



# COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

## *Green Room Newsletter*

Summer 2010 - Volume 4, Issue 1

### THE *Up-High* AND *DOWN-LOW* OF IT ALL



State of Kansas Heritage Trust Fund and \$30,000 from the Pritchett Family Trust. Our Friends made the difference in 2009 with \$28,000 in restoration contributions.

This year we launch into another

Although you cannot see it from the street, the Colonial Fox Theatre has undergone some significant changes in the last two years – moving her closer to the final goal of restoration. The condition of the roof was shocking.



We had to replace many more rotten joists than we anticipated. In fact, probably the only thing that kept the old fan house from falling 30 feet onto the historic theatre seats below was the six inch accumulation of tar paper and asphalt. And on the west and south walls the mortar was just barely holding the bricks together.

Thanks to the commitment of the people who support the Colonial

Fox Theatre Foundation each year with contributions ranging from \$25 and up to \$1000, all that has changed. Now we have a beautiful state-of-the-art roof. Furthermore, our historic bricks have been re-pointed with mortar that is a perfect match to the original color.

Contributions received from the Friends of the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation go directly to the restoration fund. We needed just under \$150,000 for the roof and tuck pointing project. We received \$91,000 from the

behind-the-scenes, yet crucial, stabilization project. We are losing historic material in the theatre at a rapid rate because of the continued dampness. It is not coming from the roof anymore, but we still have water entering the basements causing a seriously damp environment. Once again, the State of Kansas Heritage Trust Fund and the Pritchett Trust Fund have committed \$90,000 and \$30,000, respectively, toward the project which is estimated to cost \$165,000. We have high hopes that our Friends will come through with





## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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- Talaat Yagmour
- Rocky Williams
- Executive Director*  
Vonnie Corsini
- Program Manager*  
Erin Sims

# REVEALING OLD TREASURES!



We knew it was there, but who knew what a difference it would make to the look and feel of the performance house. If you haven't seen the Grand Old Lady since her original proscenium arch has been revealed, you are missing an awesome visual experience.

Mike Joyce, one of the original group of contractors who spearheaded the campaign to save the Colonial Fox Theatre, coordinated the revealing of the old proscenium arch. After studying the situation, Mike rounded up Dave McLaren, David Gee and John Kutz and together they tackled this amazing uncover project. In less than three hours this amazing group of crack carpenters removed the half-century-old sheet rock that had been hiding the beauty of the original arch.

Troy Blair Construction and R Quip Rental provided the scaffolding for this work that took place 30 feet above the theatre floor. The project was an remarkable feat and one that coordinator Mike Joyce touted as another example of the ownership that the entire community feels for this theatre.

*Wow!* Is the best way to describe the accomplishments of a motivated group of people in a small amount of time. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, the theatre has been cleaned and refreshed and ready for a new season of tours!

The Grand Old Lady receives a Spring Cleaning every April and then monthly touch-ups from May through October. Winners of our "White Tornado Award" this Spring go to Roger Buck, Corie Newcomb, Julie Redlon, Amanda Danielson, Jessica Bush, Randy Carter, Susy Hammons, & Melissa Cedeno. She wouldn't look so good without you, nor would we have had as much fun! Thank you!

## Second Sunday Theatre Tours!

It's not too late to be a volunteer tour guide. Training sessions began in April and we have room for one or two more guides. If you're interested, email us at [volunteer@colonialfox.org](mailto:volunteer@colonialfox.org) for more information.

Other volunteer staffing needs include ticket takers, popcorn poppers, and information booth personnel. Let us know if you'd like to help and we'll get you trained and ready to go.

## 2009 LITTLE BALKANS DAYS TOURS

Our Little Balkans Days tours are hands down one of the most popular events that we host each year and our 2009 tours were no exception. Close to 500 people “ooed” and “ahhed” their way through the theatre on Saturday, September 5, 2009.

Of course, providing tours all day long would not be possible without a dedicated group of volunteers. Thank you to our fantastic crew who took care of every detail. Expert work was done spiffing up the sidewalk, foyer and lobby, operating the popcorn machine, welcoming people at the ticket booth, conducting tours, providing information at the merchandise table, and cleaning up when all was said and done.

Thank-you’s go out to: Jack Patterson, Rachel Murdock, David Buckley, B.J. Buckley, Randy Carter, Terri Steele, Melissa Cedeno, Alex Cedeno, Roger Buck, Diana Catron, Thomas Catron, Austin Wills, Lisa Barnett, William Grassi, Kelson Stahl, Betty Noonoo, and Julie Bernhardt.

B.J. Buckley’s pictures were posted on the Colonial Fox Facebook page. Become a Fan of the Colonial Fox Theatre on Facebook to see those and more pictures or to post your own.

We owe special thanks to Roger Buck who has refined our tour script and agreed to provide the training for additional tour guides. His generous contribution of professional consultation fills us with gratitude.



Many of you may have heard our new addition - the sidewalk tour recording. Inspired by Roger Buck, written by Vonnie Corsini, recorded by Panama Jack, and made possible through the generous donation of outdoor speakers from Broadway Electronics - this recorded tour allows people to experience the history and detail of the east facade through an audio tour, complete

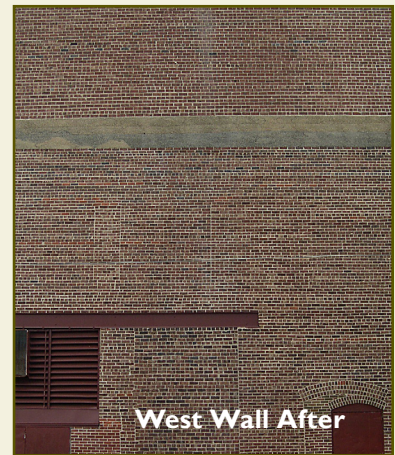
with background music! Kudos to all of the above for making this added professional touch a reality.

If you didn’t get a chance to hear it, you have a treat in store.

All-in-all, the 2009 Little Balkans CFT Tours were another event superbly staffed by CFTF volunteers.

Want to be a CFTF Volunteer too?

Sign up by emailing [volunteer@colonialfox.org](mailto:volunteer@colonialfox.org)



# Memberships Make the Difference!

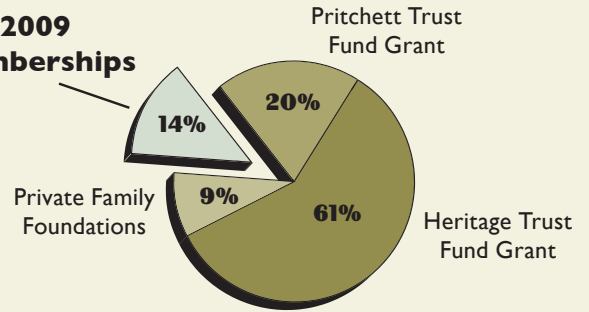
**YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS MADE THESE RESTORATION PROJECTS POSSIBLE IN 2009:**

## New State-of-the-Art Roof

## Tuckpointing on West and South Walls

**\$148,000**

**2009 Memberships**



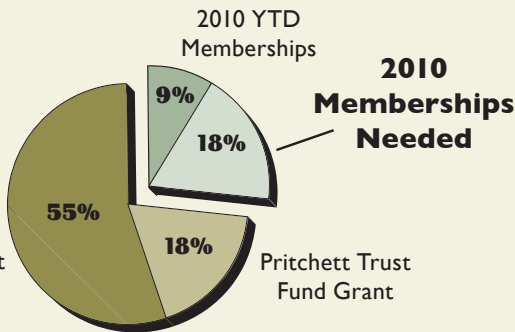
**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THESE PROJECTS HAPPEN IN 2010:**

## Repair North Wall

## Basement Structural Repair & Waterproofing

**\$165,000**

*Please join us!*



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Encore..... \$1,000
- Standing Ovation..... \$500
- Center Stage .....\$250
- Red Carpet.....\$100
- Playbill.....\$25

- Check enclosed. (Make payable to CFTF)
- Bill my membership to:
  - Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
(see back of card)

*The mission of the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation is to restore the Colonial Fox Theatre to be an enduring dynamic cultural center enriching the quality of life and economic vitality for Pittsburg and surrounding communities.*

# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS!

## ENCORE

Coleman Family Foundation  
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Gene & Linda Vollen  
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Marinell Webber

## CENTER STAGE

Mitch & Diane Bicknell  
Celebrations By Lori  
Carmen Davis  
& Arnold Flottman

Gordon & Beverly Elliott  
Family Foundation Fund  
Philip Lucas, Lucas Photography  
Names and Numbers  
Todd & Kelli McKnight

MPIX  
Pittsburg Farmer's Market  
Rapid Refill  
Ron & Betty Scripsick  
Lori Ann Spachek

The Corner Bistro  
Andy & Glenda Tompkins  
Touchton Electric  
Vincent & Theresa Vanbecelaere  
Bud & Marge Walker

## RED CARPET

Cynthia Allan & Deborah Fischer  
Joe & Suzanne Arruda  
Aldon Bebb  
Alexander & Lucy Bednekoff  
Marty & Pat Beezley  
Barry & Sharon Bengtson  
V.A. & Suzanne Berkey  
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Ken & Marilyn Bishop  
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Cyndee Harvey  
Glenn & Irma Hawley  
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Patty Horgan  
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## PLAYBILL

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Susan Ayers  
Martha Baxter  
Troy & Lisa Blair  
Jim & Karen Bowen  
Jana Bradley  
Bill Brooks  
Curt & Tami Brumbaugh  
Betty Burgert  
Suzie & Frank Butorac  
Jon & Diana Catron  
Paul & Brenda Chappell  
Lee Christensen & Sandra Greer  
Merle & Kathy Clark  
Ken & Chris Corsini  
Kenny Coulter  
John & Ruth Courter  
Craig & Anita Currier  
Clay & Virginia Darling  
Sears Roebuck & CO  
Richard & Patricia Dearth

Kathleen Degrave & Earl Lee  
Jane & Felix Dreher  
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Dan & Mary Lou Farrell  
Alice & David Friskel  
Dave & Betsy Gordon  
Betty Grisham  
Susy Hammons  
Robert Hawley  
Kirk & Debbie Hawley  
Ben & Pam Henderson  
Home Center Construction  
Mary Hotchkiss  
Glenn & Dee Hough  
Ted & Patsy Hurst  
Jeff & Kay James  
Myriam & Greg Krepps  
Helen Kriegsman  
Virginia Lawrence  
Edwin Lee  
Ron & Vicki Marrone  
Merle Norman Studio  
Keith & Linda McCoy

Ted & Susan Monsour  
Rodney & Karen Odgers  
Betsy Oehme  
Lynette Olson  
Kathryn Parke  
& Susan Marchant  
Chapter CJ of P.E.O.  
Lura Patrick  
Randy & Susan Percy  
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Jo Ann Triplett  
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Heather & Randy Winzer  
Ron & Connie Womble  
Jackie Wright



# *Theatre Vocabulary*

## **Backstage**

Does the word conjure up images of stage hands manipulating scenery, or actors waiting in the wings for their entrance cue? Do you imagine dressing rooms full of costumes, stage makeup and the strong aroma of grease-paint?

Whatever image the word brings to mind we can thank the Greeks for its origin.

Greek theaters were outdoors and composed of three parts: the orchestra, the skene (backstage), and the audience. The skene was the place where actors went to change costume and prepare for their next appearance. Stage design evolved to include the proscenium arch and any area behind the arch, including what is hidden from the audience's view, is now referred to as backstage.

So far, most of what is happening with the Colonial Fox Theatre project could be considered backstage. Our restoration phases to date have been out of sight—a new roof, new tuck-pointing, grant writing, project research. The next step in the restoration process, de-watering the basements, will also be mostly out of sight.

However, rest assured that what is happening backstage will soon come to light. Crawford and Cherokee Counties' last remaining theatre from the grand old era of vaudeville and silent movies will once again shine her splendor on and off Broadway.