

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Theatre Weekly Email: September 29, 2011

Written by David on September, 29 2011

Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. This week the Strand feels like we are on the down side of up. A cascading string of things dampened (literally) the mood. (Warning, a small bit of tech talk ahead).

It all started with our vacuum. The Strand is very dependant on our yellow industrial vacuum cleaner. It lives on a steady diet of popcorn. This week, in preparation for the Shelby County Players production, the Strand cleaning crew was using "old yellow" when we heard a clunk. After that, no suction. We found out exactly what happened. The vacuum ate a bobby pin and a dry wall screw. They broke the impeller. Not a good problem. Bob S. will go to the vacuum supply house to see if he can procure an impeller. With luck, we will be able to fix the problem rather than replace the unit.

The next problem was even more difficult. Just as the audience was arriving for Arsenic and Old Lace, we discovered a small flood in the basement under the men's room. A quick investigation found that our water heater had sprung a leak. Since there are no drains in the basement, we had no choice but to turn off the water....just as 150+ were entering the theatre. Before you could say "Charge", Bob S. installed an isolation valve on the heater and had the water turned back on. Before the end of the second act the water heater was removed. At 9:00am Friday morning Bob S. and Lou M. replaced the unit.

But wait, there's more! While this was happening, we discovered floor tiles warped and a drip under the urinals. It seems that at the same time we developed a another leak. The plumber will be at the Strand to join Bob and Lou in the festivities. While they are fixing the water heater, Rick the plumber will be fixing the urinals.

OK, enough already....but after the first intermission we had a problem in the Women's bathroom. We won't describe it for you, but Steve F. got the job of fixing the problem. He is important and gets the important things! Problem fixed.

OK, really enough already....after the second intermission we had water all over the concession stand store. The Coke fountain unit sprung a leak. The main water line had two connectors come loose enough to leak, or should we say a flood. A quick trip to get supplies and we had the problem fixed before the end of the play.

Those are some of the joys of operation the Strand. Even though we run into a few problems here and there, it is still fun. Check out our web site for the "action shots" of these issues.

All performance venues were saddened by the tragedy at the Indiana State Fair in August 2011. The Strand Board of Directors looked at that event and decided to do what we could to keep that from happening at the Strand. The Shelby County Players built a wonderful set for their production of Arsenic and Old Lace under the guidance of set designer Mike Evans. This set utilizes the height of the Strand's auditorium and is two stories tall.

In keeping with our discussions about the State Fair tragedy, the Strand asked the City of Shelbyville inspectors to take a look. The outcome was a structure that is safe for the actors and audience. They were impressed by the ruggedness of construction and the attention to detail. Good job Mike!

The inspection was done by Tammy Cornelius aided by Tom DeBaun, Building Commissioner. While Tom was on the set he recalled a time when he too acted in Arsenic and Old Lace many years ago!

With two thumbs up, the Shelby County Players are ready and the Strand implemented what we learned by studying the State Fair stage collapse.

The Strand will have the Shelby County Players production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" the rest of this weekend. The Strand will be getting ready for the rest of the month, including looking for that pesky gremlin that caused all the problem, but that is for next week's email.

Thank you for the support. The Strand is a place that puts a smile on you face! As we enter a season of renewal, it is nice

to a part of the revitalization of something as worthwhile as the Strand. See you at the Strand!

Images on this post:

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