 29. 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners.
- Cathedral Square Park:** De La Buena, 6 p.m. Aug. 29. 520 E. Wells St.
- Wisconsin Center Courtyard:** Allison Mahal, noon Aug. 29. 411 E. Wisconsin Ave.
- Budweiser Pavilion:** The Cheap Shots, 7 p.m. Aug. 30. Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th St., West Allis.

## FAIRS & FESTS

- MKE Books & Beers Fair:** 4:30-9 p.m. Aug. 27. Deer District Beer Garden, 1133 King Drive.
- Saint Francis Days:** 6 p.m. Aug. 30; noon Aug. 31, (through Sept. 1). Milton Vretenar Memorial Park, 4230 S. Kirkwood Ave., St. Francis.
- Oak Creek LionsFest:** 3 p.m.-midnight Aug. 30; 11 a.m.-midnight Aug. 31, (through Sept. 2). 9327 S. Shepard Ave., Oak Creek.
- Wisconsin Highland Games:** 5-10 p.m. Aug. 30; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Aug. 31, (through Sept. 1). Waukesha Expo Center, 1000 Northview Road, Waukesha.
- Third Ward Art Festival:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 31, (through Sept. 1). On Broadway from St. Paul to Menomonee.



Mark Stuart of Burlington warms up for a performance with the Milwaukee Scottish Pipe Band during the Wisconsin Highland Games in Waukesha in 2019. The annual 3-day event features hands-on activities, demonstrations, athletic competitions, authentic food, and live music. SCOTT ASH/NOW NEWS GROUP

## PERFORMING ARTS

- Black Arts MKE:** For Colored Girls, and The Realness, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 25. Marcus Performing Arts Center, 929 N. Water St. [marcuscenter.org](http://marcuscenter.org)
- Milwaukee Chamber Music Festival:** 2:30 p.m. Aug. 25. Charles Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave. [charlesallis.org](http://charlesallis.org)
- Boswell Books:** Ian K Smith "Eagle Rock: An Ashe Cayne Novel," 6:30 p.m. Aug. 27. Maribeth Fischer "A Season of Perfect Happiness," 6:30 p.m. Aug. 28. 2559 N. Downer Ave. [boswellbooks.com](http://boswellbooks.com)

# 'Homeland' actor is returning to her roots in Milwaukee theater

**Jim Higgins**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Since her heyday here in the early 2000s, Milwaukee theater hasn't seen anyone like Sarah Sokolovic. But thanks to Renaissance Theaterworks, local audiences will get to see her again in October. Sokolovic, who has played important roles in the TV series "Homeland" and "Big Little Lies," will perform in Renaissance's production of Jen Silverman's dark comedy "The Moors." "I'm so excited to ... have the experience of being a part of this community again," Sokolovic said in an interview over Zoom. "The Moors" will reunite Sokolovic with director Suzan Fete, who also directed the actor in Renaissance's production of Neil LaBute's "The Shape of Things" in 2004. Not only have Sokolovic and Fete have stayed in touch, but a dream Sokolovic had about Fete played a role in her returning to Milwaukee for this show. That's unconventional, but doing things unconventionally is practically Sokolovic's calling card.

## Focus on tools, not rules

Without going to college, Sokolovic jumped from Riverside University High School to performing for theater companies big and little in Milwaukee and Wisconsin: Milwaukee Repertory Theater, American Players Theatre, Chamber Theatre, Renaissance, In Tandem Theatre, Off the Wall, Milwaukee Shakespeare and Bialystock & Bloom — where she did some of her most provocative work. In 2001 she played a vengeful, child-killing mother in Bialystock's production of LaBute's "Bash." "Sarah found that character almost immediately," director Jonathan West told the Journal Sentinel in a 2004 interview. West stopped the rehearsal process for her character early because he didn't want to mess up what she already had. In 2004 Sokolovic moved to New York to pursue her career there, returning regularly to Milwaukee for roles. After David Chambers directed her in Milwau-

kee Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" in 2005, he encouraged her to audition for the Yale School of Drama master of fine arts program in acting. Eventually she did, and was accepted into the Yale program — without ever having done undergraduate studies anywhere.

When Sokolovic entered Yale, she had "this weird misconception that what they wanted from me was to break me down and mold me into something else ... this sort of perfect idea of what the perfect actor is," she said. Instead, her Yale training helped her remove layers and be more deeply herself.

In a follow-up email, she quoted a favorite teacher: "I now focus on tools, not rules."

"My work is even more exciting to me now than it was before school," she said.

## Six months in Berlin for 'Homeland'

Her highest-profile work to date was the major role she played in season 5 of "Homeland" as Laura Sutton, an American journalist on the trail of secret CIA documents.

Sokolovic said she was cast for the role on a Wednesday, and was in Berlin the following Monday for six months of work.

"Any scene I did with (star) Claire Danes was amazing, because she's just the most. She's just so present," Sokolovic said.

The work Sokolovic calls her personal best in "Homeland" is her final scene, when her character is in prison and being interrogated, played with German actor Nina Hoss. "It's just this really incredibly charged conversation between Nina and I," she said. "It was the last day, and I just spent six months with these people, and I really loved them."

## A dream and a return to Milwaukee

Sokolovic "had been talking for a really long time, like years" with Fete, Renaissance's artistic director, about returning to Milwaukee to perform in a show.

Their recent reconnection happened because Sokolovic had a dream about Fete. "I cannot remember



Milwaukee native Sarah Sokolovic will return here to perform with Renaissance Theaterworks in October. PROVIDED BY PETER KONERKO FOR RENAISSANCE THEATERWORKS

See SOKOLOVIC, Page 8D

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LIFE

Davidson

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“I think she is beautiful. We as Black women carry our weight very well,” she said proudly, then added: “We have enough people who do not love Black girls. How do we have time to be fighting each other?”

“Everyone has value.”  
Miss Vicki and her staff are used to being confidantes. The Greentree-Teutonia Community Learning Center, built in 1998, is more than just classrooms and leasing office for tenants.

“It’s the family outside of your family,” said Martinus Roper, assistant program director at Greentree, where he is known as “Mr. M.” His family lived in Greentree when he was a child.

“Sometimes you can’t tell your mama everything,” he said. “Sometimes you can’t tell your daddy everything. So, you need a Mr. M. You need a Miss Vicki so that you can be heard with no judgment.”

For 26 years, Miss Vicki has been that listening ear, absorbing the traumas of others.

‘Looking ahead’

The Greentree-Teutonia Community Learning Center has weathered crisis after crisis.

During the pandemic, school districts put more tablets in the hands of students for remote learning. Many of the families who used the center never



LEFT: Vicki Davidson waits her turn to throw out the first pitch at a Milwaukee Brewers game. Davidson was named USA TODAY’s Wisconsin Woman of the Year.

returned.

When Cardinal Stritch University — which the center had partnered with for 15 years, with student mentors from their campus to tutor youth at Greentree’s after-school and summer programs — closed its campus in May 2023, it left a deep void.

As technology moves forward, the center struggles to keep up. Equipment needs are ever-present. Miss Vicki and other staff wish for a gym to offer health and fitness classes, too.

Many of her former students, now adults with their own children, say she isn’t nearly as tough with the current youth as she was with them.

“I’ve learned to let go of that tight

rein,” Miss Vicki said. “I was a pretty strict cookie. But I tell them life is going to be stricter on you. Everything I’m asking of you is not unreasonable and you’re capable. I’m never, ever going to apologize for that.”

She knows the time will come for the next generation to take the lead.

“My hope and prayer would be that someone younger than me and smarter than me would incorporate the values and insights that we have used.”

Eventually, she will need to slow down. But not yet. She is a true believer: In God, in herself, in Greentree and in all the children she has yet to reach.

“I think anything is possible,” she said.



Milwaukee Journal Sentinel photographer Angela Peterson spent 15 months at Greentree-Teutonia Apartments, a public housing complex on Milwaukee’s north side. Through the O’Brien Fellowship in Public Service Journalism at Marquette University, Peterson took thousands of photographs, kept a journal, and wrote stories capturing the heartache and triumph from a community that is often overlooked and misunderstood. She was assisted by Marquette students Isabel Bonebrake and Megan Woolard. Marquette University and administrators of the program played no role in the reporting, editing or presentation of this project.

Sokolovic

Continued from Page 2D

anything else about the dream, just that she was in it,” Sokolovic said. But when she woke up, she felt that she missed Fete and got in touch.

Fete asked Sokolovic to perform here in Jen Silverman’s dark, surreal comedy “The Moors” as hard-nosed Agatha, the

older of two sisters in a Brontë-ish countryside home.

The actor knew the play a little, having done a workshop reading of a very early version, portraying a different character.

Sokolovic was not immediately sure she was an automatic fit for the part of Agatha, but said “I really like doing scary things, and I love the unknown, and I trust Suzan with my life.”

Sokolovic likes Silverman’s voice and

sense of humor. As an actor, she also is drawn to the situation represented in “The Moors”: “I really like plays where people are kind of stuck together ... where they can’t get away from each other,” like in Chekhov, she said. “I think that makes really good drama.”

The strong cast Renaissance has recruited for “The Moors” also includes Allie Babich, Emily Vitrano, Kaylene Howard, Marti Gobel and Reese Madigan; the production runs from Oct. 19

through Nov. 10 at 255 S. Water St.

While Sokolovic loves to read, she sheepishly admitted that she has read neither Brontë nor Jane Austen. If Sokolovic knows a book or movie is great, she said, “I will save it for a very specific moment in my life when I think it’s appropriate.” So when she’s back in Milwaukee in rehearsals for “The Moors,” she expects that her nighttime reading, when she’s too excited to sleep, is going to be a Brontë novel.

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