



COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

Green Room Newsletter

Summer 2009 - Volume 3, Issue 1

THE CHALLENGE!

In just three months, we are one-third of the way to meeting the Pritchett Trust's \$30,000 challenge grant. For those of you who have become an annual member, we thank you.

We cannot stop here! Help us reach our goal of 1000 members by joining today.

The total match we need in 2009 is \$55,000. Annual memberships provide the money necessary for challenge grants and state and federal matching grants.

If everyone who reads this newsletter contributes at least \$25 and gets five of their friends to do the

same - collectively, we will contribute significantly to the restoration of the theatre. In addition, a Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation with 1000 plus members will show un-

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precedented support and strength to the local, state, and federal agencies where we seek funding.

We invite you to be a part of an exciting chapter in Southeast Kansas history.

As an annual sustaining member, you will be the first to:

- Learn her hidden secrets (What is hiding under that plywood? What are the original colors? What film is still in the projector 24 years after the last showing?)
- Know about upcoming events.
- Help shape future activities.
- Get our newsletter.
- Get the inside scoop on what's next for the theatre.

If you have not done so already, please join today. A membership will make a great gift for that special someone who has everything.

Good-bye, Raindrops!

Thanks to the great work of Heikes Masonry and Mid America Roofing the grand old lady now has new tuck-pointing on the south and west walls and the new roof will be completed soon. It will feel great to say "goodbye" to the water dripping into the theatre and "hello" to the next phase of our project. We celebrate each and every step as we move closer to a renovated Colonial Fox Theatre!



THANK YOU to all who were inconvenienced by the closed alley at the back of the theatre and especially to the M&I Bank employees who granted us the use of their parking lot for over a month.

Be a part of the revival, become an annual member!



Vonnie Corsini
Executive Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Virginia Hamisak
President

Patty Horgan
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Ray Ryan
Greg Shaw
Scott Sims
Tim Spears
Talaat Yaghmour

Standing Committee

Chairs:

Kelsey Head
Gina Pinamonti
Scott Sims

A note from:

Rack Wallace
CFTF Volunteer Office Manager
Memories: Teen Years at the Theatre

Meeting friends for Saturday afternoon matinees, magic shows, and horror movies at midnight... sneaking a kiss from your favorite girl in the back rows of the theatre...these are some of my favorite memories of the Colonial Theatre. My family and I moved to Pittsburg in 1957. I was 14, looking forward to obtaining my learner's driving permit, high school, and working for my dad, Ralph E. Wallace, Sr., who managed the theatre from 1957 to 1976. I was employed at the theatre for several years as doorman and usher, taking tickets, assisting in the projection booth, changing the marquee signage, opening the curtains and dimming the lights as the movie was about to begin. These are all great memories of my teen years. And being able to ride my 1957 Cushman motor scooter around town to change the promotional movie poster displays certainly



did not make the job any less attractive.

Best of all, for me as a teenage boy, was being able to flex my authority by making sure there was

no smoking or excessive talking in the theatre, no kids sneaking in the back door, and shining my flashlight on patrons who chose to rest their feet on the seat backs, a particular requirement of my father, as he was a stickler for keeping the theatre neat and clean for his customers.

I am extremely pleased to now be working as the volunteer office manager for the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation and contributing to its efforts to restore the "grand old lady" as the crown jewel of downtown Pittsburg. She has sat in disrepair, unattended, and neglected for too long. *May the lights return to Broadway.*

GROWTH EQUALS CHANGE

We have great news for all of our volunteers, who are the glue that holds the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation together, and to everyone who supports the restoration through financial contributions and attendance at our functions.

The CFTF has evolved to the point that allows for our board of trustees to assume their governing responsibilities and to delegate the foundation's operations to professional employees. Vonnie Corsini has assumed the position of executive director thus enabling the foundation to enter into the next phase of restoration.

We are fortunate to have been able to hire Vonnie for this crucial task. She has

served as president of the board of trustees for nearly two years. Her enthusiasm, dedication and willingness to get the job done -- no matter how menial the task or seemingly indomitable the requirement -- have been a great inspiration to all and we thank her for her past and future efforts.

Vonnie's move to executive director left the presidency of the board of trustees open. It was assumed by Virginia Hamisak who has been involved with the theatre for the past eighteen months as newsletter editor, designer and sales coordinator of theatre merchandise, theatre office scrubber and Second Sunday Tours volunteer. Virginia returned home to southeast Kansas

see **GROWTH** pg 7

Donate today and help bring the theatre back to life!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS!

PLAYBILL

Dennis Albergucci	R.C. & Virginia Darling	Dorothy Nail	Susie Stelle
Marie Albertini	Richard & Patricia Dearth	David Nance	Jeff & Sherri Stephens
Larry Barrett	Fred & Donna Dobbins	Lynette Olson	Wendy Strukel
Battery Mart	Felix, Jr. & MaryJane Dreher	Jack Overman	Mary Lynn Sylvester
Carol & Terry Best	Dan & Mary Lou Farrell	Lura Patrick	Ruth Jean Taylor
Jana Bradley	Dave & Betsy Gordon	Mary Pogson	Jack & Dorothy Templin
Curt & Tami Brumbaugh	Robert Hawley	Dr. James Rhodes	Robert & Marilyn Thomas
Tom & Koeta Bryant	Pam & Ben Henderson	Rodney & Dorothy Riggs	Babs Tims
Betty Burgert	Mary Gwendolyn Hotchkiss	Marlin & James Rowl	Susie Tims
Lee Christensen	Glenn & Detta Hough	Kent & Linda Runyan	John Walden
& Sandra Greer	John & Patricia Kazmierski	Jerry Sample	Deborah Walker
Merle & Kathy Clark	Paula & Doug Keller	Charlene Schoenfeldt	Robert Walter
Judy Collins	Connie Kline	Bob & Colleen Scifers	Vickie Webber
Ken & Chris Corsini	Richard & Nancy Lipka	Margaret Ann Setina	George Weeks
Bienvendio & Paige Cortes	Linda Ludlum	Tom & Barbara Sims	Gregory White
John & Ruth Courter	Ron & Vickie Marrone	Verna & Gary Smith	Jeff Wilbert
Craig & Anita Currier	Tim & Christy McNally	Peggy & Jim Snyder	Bobby & Jean Winters
Janet Dalton	Don Murray	Bill Sollner	Ken & Connie Womble
	& Mary Fox Murray	Lori Ann Spachek	

RED CARPET

Deborah Fischer	Joyce & Barry Draper	Helen Kriegsman	Greg Shaw
& Cynthia Allan	John & Janet Evans	Rick Lindskog	Steve & Becky Sloan
Ray Baird	Pete & Miriam Farabi	Richard & Linda Loffswold	Lori Ann Spachek
Aldon M. Bebb	Floyd Garman	Susan & Gary Lundy	Tim & Louise Spears
Alexander Bednekoff	Bob & Lynn Grant	Richard & Teresa Massa	Victor & Mary Kate Sullivan
Marty Beezley	Linda Grilz	Wayne McCabe	Andy Thompkins
Bob Berry	Virginia Hamisak	Jenifer McDonald	Dory Towner
BKD	Cynthia Harvey	Kevin & Frances Mitchelson	Jim & Shirley Triplett
Clifford & Mabel Ruth Black	Glenn & Irma Hawley	William & Linda Morris	University National Bank
Joe Bournonville	Roger & Katha Heckert	George & Josie Nettles	Jim & Wava VanBecelaere
Doris Bradley	Hipfl Construction	S. Dean Papp	Gene & Linda Vollen
James & Carolyn Buche	Don & Sharon Holsinger	Billie & George Pitzer	Steve & Chris Ward
Ron & Nancy Close	Patty Horgan	John & Carole Robb	Kaye Lynne Webb
Justin Crain	Michael & Mary Ann Horgan	Ray & Zoe Ann Ryan	Dan & Denise Williams
Steve Davis	Russell Jones	Chris & Kim Scripsick	Mark & Jeanne Wretschko
			Talaat & Marie Yaghour

CENTER STAGE

Sharon & Barry Bengtsen	Magic Mirror	Gina & Brian Pinamonti
Harvey & Sharon Dean	Dan & Jeanette Minnis	Betty & Ron Scripsick

STANDING OVATION

Melissa Cedeno	Pittcraft Printing	Marinell Webber
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ENCORE

Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation	Chris & Jamie Lee Curtis	mytownmedia
Coleman Family Foundation	KSEK - 99.1 FM	Parrott Bey
Gene & Vonnie Corsini	Miller Family Foundation	Patrick O'Bryan & Tim Towner
	The Morning Sun	

DOWN BROADWAY ...

Doggie divas, prancing horses, leapin' leprechauns, Irish dancers and musicians helped kick off the inaugural Shamrock Festival celebrating the Colonial Fox Theatre's 89th birthday.

The celebration, held March 7, started off with the St. Paddy's Do-Da Parade where twenty-three groups strutted their stuff down Broadway. Hundreds lined the street to watch the festivities. "This is great!" said one parade goer. "I want to be in the parade next year."

The festivities continued throughout the day and all around town as families gathered at the Memorial Au-



ditorium to listen to Irish storyteller, Rosie Cutrer. Children were mesmerized as she wove Irish charm throughout her stories and cast her spell on the entire audience.

For those with a little Irish jig in their hearts and Irish music in their souls, workshops held at PSU made their day. The Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation brought the Corry Academy of Irish Dancers from Wichita to hold an Irish Dance Workshop and the Celtic band Rowan from Topeka to



...AND ALL AROUND THE TOWN

instruct in the compelling and haunting music of the Celts. The day of high spirits and laughter continued at Parrott Bey where Rowan and the Corry

dancers performed to everyone's delight. The joy was contagious as the dancers spun their magic amongst the tables enticing people to join in a jig.

Irish eyes (and the CFTF) are smiling on all who participated in the events and the volunteers who made it happen. We thank

each and every one of you! We look forward to seeing you at an even bigger and better Shamrock Festival in honor of the grand old lady's 90th birthday in 2010.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

by William Morris, Architect

There is a long history of historic preservation in the United States that can trace its beginning to the early nineteenth century. Even then, it was understood that important landmarks from American history might be lost if something was not done to save them. It is not surprising that one of the first historic preservation projects in the United States was George Washington's Virginia home, Mount Vernon.

While historic preservation has been on-going for many years in this country, in Kansas, historic preservation began to gather momentum when the Kansas legislature created one of the most progressive preservation programs in the United States. The Rehabilitation Tax Credit program and the Heritage Trust Fund Grant program are two of the most important.

With the creation of these and other programs, we have seen a tremendous interest by people all across the state in all sizes of communities to save our architectural heritage and local history.

This leads us to ask, "What is historic preservation?" Historic preservation consists of three parts: preservation, restoration, and conservation.

1. Preservation is the maintenance

of a given building to keep the same physical condition.

2. Restoration is the return of a building to its original condition or some other important stage in its life.

3. Conservation is the intervention to a given artifact to save it from further deterioration.

So far, projects at the Colonial Fox Theatre have centered on preserva-

tion in order to stabilize the structure. Projects such as a new roof and repointing the brick walls are important to keep any further deterioration of the building from occurring, and are necessary before any restoration or conservation work can occur.

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the years help or hurt the original intent.

2. To what point in the life of the building do we want it restored.

3. How did changes to the building affect the structure of the building.

In addition to answering these questions, we also comply with the Secretary of the Interior's "Guidelines for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures". Besides being an excellent guide, it is also required when using public funding.

One example of these guidelines is to preserve existing historical material. Future plans for the Colonial Fox Theatre include restoring the existing tapestries instead of simply replacing them.

One of the most interesting aspects of historic preservation is that when we investigate a building, we are uncovering the layers of the past. It is an exciting, interesting trip that can be full of surprises, and along the way we may just save a wonderful historic building.

Saving historic buildings such as the Colonial Fox Theatre has far-reaching benefits to the communities beyond preservation for future generations. These buildings enhance the areas where they are located and bring cultural and economic benefits to their communities.



Existing tapestry in Colonial Fox auditorium.

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from **GROWTH** pg 2

after working in a suburban Chicago insurance and bond agency for twenty-seven years as executive secretary and account manager. She lives in Frontenac and has three sons and two granddaughters in distant places: Atlanta, Louisville and Singapore. Creativity, organization and love of people and their stories are her strong suits and she anticipates her role of president with great zest.

We wish to thank Brad Hodson and Aaron Besperat for serving on the board as vice-president and treasurer and to welcome their successors, Patty Horgan and Kelsey Head. Thank you, as well, to Ann Elliott who will continue to serve as secretary.

So, you see, growth does equal change and it is all good because of you. Your loyalty and support will keep our efforts to restore our grand old lady on a sure path to her former splendor. Thank you.

Don't have a "Bling" shirt?

Looking for that perfect wine glass?



Get Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation shirts and wine glasses while they last at the following locations:

**Little's
The Decorum
The Home Place*
Crowell's Drug Store
Sweet Designs Cakery
The Little Shop of Flowers**

*wine glasses only

Theatre Vocabulary **Front of House**

Front-of-house --- this theatrical term most often refers to the part of the building that is open to the public including the auditorium and foyer. If you have taken a tour of the Colonial Fox, you have taken a tour of the front-of-house.

There are two main parts of a theatre: backstage and front-of-house. Both are needed for a working theatre to survive and even though our theatre is not open for business there are still people working hard, front-of-house, to help breathe life into our grand old lady. Anyone who has volunteered during a clean-up day or at an envelope-stuffing party or, at any event, has worked front-of-house for the Colonial Fox. When the theatre reopens, the light and sound operators, ticket takers, ushers, managers, concessionaires will all be considered front-of-house workers as will the lights on the patron side of the proscenium be called front-of-house lights.

It is the part of a theatre most often seen and most often remembered by patrons and performers alike. There are wonderful memories of the Colonial Fox front-of-house as evidenced by the many stories that have been written by former patrons for the theatre's Memory Book.



Please return this tear-off form to: Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation • P.O. Box 33 • Pittsburg, KS 66762

**COLONIAL FOX
THEATRE FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 33
Pittsburg, KS 66762

620.235.0622

www.colonialfox.org

info@colonialfox.org



We invite you to make a commitment to the revival of the theatre by becoming an annual sustaining member at the level of your choice.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playbill.....\$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed. (Make payable to CFTF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Carpet.....\$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill my membership to: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Center Stage.....\$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Ovation.....\$500 | Account #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encore.....\$1,000 | Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____
(see back of card) |

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