



# COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

## *Green Room Newsletter*

Winter 2017 - Volume 10, Issue 1

### BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Thanks to a 2015 gift of \$250,466.40 from a Secret Santa, our \$500,000 match of the Save America's Treasures grant was secured. With a 2016 Valentine gift of \$250,000 and a 2016 Holiday Challenge gift of \$150,000, our Phase VI projects were fully funded. Phase VI projects include installation of Heat and Air Conditioning, structural support of the proscenium arch and wall, restoration of the bathrooms in the historic lobby, creation of an additional emergency exit and installation of a life safety sprinkling system.

Of course, the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation has several more milestones to reach before the Theatre is fully revitalized. Identifying those milestones is our next challenge and will require the development of a comprehensive set of Master Build Plans.

Dr. Gina Pinamonti, CFTF president, commented on the approach the Foundation has taken in the Theatre project thus far. "Money spent on planning is very important," said Pinamonti. "The restoration of the Colonial Fox Theatre, in its entirety, will be a significant capital investment. We wish to make sure that each step in the process is strategic and will insure that this theatre meets the community's wants and needs."

### A HISTORIC ENTRANCE

The Colonial Fox Theatre's grand entry has finally come into its own. What started with the discovery of an intricate decorative pattern beneath decade's worth of paint layers progressed into a full blown forensic investigation. The many color layers and style changes made establishing the historic design of the Colonial Fox grand entry a challenge. It wasn't until the Foundation secured a grant from the Bess Spiva Timmons Family Foundation that we were able to hire EverGreene Architectural Arts, of New York, to recreate the color and design of the theatre's original interior.

EverGreene artists Mary Yeager and Brian Fick have decades of professional experience as color archivists and restoration painters. This experience guided their interpretation of the grand entry's color pattern. They recreated the floral stencil that once adorned the foyer walls and after a week of painstaking exactness the Grand Entry was restored to it's original splendor.



Above: Lowering of the HVAC unit onto the roof



Above: Completed HVAC units



Above: Painted Entry and Ticket Booth



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## WHATS NEXT?

The community turned out in force for our 2016 programming season. Our Backstage Concert Series artists were the *Way Down Wanders*, *The Cate Brothers Band*, and *Bella Donna*, while our Friday Flix Festival presented *Jurassic Park*, *The Tallgrass Road Show*, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

The Colonial Fox Theatre's 2017 program promises more great entertainment. The Backstage Concert Series will bring Nashville

favorites *Lindsay Lou & the Flatbelllys* to stage on April 1; followed by three time Grammy nominee *Ruthie Foster* on June 17; and Grammy nominees *Rob Ikes & Trey Hensley* on October 21.

The 2017 Friday Flix Festival will bring family favorites *Gremlins*, *Inside Out*, and *Toy Story* to the outdoor screen in June, July and August. Of course, the Festival wouldn't be complete without our traditional showing of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* in September.



Above: *The Cate Brothers Band*



Above: *The Bella Donna Band*

## MEMORIES WITH CAROLE RINK

Carole Rink feels that she literally grew up in the Colonial Fox Theatre. Her dad, Ralph Wallace Sr., was the manager when she was a child. She remembers helping him in the concession stand when she could hardly see over the counter. However it wasn't until she was sixteen that she officially began working in the box office and concession stand officially.

Carole worked at the Theatre for two years but had to quit due to a company policy which stated family could not work under family. Carole said her favorite spot in the Theatre was in the back row of the first floor, right as she walked through the vomitories and saw grand expanse of the "house".

Carole remembers the Colonial to be the first place in Pittsburg to have air-conditioning and this alone, she said, brought in huge crowds. Additionally, most people would stop in at least once a week and watch the newsreels which were very popular in the 1960's.

Carole cannot express how excited she is for the revitalization of this magnificent Theatre.



## THEATRE VOCABULARY

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## PLAY BILL

*A poster or piece of paper that advertises a play or theatrical show.*

Historically the theatrical Playbill, nicknamed "handbill", was a short poster or handout which included the title, a picture, and the location of the show. Handbills were handed out free to the public to entice ticket sales.

With the advent of television and the ability to advertise to a wider audience, the Playbill became outdated. Today's audience members want a souvenir to help them recall the details of their experience. Therefore, the Playbill, rather than being used as an enticement, serves as a reminder of the event.

Modern Playbills are elegantly designed and feature information about the characters, the production, the story line, as well as advertisements. They also include details about the production, including cast biographies and background information. However, it all started with that young lad passing out "handbills" on mainstreet.

