



COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

Green Room Newsletter

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CRAFTSMANSHIP FROM THE NORTH PRAIRIE

Repllication of the historic tile gracing our entrance has been fraught with frustration. After working for over a year with a manufacturer who was not up to the task, the Foundation approached North Prairie Tileworks in Minnesota. Roger Mayland and his staff are careful about the jobs they accept. "We are very selective," commented Mayfield. "We may take one project a month. It takes a lot of expertise in order to do a project like this and we only take the projects that we feel we can match and where we can have a positive impact."



Their process to accurately replicate our historic tiles started with forensic observation of the original tiles. Knowing what year the tiles were produced and by whom, as well as what materials were used, are crucial to a successful outcome. Production methods and materials used in the early 1900s are either no longer available or prohibited in today's

tile work industry. Therefore, tile manufacturers must be well versed in ways to achieve the historic look with current technology.

North Prairie Tileworks took great pride in successfully replicating the Theatre's historic tile. "It's always heartwarming when we hear that a group of people care enough about an older building that they put a lot of heart and soul into it to restore it. So, it's always a pleasure to be able to do our part in that process," said Mayland. 

BACKSTAGE CONCERT SERIES KICKS OFF IT'S THIRD SEASON

Prepare to be delighted as the Colonial Fox Theatre once again transforms her backstage into a captivating nightclub experience. The Backstage Concert Series was introduced in 2013 and became an immediate sensation with audiences. Each year has topped the last and this year, starting with Kansas City Blues legend, Danny Cox, on April 18, promises the same. Tickets can be purchased from the Colonial Fox

Theatre website and range in price from \$25-\$45. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

Danny Cox

April 18, 7:30 p.m. \$25

Steel Wheels

May 29, 6:30 p.m. \$45

David Basse

Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. \$25

Kelley Hunt

Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. \$25



The 2015 Backstage Concert Series is made possible through the generosity of the Ronald O. Thomas Foundation. Major funding is provided by: The Miller Family Foundation, MPIX, and the SEK Art Fest. Additional support is made possible by Accent Dental, Jake's Fireworks, Nancy Miller and Pittcraft Printing. 

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RESCULPTING AN OLD TREASURE

One of the most defining features of the Colonial Fox Theatre is the ticket booth. Sadly, the ornate crown of this beacon had been damaged beyond repair. After consulting with Robert Elliott of Art Effects, LLC in Wichita, he then consulted with additional restoration professionals. It was decided the crown had to be recast and the intricate details re-sculpted.

Fortunately, Jessica Heikes was just returning to Pittsburg after earning a master of fine arts degree from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. Jessica possessed the skills for this task and under Robert Elliot's direction, she started by taking a mold directly from the damaged crown. "It was a very interesting project that utilized a lot of skills that I had. Although, I had not thought of using them in that direction as an artist and a sculptor," commented Heikes.

After almost 200 work hours and five different molds, Jessica finished the replication from which the final piece can be fabricated. Heikes feels her efforts are beneficial. "I've lived in a lot of different areas around the United States. I have seen communities come together to revitalize key structures such as the Colonial Fox Theatre. I've seen it pay off and I've seen it unite a community." ☐

OUTDOOR MOVIES ARE COMING SOON

Our eighth Friday Flix season will begin May 8, at 8:45 p.m. with a family favorite: *The Incredibles*. Spread the word to friends and family members. The more the merrier! Bring a lawn chair, a blanket, a bean bag or use one of our folding chairs. Whatever you choose, begin your second weekend of each month with Friday Flix!

May 8, 8:45 p.m. – *The Incredibles*
June 12, 9:00 p.m. – *Jurassic Park*
July 10, 9:15 p.m. – *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*
Aug. 14, 8:45 p.m. – *How to Train Your Dragon*
September 4, 8:15 p.m. – *Tallgrass Roadshow*
Sept. 11, 8:30 p.m. – *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*



Funding for the 2015 Friday Flix Series is provided by: The Kansas Teachers Community Credit Union, the Little Balkans Association, MPIX, The City of Pittsburg, PITSCO and Wells Fargo Advisors. ☐

Theatre Vocabulary

Cold Reading

by Kevin Stone

Many auditions require advance preparation; often, the actor must bring along a prepared monolog, song, or dance. Or the director may make copies of the script available ahead of time for actors to familiarize themselves with. In those cases, the actor performs his piece, leaves the audition, and awaits a call-back.

But many other auditions are different, relying on a cold reading of the script. This method of auditioning, also called sight reading, requires an actor to pick up a script and, with little or no practice, read it aloud—with expression, characterization, and fluency. It's not easy, as you can imagine, but it's a useful skill. Reading cold is an ability that many actors strive to develop.

Cold reading has uses outside the audition room, too. It is common for playwrights to stage cold readings of works in progress in order to hear their dialogue spoken and to more objectively gauge the effectiveness of a play's rhythm and pacing. Acting classes also make use of cold reading as an acting exercise.

The thought of reading cold may send chills up an actor's spine, but cold reading is a quick way to get a notion of an actor's performing potential.