

# **Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.**

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## **Strand Theatre Weekly Email: April 1, 2010**

Written by David on April, 1 2010

This week Tim Spradlin returns to the Strand stage. This is Tim's third show at the Strand. Last October he performed Beatles Acoustic and in December he had a two night engagement with Stockings by the Fire. Saturday night's performance will feature music taken from Tim's 25 years as a Cabaret singer. These will be songs you know and love. Come out and support this excellent quality of entertainment right here in our own community. Plenty of tickets are still available. The performance starts at 8:00 pm.

This weekend we will also be showing "The Passion of the Christ." Show times are Friday at 8:00pm, Saturday at 1:30pm and Sunday at 4:30pm. The ticket price is \$5 General Admission and \$4 Senior (55 and older).

Remember the discussion about the speakers? (warning, tech talk ahead) We completed the repairs. But like all things that seem to be a simple and straightforward problem, that was not the case. To access the speakers requires a very tall ladder and climbing up behind the curved proscenium. Once there we found a few things that startled us. These old Altec "Voice of the Theatre" speakers have two major components. The horn which produces the mid and high range sounds, and the woofer that produces the low sounds. Our problem, so we thought was the horn driver. Yes, the horn driver was toast, but we found that the woofer on the south side was equally damaged. Lucky for us we had an extra woofer that we could install. That was surprise number one. Surprise number two was a problem that goes back to August of 2008. Remember then? The Shelby County Players held their fundraiser "Divas" at the Strand. During the show they used my wireless mics. Some of the microphone elements picked up the speakers up and behind the stage. To fix the feedback, our sound gurus draped carpet on the speakers to deflect the sound away from the stage. You guessed it, we never went back up and removed the carpet. That made a HUGE difference in the quality of sound. It only took us 19 months to find it! This story is still an infomercial...but wait, there's more! Since we were checking everything, we crawled under the stage to inspect the speakers that are used to fill in the sound for the downstairs patrons. These are the same Altec speakers and are very hard to access. Good thing we looked. One of them has been boogying to the music and succeeded in turning itself around. All the sound was headed to the orchestra pit (yes, it is still there). Not a good place, so we repositioned the speakers and fastened them so they can't get away! Ron B. and Gordon H. did the climbing and crawling. Next time you see them, ask them to tell you how much fun they had.

As we prepare to start the marquee, we noticed that the roof sustained some damage over the winter months. We have a 9" cut in our rubber roof on top of the marquee. As much work as we have done to that structure, we don't want it compromised by a water leak. This week Bob S. is taking a crew up on top of the marquee to make the repair. He is also sealing our new neon supports to make them water tight too. He will use a little black butyl caulk. We are as anxious as you to get that marquee finished. Our volunteers have done a great job. We were quoted \$175,000 to redo the marquee. When all is said and done, we have completed the project for less than \$7000. That is a very nice \$168,000 savings! We think it is worth the wait.

Our schedule continues to expand. We are also getting new volunteers every month. We love new faces, so if you have a chance, contact us about helping. We have several things that always need done. These include things during the week, throughout the month and during performances. Volunteering for the Strand will be the quickest one hundred friends you will ever make!

Thank you for the support. During our research this is the time when several theatres like ours struggle. For them, the newness has worn off, and the interest wanes. We are thrilled that this is not the case with the Strand. We are doing more, with greater exposure all the time. This is because of you....thank you!

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

*Archive File: 2010-04-01\_strand-theatre-weekly-email:-april-1,-2010.pdf*

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