



COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

Green Room Newsletter

Spring 2013 - Volume 7, Issue 1

Until We Meet Again!

You've never seen the Colonial Fox like this before! On March 28 the Fox marquee came down, revealing the historic Colonial archway. Not since the 1920's has the archway been completely visible on Broadway. Although the theatre did not have a marquee originally, a previous marquee was on the theatre from approximately 1930 until 1959. It was replaced by

the Midland Theatre marquee, which was originally located right across the street from the Colonial Fox. B&R Services, owned by Greg Blanco, was responsible for bringing down the marquee. Greg Blanco has a special connection to the Colonial Fox; he and his three brothers all worked for the theatre. Greg worked as a projectionist, but



was often tasked with changing the marquee letters.

The removal of the marquee

MARQUEE continued on page 3

WHAT'S POPPIN INSIDE THE COLONIAL FOX?



The Fox gets a face lift!



ABOVE: view from dening the hoarding wall



New Window infill installation on East façade begins



Heikes masonry begins back wall infill and west door frames are installed



Electrical work begins



BELOW & LEFT: Revealing historic details of the ticket booth



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By now you have probably heard the buzz. Help the Colonial Fox theatre open in 2013! It's getting closer; all we need is heat, air, and restrooms. Once this is accomplished the Colonial Fox plans to bring top notch "un-plugged" programming to downtown Pittsburg.

You can expect live events as well as movies to take place within the significance of *For the first time since the 80's the* theatre. The doors will be

Things will be *Colonial Fox* slightly different compared to decades ago. While in the *doors will be* 80's the theatre was primarily a movie house, this time we will be *open!* offering many more live on-stage events. One of the first events will be the Live Antique Auction, which you can read about in the "Going, going, GONE!" article in this newsletter. We will also be hosting artists inside and on stage during the Pittsburg ArtWalk. These events are just the first of many great things that will soon be happening downtown. Of course, the sooner we can get heat, air, and restrooms, the sooner we can bring more of these wonderful events to the theatre. We need your help to complete these last few steps!

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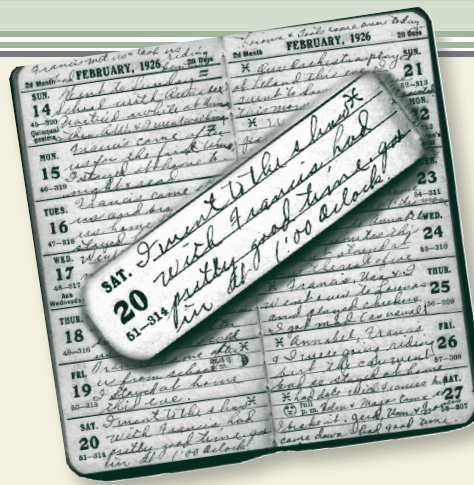
Dennis Albergucci	Bob & Denise Fitzpatrick	Dean Papp
Marie Albertini	Kyle & Lori Fleming	Maggie Papp
Cynthia Allan & Deborah Fischer	Joe & Suzie Fowler	John & Janet Patterson
Bill & Genevieve Anderson	Larry & Karen Garman	Bill & Cynthia Pfannenstiel
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Karen Barnette	Paul & Marybeth Grimes	Neil & Mary Polfer
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Alexander & Lucy Bednekoff	Arthur & Marian Hartshorn	Bruce & Jolene Remsberg
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Philip & Melissa Cedeno	Helen Kriegsman	Debra Spruk Carpenter
Celebrations by Lori	B & N Books -	Emily Lu Stocker
Lee Christensen	"Coal Mining Towns of SE Kansas"	Louis & Corene Stroup
Ron & Nancy Close	Steve Leibbrand	Victor & Mary-Kate Sullivan
Forrest & Barbara Coltharp	Lane & Stacy Lord	Sweet Designs Cullery
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Stephen & Mary Lynne Crosetto	Richard & Teresa Massa	Sandra Turley
Janet Dalton	Wayne McCabe - Sonic Drive-In	Jim & Wava VanBecelaere
Steve Davis	Merle Norman Studio	Deborah Walker
Vicki & Gerry Dennett	Kevin & Frances Mitchelson	Linda & Jim Walker
Betty Devoss	John & Bev Mitchelson	Richard & Mary Weathers
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John & Janice Evans	Gary & Marianne O'Nelio	Bobby & Jean Winters
Pete & Jo Farabi	Lynette Olson	Heather & Randy Winzer
Lynn & Joan Farrell		

*As of April 2012 - April 2013

MEMORY LANE

All Day at the Movies

These days, the marathon movie watcher has limited options. If you want to watch movies all day, you can either stream movies for home viewing or you can pay an arm-and-a-leg at the movie theatre. Back in the days of the Colonial Fox, however, it was a lot easier to spend all afternoon watching movies. At this point in the theatre's history not only did the Colonial Fox offer double features, but they also had triple



features. Just ask Bill Anderson!

Bill and his wife, Genevieve, would often come to Pittsburg from Arma to visit the theatre. In fact, they would bring a sack lunch with

sandwiches because they knew they would be at the theatre for a long time. "We would spend 4 to 5 hours or all evening at the movie theatre," Bill remembers. Not only did Bill watch movies with his wife at the theatre, but he also recalls talent shows being a part of the Colonial Fox programming. "At the Ted Mac talent show, one guy I went to school with did impersonations. There was a lot of good talent in town and plenty of reasons to spend all day at the theatre!"

GOING, GOING, GONE!

PITTSBURG SPRING ANTIQUE MARKET

Now that the stage is clear, it's time to bring some action to the theatre. How about an auction? The Colonial Fox will be hosting the first annual Pittsburg Spring Antiques Market. The event will take place on April 27th starting at 9 a.m. The Market will feature local and regional vendors selling a variety of antiques, vintage items and collectables. Vendors will set up between 4th and 6th street on Broadway. Along with a fun shopping experience, visitors will also have the opportunity to bring items to the Colonial Fox to be valued by local and regional antique appraisers and purchase raffle tickets for one of three valuable items.

The raffle will offer visitors the opportunity to win one (or all) of the following: A ten gallon Pittsburg Pottery Company Crock, a Howard Miller Grandfather Clock or the signed print "Little Balkans of Pittsburg" by famous American sports artist, Ted Watts. The final event in the line-up for this full day of antiquing is a live antique consignment auction on the historic Colonial Fox stage.

We have high hopes for this extravagant event to be the first of many wonderful things happening on stage and look forward to seeing you there!

MARQUEE continued from page 1

comes as part of façade renovations to the theatre. The contractors needed access to the historic details which were covered by the marquee. Although the marquee is off Broadway for now, the long term plans of the Colonial Fox involve the marquee in a big way! The Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation has proposed an expansion to the theatre which will be the new home of the marquee.



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Theatre Vocabulary **Vaudeville**

by Kevin Stone

In Normandy, in the fifteenth century, a small-village songsmith named Olivier Basselin produced music that became popular all over France. Because Basselin lived in Vire, his songs were called *chansons du Vau de Vire* (“songs of the valley of the Vire”). The name was eventually shortened to *vaudevire* and later to *vaudeville*. That’s when English picked up the word and used it to mean “popular song,” especially one that was sung from a stage.

Presentations of “*vaudevilles*” were soon made part of longer performances. By the early 1800s, *vaudeville* came to mean “theatrical performances interspersed with amusing songs,” and the variety show was born. Through the 1920s, vaudeville entertained America and provided a proving ground for such acts as Burns and Allen, Abbott and Costello, Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Will Rogers, and Bob Hope (who started out as a member of a vaudevillian dance team).

From a valley in France to the American stage, vaudeville has entertained millions with its stories, songs, dances, jokes and pratfalls. The variety show format still persists in some theatres and on late-night television.