

# **Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.**

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## **Strand Theatre Weekly Email: March 11, 2010**

Written by David on March, 11 2010

Grease is the word. Friday night! Our second Dinner and a Movie. Movie tickets are always available at the door. The price includes popcorn and a soft drink. The joint will be a hoppin' for Grease!

On Saturday night the Strand hosts another fundraising event. Gingerfest will help support Melanoma Awareness.

(Warning, not tech talk, but facts and dates ahead) The Strand Theatre Pipe Organ, endowed by the Shelby County Historical Society, has taken another step closer to rebuilding. The Strand's organ was manufactured by the Louisville Pipe Organ Company (LPO) in 1928. It was one of a handful of instruments the firm made specifically for theatre use.

Our organ, Opus 531, was built in Terre Haute Indiana after LPO moved from Louisville. It was originally built for the Sipe Theatre in Kokomo, Indiana. The theatre never took the instrument, so it was installed in the Uptown Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky. This organ was removed from the theatre and installed in a church in Tell City Indiana. In 1977 it was removed from the church and placed in storage. It remained in storage until acquired for the Strand project in 2004.

Throughout the years several pieces have been lost from Opus 531. Since LPO built so few instruments, finding replacements has been difficult. There are only 4 LPO's built for theatres known to be in existence. There is an ongoing search to acquire as many items manufactured by LPO as possible.

This past week Strand Board Member David Finkel was successful in locating and purchasing the final ?Uniphone?, the LPO Brand name theatre instrument. This organ, Opus 519, was built in 1926 for the Oak Theatre in Louisville Kentucky. With the purchase of this instrument, all the remaining LPO theatre organs are now in Shelbyville.

The other two include Opus 536 from the Dream Theatre, Indianapolis built in 1928. It is complete and located in a private residence. The final organ is Opus 512 from the Oriental Theatre in Indianapolis. It is in storage and will be used to augment the Strand organ.

It is quite incredible that the legacy of this manufacture would be tied to the Strand Theatre in Shelbyville . Through the vision of the SCHS and the Strand, our organ will be the only fully restored Uniphone in a public venue.

The Oak Theatre instrument has a piece that we need. Of all things?the music rack. There are several pictures and an article on our web site about what we needed and what we found. This includes a picture from 1927 showing an LPO console with the music rack we needed.

Next week we have a really special line-up. On Tuesday is the first of our 2010 Lecture Series. Dennis Hodges from the Indiana High Speed Rail Association will speak about the future of high speed rail. This is a relevant topic for Shelby County since our rail line is a federally designated high speed route. Admission is FREE. The lecture starts at 7:00pm

On Saturday March 20th, Smashed Productions presents Pressed in Black with special guest Caffeine. The concert starts at 8:00pm. Finally on Sunday March 21st, jazz pianist Dave Hepler will perform. This Sunday afternoon concert will be great for all you jazz fans out there. Thank you for all your support. See you at the Strand!

### **Images on this post:**

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