



# COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

## *Green Room Newsletter*

Summer 2015 - Volume 9, Issue 2

### A NEW KIND OF REVIVAL

Roots Revival! The name has a nice ring doesn't it? This concert was previously named "Bluegrass, Brew, BBQ & You," which was a mouthful to say. Despite the name change, ticket holders experienced the excellence of previous years, be it the delicious BBQ catered by Corner Bistro or the garden ambiance made possible by "In the Garden".

Storms had been blowing in all day and not even Jake's Fireworks tents could keep the BMO Harris lot dry enough to set up the sound equipment. We turned to plan B; served dinner under the garden tent and presented the concert in the theatre. The Steel Wheels captivated the audience who, for the first time in over 30 years, were seated in the orchestra section, foot-tapping to a national touring band, inside the Colonial Fox Theatre. People left excited and inspired by what the Colonial Fox will be able to bring to our community. 



*Above: The Steelwheels Steal the Spotlight at the Fox.*

### Nothing Beats A Good Party!

Delicious hors'd oeuvres and delightful music, compliments of Lem Sheppard, Alex Sheppard, and Vince Hightower, were the bookends of our 2015 Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration. The event was even more special by the fact that we presented it like one of our Backstage Concerts on the Colonial Fox stage. After the brief beer and wine social, our meeting began with a visual presentation of the progress made in 2014. Once the official business was concluded, Rack Wallace presented the Ralph E. Wallace Award for outstanding individual contribution to volunteer Diane Levens. In 2014 Diane accumulated over 25 volunteer hours in support of the Foundation. Thank you to Diane and to all of our members and volunteers. 



*Above Left: Rack Wallace presents Diane Levens with the Ralphie Award.*



*Above Right: Lem Sheppard, Alex Sheppard, and Vince Hightower performing at the Annual Meeting.*



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## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Many fine details make up the magnificence that is the Colonial Fox Theatre. Some remain intact despite years of deterioration caused by past vacancy and neglect. Others have suffered the ravages of time. One detail that did not survive is the crown to the cove molding which borders the grand entry walls. This once beautiful display of plaster craftsmanship was completely lost, with only the lower half remaining intact.

Using an old photograph and quite a bit of historic research the Foundation created a rendering of

the missing crown. Artist Jessica Heikes replicated the crown from our rendering. The replica has been installed and although a few details have yet to be completed, it can currently be seen above the wooden horder wall and will eventually be a part of the glorious ornamentation of the Colonial Fox grand entry. 



Above: Damaged cove molding shown prior to replication and creation of crown.



Above: Decorative cove molding has been replicated to include the previously missing crown.

## Puttin on the Fox

Have you noticed the film crew scurrying around our events this past year? Genuine Pictures and Rountree Films have been hard at work to create promotional materials displaying the impact our events are having on the community.

The serendipitous collaboration between these talented filmmakers and the Colonial Fox Foundation came about when they approached us about capturing the paranormal spirit of the theatre in the feature film they are creating. *The Lurking*,

is about a struggling addict who becomes tormented by the ghost of his girlfriend after having been responsible for her death in a drunk driving accident.

Director Brian Lewnadowski describes how the Colonial Fox location would be utilized in the film, "One of the characters in *The Lurking* owns a movie theatre which she inherited from her father. She's not in the position to remodel it anytime soon, or ever for that matter, but she shares the same romantic feelings that I have for the Fox Theatre. She

believes in the potential of beautiful places like these." 



Above: Royland Rountree capturing footage in the Fox.

## Theatre Vocabulary

### Melodrama

by Kevin Stone

A stage melodrama is a play that features overwrought theatricality and a reliance on sometimes outlandish plot twists to manipulate audience emotion. Melodrama exaggerates on-stage emotion and emphasizes action to the point of sensationalism. There's not too much that's subtle in a melodrama. Histrionics are par for the course. Characters are drawn quite broadly. The good guy is very good, and the bad guy—whether or not he's twirling his mustache—is very bad.

Melodramas were quite popular in previous centuries, although they were a little different in form. Originally, a melodrama was a stage play with music—songs were interspersed, and instrumental music played during the action. In fact, the word melodrama is a compound of melos ("song") and drame ("drama"). Always, a melodrama provided an evening of romance, sentimentality, and hyperbole, coupled with a happy ending.

Modern stage productions of melodramas are great fun. They're usually presented as far-fetched comedies, and the audience is in on the joke, ready to sit back and enjoy some hammy performances and gasp, cheer, and boo on cue. Part of the lasting appeal of melodramas is the underlying message they convey: good always wins in the end, and evil has its comeuppance.