



COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION *Green Room Newsletter*

Summer 2013 - Volume 7, Issue 2

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Presentation is Everything

John Harrison knows plants! With that knowledge he turned the spacious tents, which were generously donated by *Jake's Fireworks*, into an elegant venue. Our annual *Bluegrass Brew BBQ & You* event was surrounded with a delightful ambiance with *In the Garden's* colorful shrubs and soothing greenery.

As a 1988 PSU grad, John wasn't quite sure which direction his future would take. "I remembered that

everyone always says: 'Do what you love.' To me, that's plants," recalls John. "I started the business in March 2004. It happened really fast ... In February, I didn't even know I was going to start in March."

Because the Colonial Fox was closed when John first came to Pittsburg in 1985, he did not develop a soft spot for the theatre as a youth. However, John has been making a difference for the Colonial



Fox. When asked why he does it, he explains, "I help because if it wasn't for the community I wouldn't be in business. This is my way of giving back. The theatre is a part of Pittsburg and I'm a part of Pittsburg – I like to help out."

WHAT'S POPPIN INSIDE THE COLONIAL FOX?



ABOVE: Jason Rhodes of Seward Electric runs wire above ceiling beam for lighting in the lobby.



ABOVE: "Let there be light!" Westar feeds new service into the building.
BELOW: Charley Burns of Home Center Construction carefully installs replication of historic lighting fixtures in entry.



ABOVE: Perfection was the order of the day as the crews worked together to bring back the magnificence of the barrel ceiling.



LEFT: Heikes Masonry guys are true artists. Craig Stookey provides finishing touches to the arch above one of the west doors.



RIGHT: Recapturing the beauty of the historic terra cotta detail is a labor of love for Derek Heikes.



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Bluegrass, Brew, BBQ, & You

What better way to pass a summer evening than under two large *Jake's Fireworks* tents decorated beautifully by *In the Garden* and canopied by twinkling party lights.

Bluegrass, Brew, BBQ, & You was a hit once again. "Last year, we enjoyed BBQ to the tunes of bluegrass band, Signal Ridge. Everyone said 'We have to do this again!' So we did," said Sarah Jensen, the public relations director. A crowd of 130 people including board members, volunteers and first-timers joined us for great music and delicious food catered by Corner Bistro.

Guests also shared a peek at the renovation progress inside the theatre, which gave them a renewed energy about the project. We loved seeing the attendance grow this year, and hope this event will continue to expand the support and awareness of our mission.



Homegrown Films

Where does one go when looking for a great film festival? Cannes? Sundance? Look no further than Pittsburg, Kansas. In April, the Colonial Fox Theatre hosted the first annual 'Burg Film Festival presented by the PSU Student Activities Council. We were proud to take yet another step to further our mission of becoming an enduring dynamic cultural center enriching the quality of life and economic vitality for Pittsburg and surrounding communities.

This year's festival gathered six very impressive entries: an animation about space, a long-boarding film, a documentary about local bands and live music, footage of four wheelers riding dunes in Oklahoma's Little Sahara State Park, a comedy about the fictional snack *Twankies*, and *Sa Sin* - an experimental film centered on the Reaper.

After the presentations, the audience voted on their favorite with the grand prize going to *Union of Sound*. Coming in second and third place was *Sa Sin* and *Twankies*, respectively.



Left to Right: Film festival winners Lucas O'Toole, Ryan O'Toole, Heather Horton, Roger Horton, and Fred Gladbach

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Tom & Koeta Bryant Bertha Niegsch
James & Carolyn Buche Jack Overman
Jackie & Dick Casey Dean Papp
Celebrations By Lori Bill & Cynthia Pfannenstiel
Lee Christensen Uealene Pingree
Forrest & Barbara Coltharp Randy & Toni Pommier
John & Ruth Courter Rob Poole & Carol Puckett
Stephen & Mary Lynne Crosetto Dr. & Mrs. R. James Rhodes
Chris & Jamie Lee Curtis John & Carole Robb
Janet Dalton (1921-2013) Dr. Kathleen Sandness, M.D.
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*January 1, 2013 - August 15, 2013

MEMORY LANE

Every Penny Counts

Back when going to see the newest show only cost a couple cents, movie-goers saved their pennies for a full night of entertainment. Nowadays, every penny still counts to former CFTF treasurer, George Weeks. The very first money raised toward saving the Colonial Fox Theatre was two 5 gallon buckets full of coins from the fountain at Meadowbrook mall.

Back in December 2006, George was one of several concerned citizens who came to a meeting at the Holiday Inn about saving

the historic "Fox" theatre from demolition. "During the meeting, I thought, 'My God, we've got to save the building!'" remembers George. Energized by the idea, George



10 gallons of pennies dry out on the Weeks' kitchen floor before becoming the CFTF's first bank deposit.

volunteered to be the CFTF's first treasurer. However, the foundation had no money. George explains, "That is when Todd Ewing offered to give us the coins from the fountain...they contributed over \$500."

George has had the joy of seeing the renovation progress since the very beginning. He says, "It's been very gratifying to see all of it come together – from saving the building, to recent years getting to see all the progress. It's good to know I've had a hand in getting it started. I have high hopes for the future."



The Music Man

On July 19th our Friday Flix audience was won over by the mix of comedy and fantastic

characters in the Oscar winning musical film, *The Music Man*.

This 1962 classic, based on the Broadway musical, remains uniquely close to the original story and score. Director Morton DaCosta, directed both the musical comedy on stage and the film adaptation as well.

After 1,375 performances as the notorious "Professor" Harold Hill on Broadway, Tony Award winner Robert Preston, reprised his role on screen only after several actors had turned it down. When offered the part, Cary Grant famously stated

"Not only will I not play it, but if Robert Preston doesn't do it, I won't even see the picture." Preston's performance as Harold Hill became the most defining role of his film career.

Critics have hailed *The Music Man* as America's best-loved musical. More than fifty years after its debut, this classic film still hits all the right notes.

Don't miss our upcoming Tallgrass Film Festival Road Show on August 30,

our Paint the Town Red screening of *Madagascar 3* (rated PG) on September 6 and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (rated R) on September 20.

See you at the Movies!

FOX

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Theatre Vocabulary

The Art House

by Kevin Stone

The art house is unique among cinematic theaters. While multiplexes across the nation are screening the latest summer blockbuster, available in 3-D, surround-sound, and IMAX, the local art house presents something different.

Art houses are known as much for what they don't screen as for what they do. In the place of overblown extravaganzas are more modest films that attempt to provoke thought, stir emotion, or start conversation.

There have always been art house films made for the love of art, with little thought of gaining widespread popularity or financial success. Some of the pioneers in art house filmmaking are D. W. Griffith, Sergei Eisenstein, and Vittorio De Sica. The genre has continued through the films of Ingmar Bergman, Federico Fellini, David Lynch, and Woody Allen.

Art houses bring a touch of the abstract, the avant garde, and the auteur to the screen. They give scope to a filmmaker's vision in films that otherwise would never be seen. Art houses provide a feast for the mind as well as the eyes.