

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Theatre Weekly Email: August 29, 2008

Written by David on August, 28 2008

The Shelby County Historical Society Uniphone Theatre Pipe Organ destined for the Strand had to make a move this week. Since the organ was acquired in October of 2004 it has been in climate controlled storage. Its previous 25 years were in unheated and dirty storage, the organ really needed the warm confines of a new home. This storage has been graciously provided at no cost by Lester Lee and Bill Nalle of Maxim Global, LLC. The organ, constructed mostly of wood, was able to acclimate to the heated environment. This will make it much easier and stable to rebuild.

Well, last week I got a call from Bill Nalle. After 4 years, their business is expanding and they needed the space. So this past Tuesday Strand volunteers Chris Clark, Bob Schlick, Steve Frazee, Wayne Rose, DeP Ewing and Gary Nolley joined David Finkel in the move. Since the organ is palletized, it was relatively easy. Chris Clark was the designated fork lift driver, and the rest went smoothly.

We transported the organ to a new heated storage space (again provided at no cost) with the help of Pat Huesman and LaCap Container. They provided their dock high truck for the journey. It is easy when you go from loading dock to loading dock?..no lifting! Thank you to Pat, Roy Knopp and Jerry Caplinger for helping us with this move. The organ is safe and sound in its new home. The organ, Opus 531 from the Uptown Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky is sitting next to Opus 512 from the Oriental Theatre in Indianapolis. Both were built by the Louisville Pipe Organ Company. They are both extremely rare, and we look forward to getting 531 rebuilt and expanded for our Strand project.

This past week we had another excellent audience for the finals of Shelby Idol. There was wonderful talent on our stage! I hope you were able to hear the winners perform at the Bears of Blue River Festival this past Saturday night! On Sunday after the festival, the Pete Jarvis Organization produced "Rock the Strand". This show was a benefit for several organizations. Thank you to the PJO for making this a reality.

Do you like our popcorn? Well, we have 2 secret ingredients that make it taste so yummy. First is our master popcorn chef Steve Frazee. He has brought his many years of popcorn experience from the Shelbyville Band Boosters to the Strand. Second is our Cretor Popcorn Machine. This is an industrial size popcorn popper that can really do a great job. The Cretor was left in the theatre from its movie theatre days. It is old (maybe not as old as Steve, but still old). It has been quite exciting getting it going reliably. Steve Dennis has rewired and replaced just about everything electrical in it???except one thing. The motor that runs the stirrer for the kettle. Guess what? Yep, you guessed it, with 246 audience members in the Strand for Shelby Idol, that poor old motor decided to quit functioning. Somehow Steve Frazee was still able to make enough popcorn to sell 39 tubs! Steve Dennis to the rescue. A new motor is on its way and will be installed shortly. Just one more exciting thing that keeps us on our toes.

Soon we will be installing our new Valance for the Grand Drape. It was originally 64" long. It had to be hemmed to 34". This isn't an easy task. It is very heavy fire rated velvet. The sewing also had to be done with Nomex (fire retardant) thread. Patty and Carolyn Schneider of Sew Tec had the large industrial sewing machines to do the job. They also shortened it to 38 feet! Thank you Patty and Carolyn for your help and generosity in getting this done. We look forward to hoisting it in the air!

The theatre has a little lull the first few weeks of September. We have a long project list that we are going to try to accomplish. It includes some floor painting in the balcony, and a general scrubbing of the whole auditorium. We will use this time to our best advantage. Many of the items needed to be accomplished require drying or no traffic for several days. We have (fortunately) been so busy, we couldn't get the time to do the work.

Thank you for your support. We are honored to be a part of our community.

Images on this post:

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