

Matt Vee & The Killer Vees
CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF
NEIL DIAMOND
I am... He said



McANINCH ARTS CENTER
Oct 18, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana'.

Diana Martinez
Executive Director
McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center
at College of DuPage
presents

**MATT VEE & THE KILLER VEES
CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF**
NEIL DIAMOND
I am... He said

The show will have a 15-minute intermission.

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



Sat, Oct 18, 2025, 7:30p
Belushi Performance Hall

ABOUT THE SHOW

"I AM, HE SAID" – A Celebration of The Music of Neil Diamond.

"We are saying what HE said," laughs Matt Vee referring to the one and only Neil Diamond. Matt along with cousins Jeff and Tommy Vee, local music scene veterans and sons of the legendary Bobby Vee, join forces with their family and friends as The Killer Vees to celebrate the music from a timeless catalog. With songs like "Cracklin' Rosie," "America," and "Sweet Caroline," Neil Diamond sold over 100 million records worldwide with music that became the soundtrack to one generation after another with hits spanning five decades. As a Tin Pan Alley song writer in the mid 60s, he penned songs recorded by everyone from Elvis Presley to Deep Purple and, of course, the Monkee's classic, "I'm A Believer."

"This is not a tribute show," says Tommy Vee. "This is a celebration of an amazing musical icon, one we all love and respect. We have been fans since we were in grade school and first learning our respective instruments and played many of these tunes over the years in various bands. We have recruited an incredible group of singers and players and have gone back to the original records," he explains, "it is all about the vocals and Matt nails it. It's a Rockin' show!"

Joining The Killer Vees will be Matt's wife Julie Velline on vocals and Tommy Vee's son Bennett Vee on lead guitar along with the incomparable Chris Bloniarz on keyboards, Dennis Kennedy on percussion, and Richard Manik on Saxophone, flute, keyboards, and vocals, as well as a very special surprise featuring local talent for the finale.

Members of The Killer Vees have recorded or performed with: Bobby Vee, Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Tim Rice, Ronnie Wood, Mick Taylor, Eric Clapton, Brian Setzer, Chase Bryant, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, Frankie Avalon, Fabian, The Shirelles, The Chiffons, Bill Medley, Chris Montez, Brian Hyland, Johnny Tillotson, Matthew & Gunnar Nelson, Peter Noone, Bill Medley, Quinn Sullivan, Rosie Flores, Jonah Marias, The Johnny Holm Band, and MANY others.



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CAST AND CREW

Matt Vee.....	Lead Vocals & Guitar
Jeff Vee	Drums
Tommy Vee.....	Bass and Vocals
Bennett Vee	Guitar and Vocals
Sarah Kirkwold.....	Lead and Backing Vocals
Dennis Kennedy.....	Percussion
Chris Bloniarz	Keyboards
Richard Manik.....	Saxophones, Flute, Keyboards
Mike Borell	Production Manager/Sound
Thomas Cabot.....	Stage Manager/Monitor

COMPLETE SONG LIST

Tonight's performance will be selected from some of the following:

America
Brother Love
Cherry Cherry
Cracklin' Rosie
Crunchy Granola Suite
Desiree
Forever In Blue Jeans
Girl, You'll Be A Woman Soon
I Am I Said
If You Know What I Mean
I'm A Believer
Hello Again
Holly Holy
Kentucky Woman
Love On The Rocks
Play Me
Shilo
Solitary Man
Song Sung Blue
Soolaimon
Sweet Caroline
Thank The Lord For The Nighttime
You Don't Bring Me Flowers
You Got To Me



Dining Partners!

Eat, drink & enjoy - MAC dining partners

Coupons are only valid on performance days or nights.

For all your pre-show meals and post-show bites, we are thrilled to be partnering with these neighborhood restaurants. Our dining partners offer MAC patrons exclusive discounts and special offers. All MAC ticket orders receive coupons to these local favorite restaurants!

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ABOUT THE KILLER VEES

Known in the music business as the “rhythm section to the stars,” **Jeff** and **Tommy Vee** have been playing drums and doghouse bass respectively for almost 40 years with a resume far too long to list. They have performed, recorded and/or toured with a virtual who’s who of Rock and Roll Royalty including Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Paul McCartney, Ronnie Wood, Brian Setzer, Chuck Berry, Bill Medley, Sam Moore, Peter Noone, Fabian, Frankie Avalon, The Shirelles, The Chiffons, Nelson, and of course their father **Bobby Vee**... just to name a few.

In 2008 Jeff and Tommy joined forces with their cousin **Matt Vee** and his talented wife **Julie Velline** to form “**The Killer Vees**.” Matt, an accomplished performer in his own right, also toured nationally and internationally with Bobby Vee and others from the ‘50s and ‘60s era as well as 13 years as guitarist and vocalist for Midwest favorite **Johnny Holm**. Matt is also a frequent guest performer with “**The Fabulous Armadillos**.”

Together they have produced hit regional touring shows such as, “**I Am He Said – A Celebration Of The Music Of Neil Diamond**,” “**Remembering Bobby Vee**” and, “**The Killer Vees - Killer Country – A Celebration of the Golden Age of Country Music**.”

The Vees grew up on the road and in the business and have spent the better part of the last 40 years wowing audiences across the world! In addition, they continue to tour nationally as the backing band for the critically acclaimed show “**The Original Stars of American Bandstand**” featuring **Fabian, The Shirelles, Brian Hyland, Chris Montez, The Chiffons, and Merrilee Rush**.

We are VERY proud to announce that Tommy’s 20 year old son **Bennett Vee** will be joining the **Killer Vees** playing lead guitar. Bennett is the grandson of the late **Bobby Vee** and the third generation of the Vee family to take the stage! He is currently the touring drummer for international blues phenom Quinn Sullivan and Minnesota turned Nashville/Austin, TX country artist Anderson Daniels when he is not playing lead guitar with his family!

The Killer Vee's band is rounded out by **Chris Bloniarz** on keys, **Richard Manik** on sax, and Tommy’s brother in law, **Dennis Kennedy**, on percussion and harmonica.

The MAC offers all of this for you,
but we can't do it without you!



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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.

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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
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Volunteer at the MAC

We are always looking for enthusiastic, dedicated, reliable and customer service-oriented people to become volunteers serving as ushers, greeters and docents at our events. Volunteers provide invaluable service by assisting guests to their seats, answering questions and most importantly creating a welcoming environment for our guests. Volunteers are unpaid, but that doesn't mean you won't be rewarded. The cultural perks you'll enjoy as a volunteer include vouchers for every shift worked offering discounts to use at the MAC Box Office and invitation to our annual volunteer appreciation dinner including prizes and gifts.

Visit AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer to fill out an online application and for more information on requirements and qualifications. Applications accepted year-round.

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

HOUSE NOTES

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- **For Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

MAC STAFF LISTING

MAC Administrative Staff

Director of the McAninch Arts Center.....	Diana Martinez
Business Manager	Molly Junokas
Assistant Business Manager	Linda Sharbaugh
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator.....	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant	Madelene Przybysz
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator	Janey Sarther
Graphic Designer.....	Wendy Melgar
Director of Development for Cultural Arts.....	Jon Nadel
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator.....	Mandy Rakow
Project Manager	Kari Schoettle
Office Manager/Events Coordinator	Morgan Bainbridge
Student Clerical Assistant.....	Kate Cadag

MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors	Daniel Arzola, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants	Patrick Garon, Joanne Hunt
Patron Services Manager	Tom Murray
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Managing Artistic Director	Gus Menary
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director.....	Daniel Millhouse
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager.....	Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian.....	Ryan Michel

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator.....	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Supervisor	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist.....	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka

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