

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Theatre Weekly Email: May 13, 2010

Written by David on May, 13 2010

Bob Dylan music rang out inside the Strand this past February?.our soffit was Blowin' in the Wind this week. (Sorry about no Dylan warning, but our tech talk is ahead)

Strand Board member Bob S. gave an emergency message "the soffit needs repaired NOW!". Here is what happened. Many years ago a piece of rolled metal was installed along the soffit board. It is white. It is long. It is now flapping in the wind. This past week due to the lack of anything behind it to attach to, the metal let go. You can see it flapping away. Here's Bob's concern. When it comes down, and according to him it WILL come down and come down soon, it will potentially break our brand new neon on the top of the marquee. It will also slice our newly repaired rubber roof on the top of the marquee. This is something he says we can't let happen. He is right.

Steve F. has looked at that section of the facade since day one. He knows we can repair it, but the problem is getting to it. We will need to rent a very tall (45') wide bucket lift. This is a \$1500 per week expense according to a local contractor. Once we get the offending metal down, then we have to rebuild the soffit. We can't dilly dally on this project because the lift rental clock ticks away. We don't know quite what we are going to do, but we know we have to do something. We will tell you it is a bit depressing for us, but more on that next week.

Did you see that the great singer Lena Horne passed away this week at the age of 92? She will be performing on the big screen this weekend in the MGM classic musical "Till the Clouds Roll By." If you like Hollywood musicals with big production numbers, this is a MUST see. The cast is a who's who of celebrities from 1946. It is in beautiful Technicolor and looks great. The movie starts at 5:00pm on Sunday for one showing only. Every song was written by Jerome Kern. Frank Sinatra ends the film with one of the most famous Jerome Kern songs. You fans out there will just have to figure it out. To find out, come see the movie!

While you are at the movie, we will have all three Louisville Pipe Organ Company consoles in the cabaret area. This is a piece of history. Our friends at the Shelby County Historical Society, through their endowment of the organ, will provide theatre organ music in the Strand for decades to come. The Strand organ project was the recipient of a bit of luck this week. (Warning, incredible story + a little tech talk ahead). Things just seem to happen. Some of the items we are missing from the Uptown Theatre organ are the units that control the volume. There are called Swell Shades, and are a series of little doors that open and close to let the sound from the pipe chamber out into the theatre. When we acquired the organ originally in the Oak Theatre in Louisville last month, we received one set of shades. We needed the matching, yet opposite pair. The blades (doors) have to open in an opposing manner since the chambers are on each side of the theatre. Our friend David Bottom, an organ technician from Lexington, KY, was doing a job in Florida last week. He was moving a nice theatre organ from central Florida to northern Indiana. Low and behold the organ had a set of Louisville Pipe Organ Company swell shades. Not only were they the correct size, but (you guessed it) they were the opposite set we needed!! Yippee for us! The owner graciously donated them to our project. They are in Lexington waiting a trip to pick them up. Of course we invited David to see "Till the Clouds Roll By" this weekend. Hopefully he will drive his truck!

The joint was a cookin' last Saturday night. After 2 successful magic shows, the SHS Jazz Band took the stage for a Saturday evening concert. It was great. They played a Miles Davis inspired first set. These young musicians have great talent, and a great feel for the music of the era. It was a treat.

Just a heads up, next week we will have the SMS Jazz Band and Jazz Choir at the Strand on Thursday night 5/20/2010. The next night will be GONE WITH THE WIND for Dinner and a Movie. This is your chance to see this classic on the big screen. Hope to see you there.

We have our plates full. There are more projects and just not enough time. Hopefully the wind will give us a break and we can fix our immediate problem. Your support is always appreciated. The comments we receive at each and every performance reinforce the importance of our mission. When things get us a little down, we just remember ..."tomorrow is another day." Thank you.

Images on this post:

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