



Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation

Green Room Newsletter

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Brent Castagno
Gary Cinotto
Vonnie Corsini
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Dr. Gina Pinamonti
Dr. Joel Rhodes
Ray Ryan
Rhona Shand
Greg Shaw
Lemuel Sheppard
Dr. Joseph G. Smoot
Tim Spears
Dr. Talaat Yaghmour

Dates to Remember

October 20-Pittsburg Art Walk/
Theatre Tours 6:00-8:00PM

October 27-PSU
Homecoming Parade 10:00AM
Theatre Tours 8:00-10:00AM

Little Balkans Day

On Saturday, September 1, 2007, the Colonial Fox Theatre celebrated Little Balkans Days with tours of the theatre every 30 minutes. Over 600 people waited in line to see the progress the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation has made on the restoration.

A video presentation was set up on the stage and a musician played just inside the lobby. Bill Sollner presented one of his Pied Piper Puppet shows at the entrance of the theatre. Two PSU students dressed as actors and Jack Patterson dressed as Charlie Chaplin.

The Promotions Committee was stationed in the CTF office at the theatre with voicerecorders,



Line of people waiting to tour the theater memory cards, a scanner for pictures, and a camera ready to preserve memories of the Colonial Fox Theatre.

The T-shirts and buttons that were being sold during Balkans Day are still available. If you are interested, please call 235-0622.

Thanks for the Memories

From first dates and kisses to special family outings, the Colonial Fox Theatre has been the setting for many memories to the residents of southeast Kansas.

As the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation uncovers the hidden architectural treasures within



1920s Picture of The Colonial

the theatre, the promotions committee searches for more hidden jewels - the stories, pictures, and memorabilia - that community members have stored away.

A memory shared by Peggy Kimmel from the late seventies and early eighties was when her mother brought her and six of her friends to the Fox, the very first movie theater she had ever attended. "I still remember where we sat, ordering from the concession stand, the seats, and even the restrooms." She and her friends returned often, always grabbing their seats in the balcony.

Brian Berndt - Jack of Many Trades



Old film reels found at the theater

Brian Berndt, Building Committee Chair, was born in Knox, Indiana to a self-employed auto mechanic and a music teacher with a big family. As a freshman in high school, Brian became a professional musician. He was also a volunteer fireman for nine years and the first EMS Director in Knox.

Brian traveled extensively as a professional musician while working construction as a secondary job until his move to Pittsburg.

In Pittsburg, Brian became the owner of McCarthy's Pub. In addition, he worked for Bob Bitner as his construction supervisor for nine years. Brian then worked for USD# 250 in maintenance.

Since 1985, Brian has been his own boss with Brian Berndt Construction as well as managing many apartments and houses around

Pittsburg.

It was Brian's background in music and his knowledge of construction that made him a perfect fit for his involvement in reviving the Fox.

In December of 2006, Brian saw the ad in the paper, "Own the Fox for \$1." A network of musicians, contractors, and friends got together to see about reviving the Fox. The small group would meet to try to determine how to go forward.

Once the community members became involved, the revitalization was "kicked up a notch." Brian and the rest of the contractors are building the foundation for the restoration. They are repairing and cleaning the Fox to enable the rest of the community to see the potential and the true craftsmanship that has been there from the beginning.

"We are nudging the restoration of the Fox forward so it will become what the community wants it to be. The real work is being done by all the people who are getting behind the movement. Everyone around me makes me look good because of the progress we have made together. They have set the bar and I have to work hard to live up to that standard."

Brian's reason for the all his work on the Fox is simple. "In the end, I just want to be able to sit back and watch the Fox come back to life."



Chair of the Colonial Fox Theatre Building Committee, Brian Berndt

"We are nudging the restoration of the Fox forward so it will become what the community wants it to be."

-Brian Berndt
Building Committee Chair

Make a New Memory: Marquee Messages

Beginning in November, the north side of the Colonial Fox Theatre marquee will be available for rent by individuals for personal messages.

Pittsburg residents may create their own new Colonial Fox memories with wedding proposals, birth and anniversary announcements, birthday greetings, and/or special notes to an old friend.

What better way to remember the event than a personalized Colonial Fox Marquee message?

For more information, contact Promotions at 235-0622 or promotions@colonialfoxtheatre.org.



Glass Depot replacing the ticket booth glass



Changing the north Marquee



Colonial Fox Foundation

I want to help the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation Race to Revive the Fox Theatre!

First and Last Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Fax

Work Phone

Extension

e-mail

Website

**Please ask your
friends and neighbors
to support CTF!**

- Mailing list only at this time (please provide e-mail address)
- Send me information about major donations and naming opportunities
- Please send me information about a future membership in the Colonial Fox Foundation

Please circle those areas you are interested helping with:

- Community fundraising
- Major gifts fundraising
- Public presentations
- Historic research
- Construction and restoration
- Event Planning
- Any way the Colonial Fox needs me!
- Other _____

I also want to volunteer!

Make checks payable to "Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation"
Return to: Colonial Fox Foundation
P.O. Box 33
Pittsburg, KS 66762

From the Vice President - Vonnie Corsini

Dear Supporters and Friends...

We are sending you this update letter to keep you abreast of current happenings with the Colonial Fox Theater. There are so many positive activities taking place that we think you will find very exciting. While these positive things are occurring, we also have to report some losses.

On August 25, 2007, our President, Rhona Shand, decided that this position required too much of her time because of her heavy teaching load at Pittsburg State University. Rhona has contributed an enormous strength in leading the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation in its early stages. Among her accomplishments are the creation of the Articles of Incorporation, the By Laws, the Strategic Plan, and the Business and Marketing Plan. Under her leadership we contracted to purchase the building for \$40,000, we paid the back taxes, and we also acquired the second mortgage of \$12,500. We placed a down payment of \$10,500 toward the building and have made 3 payments of \$2,000 each toward the final purchase price.

Presently, our financial standing with regard to the cost of the building is as follows:

Purchase Price	\$40,000	400 For \$40K to date	\$30,600
Down Payment	(10,500)	Down Payment	(10,500)
3 Payments	(6,000)	3 Payments	(6,000)
400 For \$40K	(14,100)	Balance	\$14,100
Building Balance	\$ 9,400		

We hope to pay the balance off as soon as possible (which inspired the 400 for \$40K campaign). The 400 For \$40K campaign will close at the end of the year and our plan is to have a year-end campaign to raise what then remains of the purchase price. While we will be approaching our regular donors, it may be that one or two people will make a special Thanksgiving or Christmas gift to assure that the building will be paid in full by January 1, 2008.

400 FOR \$40K PHONATHON

Our recent 400 For \$40K Phonathon was a tremendous success. Names and Numbers provided a phone bank for our use. The PHS Thespian Club and other volunteers manned the phones. A delightful aspect of the phonathon was the eagerness of the student callers. Pizza Hut, Mazzio's, Papa John's, and Wheat State Pizza each provided pizzas. Lorraine Achey provided neck and shoulder massages to help the volunteers stay relaxed and cheerful.

The phonathon, thus far, has produced \$10,200 in new donations and \$4,200 in pledges. Additionally, new 400 Club donations arrive daily. Our pre-phonathon 400 Club count was 162 members with 248 to go for 400. Not counting our pledged donations, our post-phonathon 400 Club count is 306 members with 94 to go to 400. We are pleased that so many new friends are joining the Colonial Fox Theatre family every day.

COLONIAL FOX THEATRE OFFICE

The Colonial Fox office is taking shape. Our wood-laminate floor was made partly possible by Quality Floor. Cyndee's Accents donated an oak conference table and Computing Plus has donated a computer. Additionally, we now have phone service to the office (620 235-0622). We will need to purchase a modern desk for the computer and a workspace.

Eventually we are going to need to provide in our budget for an executive director. Initially we are thinking about hiring a graduate student for 10 to 15 hours a week to work in the office. With this part time help, and with the oversight of a volunteer coordinator, we can manage the calendar, the web page, the volunteer list, the mailing list, the telephone and have office hours. We will occasionally also need the services of a technical expert to help with the coordination of computer operations.

501 (c) 3 APPLICATION

Under the expert guidance of Kevin Mitchelson, we have filed our 501 (c) 3 Application, Articles of Incorporation, and By Laws. We are hoping for a fast processing of this application.

ARCHITECT SEARCH

Four architectural firms received our Request for Proposal on or around August 24, 2007. The deadline for submission of the RFP is set for September 21, 2007. Thereafter, the search committee will meet to review the proposals.

ADDITION OF TRUSTEES

Two outstanding community members, Pat Jones and Dr. Talaat Yaghmour, have agreed to serve as Trustees. Pat has also agreed to serve as Program Director. Both will make valuable contributions to the Foundation.

RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT

With regard to the resignation of the President, the bylaws provide that the Vice President assume the duties of the president until the next meeting of the board of Trustees, which will be in October, 2007.

We always want to keep you informed of the progress we are making with the Colonial Fox Theatre.

Vonnie Corsini
Vice President

Heartfelt Thanks

When Rhona Shand attended a meeting in December of 2006 regarding the possibility of saving the Colonial Fox Theatre, little did she know what lay ahead of her. She led the process of creating the Foundation, preparing basic documents to guide the Foundation, identifying key persons to staff the operation, and making major donor visits to get sufficient funds to buy the building, pay the back taxes, and pay off the second mortgage.

She led in cleanup operations

to the theatre and cared for a host of details. Nothing was too small or too great for Rhona to bring all of us along with the dream she had for Pittsburg and the Colonial Fox Theatre. Thank you, Rhona, for all that you did and also thank you for continuing on the Board of Trustees and helping all of us realize your dream as we band together for the future.

*-Joseph G. Smoot
Colonial Fox Theatre
Foundation Trustees*



Old playbill found at the theater

A Vision of Our Future - Coleman Theatre Beautiful

The efforts were long and the work was hard, but the community of Miami, Oklahoma came together to restore the magnificent Coleman Theatre Beautiful. The Colonial Fox Theatre is not as large as the Coleman, but it is just as important to our community. With dedicated volunteers and support from the community, the Colonial Fox Theatre will reach the level of restoration that the Coleman is now enjoying.

From opening day April 18, 1929, with a full house of 1,600, the Coleman Theatre Beautiful has never been "dark." Since the Coleman family donated the historic structure to the City of Miami in 1989, restoration and renovation of the theatre has become a "labor of love" in the community.

Originally a vaudeville theatre and movie palace, the "Coleman Theatre Beautiful" was built by George L. Coleman, Sr., a local mining magnate. The opulent structure, with its Louis XV interior design, dazzled the audiences of the day.

Efforts have included returning the "Mighty Wurlitzer" pipe organ to its original home and restoring the magnificent chandelier.



Coleman Theatre Beautiful in Miami, OK

Hundreds of volunteers have given countless hours of labor, raised funds, and promoted a variety of events for all tastes and ages. They have formed a non-profit organization for the ongoing project and have named themselves the "Friends of the Coleman."

In the years to come, the children of today will have access to live performances of all kinds. Renovation of an original upstairs meeting hall will provide a multi-purpose facility and community center. The promise to the next generation will be met by the people of this generation.

The restoration of the Coleman is a project in progress. The vision is for a highly functional theatre restored to its former elegance and grandeur.

"You're doing a great service to the area. We can't wait to attend the first show."

*-Scott & Phyllis Bitner
Scotty's Classic Cars*



"The promise to the next generation will be met by the people of this generation."

-Friends of the Coleman

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We're on myspace!
See us at:
www.myspace.com/colonialfox

Visit Our New Web Site!
www.colonialfoxtheatre.org



The mission of the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation is to enhance and encourage the spirit of the Pittsburg area by the preservation and utilization of the Colonial Fox Theatre.