



COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

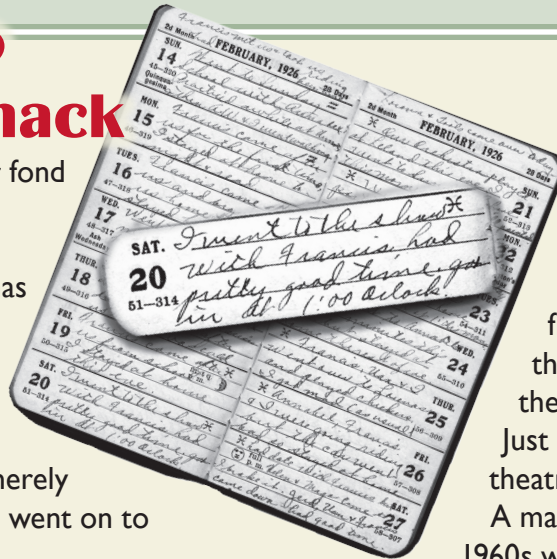
Green Room Newsletter

Fall 2010 - Volume 4, Issue 2

Love Shack

Many of you have shared your fond memories of the Colonial Fox Theatre by writing or emailing them to us. Our Grand Lady has been a place to love over the years and also a place to find love. Several relationships have blossomed under her watchful eyes. Some couples merely shared a first kiss while others went on to be married.

In 1962, one pair of PSU students came to see "The Sky Above, The Mud Below" on their first date. This National Geographic film about Africa was filled with nude men and women, which made for a very uncomfortable situation. Both feeling quite embarrassed, they made a fast exit after the film. However, their relationship did not suffer. The couple married just months after the date and said that they



still look back and laugh.

Another memory comes from a woman who was once an employee in 1977. She referred to her job as a true "Labor of Love." She and her best friend both found their true loves at the theatre. She was swept off her feet by the man who hired her and they married. Just a year later, her best friend married the theatre's projectionist.

A man who frequented the theatre in the 1960s writes about always taking his girl to the same favorite seating area: "Stage left, lower section half-way between the side lighting."

These are just a few of the loving recollections people have who once attended the Colonial Fox Theatre during her prime. What do you remember? Help us tell her story by sending in your memories! We are excited to begin sharing more memories like these in each newsletter.

SPONSORS! TAKE A BOW!

Thanks to the 2010 Friday Flix Series underwriters and sponsors, every month from March through November we were delighted with the prospect of *Finding Nemo*, challenged to discover *Where the Wild Things Are*, cheered with Gene Kelly's *Singin in the Rain*, thrilled by *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, rocketed *Back to the Future*, and enchanted by *The Polar Express*.

Please give a standing ovation to our valued sponsors. We could not present these special starlight screenings without their generous support and dedication to Pittsburgh's Broadway District. A great community deserves a great downtown.

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Timing Is Everything!

Who would have thought that the road to structural repair would be so complicated? Negotiating the timing and financing of the remaining structural issues that must be addressed in our Grand Lady is rather like unraveling a knot in a shoelace. The key to the whole thing is a steady hand in making the very most out of our available funding.

Presently, we are unraveling the timing of our State Historic Preservation Grant, which we will use to de-water and stabilize the basements, and our Save America Treasures fund, which will allow us to remove the asbestos insulation

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Colonial Fox Theatre Recipient of Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation Grant

The Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation is thrilled to have been selected as a recipient of a 2010 Bess Spiva Timmons Family Foundation grant. The Timmons Foundation, established by Bess Spiva Timmons in 1967, is a family foundation set aside to assist organizations in the areas of education, health, medical research, the arts, and many others. Grants through this program have produced such projects as Pittsburg State University's Timmons Chapel. The Timmons Foundation's recognition of the Colonial Fox Theater as a vital part of the cultural arts scene in Pittsburg's Broadway District is significant.

"It is again my great pleasure to offer support for the Colonial Fox Theater from the Timmons

Foundation. The members were impressed by plans and projections and once again a few memories were stirred during discussion." writes Tim Spears, Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation treasurer and grandson of the Foundation's founder.

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Tim has served on the board of the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation since 2007 and is an avid film enthusiast. His expertise in the contemporary film genres such as Anime, Coming of Age, and The Con, have been very helpful as the CFTF explores our programming niche in the community. "I am so impressed with how expansive and thoughtfully developed [is the dream of the Colonial Fox], beyond a simple rehabbing to include so much of the community. I have been honored to serve and proud that the Timmons Foundation has been able to contribute."

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that surrounds the pipes in the basement and attic.

Before we begin work in the basement, the asbestos must be



Asbestos wraps most of the pipes in the basement.

removed. That puts our basement project on hold for longer than we had hoped. However, here's the good news! This seeming set-back will give us time to incorporate the basement project into our Save Americas Treasures budget. That means extra funding for the basement project! YEA!

What's the Big Deal about The Rocky Horror Picture Show?

Believe it or not, this outrageous film is the longest running movie in film history – 35 years of continuous screening (meaning on any day, somewhere, it is being shown). Faithful followers and movie-goers alike have flocked to showings of this cult classic since the U.S. premier in 1975.



However, the film did not accumulate a cult following until a stormy April Fools night in 1976 at New York's Waverly Theater. This night marked the first midnight showing of the movie and the beginning of this movie's faithful fan club. During one of these midnight showings of the film in 1976, audience members began shouting

at the screen; talking back to the characters and quoting lines from the movie. RHPS's faithful cult followers began arriving

dressed as the characters, and singing along with the musical score.

Those of you who attended our screening of RHPS on September 17 were treated with that very tradition. We had a fabulous couple from Joplin on stage as Dr. Frank-N-Furter and Magenta. As is another RHPS tradition, we provided props to go along with scenes in the movie. Audiences now come to this film expecting not only a show, but a unique experience where patrons feel free to shout, dance, shoot water pistols, and sing along with the music.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS!

We especially wish to acknowledge the following:

HEADLINERS - \$25,000 UP

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Kansas State Historical Society

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Theatre Vocabulary

Upstage - Downstage

No, it's not the BBC television series. It's a stage direction. Or is it? The most common understanding of *upstage* or *downstage* refers to stage direction. For example, to "cross upstage" means the actors moves toward the rear of the stage area, farther away from the audience.

Behaviorally speaking, to "upstage" someone is to draw the attention of the audience away from a fellow actor. However, we do have an historical origin. Most theatres built prior to 1900 had stages that had a slight rake so actors would literally walk uphill in order to go upstage, and downhill to go downstage. The back of the stage, being higher, became known as upstage. The front, being lower, became known as downstage. Persons farther back on the stage were lifted up, making them more visible to the audience; hence the origination of the phrase "to upstage" a person.

We only need go as far as the McPherson Opera House to see an example of this stage style today. Built in 1888, the Opera House has undergone a complete restoration. However the rake of the stage was retained.