

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Theatre Weekly Email: March 3, 2009

Written by David on March, 3 2009

This past few weeks has been an interesting time at the Strand. Several things have happened on and off our stage. First lets get to the behind the scenes events. In the quest to complete our Green Room and Dressing Rooms, we have made several changes in the basement. This is the basement under the original stage. When we first started it was FULL of mechanical equipment. Under the supervision of Bob S. and Steve D., we removed all the unused items. This ended up being everything. The chiller tubes, the compressors, the 15hp motors, the steel frames, the old ice maker and lots of old electrical equipment. We laid a pressure treated sub-floor in August to cover the very dirty concrete floor. The basement has always been dry, just dirty, so we felt comfortable in putting down the wood. We had to let the pressure treated plywood dry for 6 months. In December we painted that floor. It looks good.

Now that the floor is painted, the time has come to finish the rest of the project. This past week a stud wall was constructed covering part of the old foundation. This will allow us to have a clean area for the dressing room. The wall has a built-in shelf and a place for mirrors. We moved several lockers we received from Indiana Downs into the basement. These lockers were donated to us about a year ago and were perfect for the dressing rooms. The lockers were, as everything else in the Strand tends to be, HEAVY. Gary N., Bob S. and I somehow got them out of the truck, down the stairs and into the basement. They fit perfectly. Although spartan by most standards, at least we will have a small area for performers when not on stage. There is still work to be done, and we will let you know how that goes.

The office windows are progressing steadily. This is a big job. Steve F. has all the frames prepared and the windows out and getting new glass. All this work is being done from the inside. As part of the window restoration Steve is sanding the windows completely. What do you get when you sand? Dust. What do smoke detectors tied directly to the fire department not like? Dust. I was happily driving to Indianapolis and I get a call on my phone from our alarm company informing me they have dispatched the Fire Department to the Strand. A quick call to Steve, and he was already getting the solution. We reset the alarm and reset the offending smoke detector. I called the alarm company back and they were able to cancel the run. I called our local dispatch and confirmed it was just saw dust, not a fire. They had the equipment rolling, but were able to send them back.

Next?.my cell phone rang off the hook! Seems as though many of you out there have scanners. I appreciate all the calls saying "just heard on the scanner the Strand is on fire!". Well, it wasn't on fire, but nice to know people are looking out for us. I don't have a scanner, which sometimes makes you feel out of touch without the "inside info". Take a look at our web site. We are getting ready to post an article on the windows. There will be lots of pictures too!

This past Saturday the Strand hosted some young bands just getting started. They did a good job on stage and brought an energetic (and polite) crowd. We wondered how it would go, but all the kids were respectful and appreciative of the theatre. They were generous too!

Saturday night we have The Complete Unknowns on stage. They play a mix of music included many Bob Dylan songs. They will be joined by Adam & Amanda O'Connor. This will be a fun event, get your tickets early!

On March 17th the Strand will hold it first lecture in the Strand Lecture Series. These free lectures will occur 4 times per year. This lecture is on the Theatre Pipe Organ. It will be interesting and informative. It will discuss the history of the instrument and also an update on our own theatre organ project.

The Strand will once again have a booth at the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair. The Trade Fair is March 18th at Garrett Gymnasium, doors open at 12:30pm. As always thank you for your support. The Strand is a bright spot in our community because of you!

Images on this post:

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