

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Acquires new facility ? Strand Annex North

Written by David on August, 30 2012

The following comments were made by Strand Theatre of Shelbyville, Inc. Director David M. Finkel at a press conference held at the Strand Theatre on August 30, 2012.

The Strand was founded with a simple mission: Provide a facility where the arts can come together and enhance our community's quality of life. We have worked honestly and diligently to fulfill that goal. We are fortunate to be in downtown Shelbyville where the Strand has become a destination for our patrons.

The Strand believes strongly that our community is full of talented individuals. Through the efforts of many we have come to where we are today.

It is hard to believe that the theatre has been open less than five years as a performing arts center. In those five years we have witnessed and heard magical moments on this stage. Experiencing live performance is something every community deserves. The Strand is proud to promote live performance whether in this theatre or one of the many other venues in our community.

In order for the Strand to get to this point we have to be all inclusive. Our performance partners constantly stretch the limits and capabilities of this 96 year old theatre. Since we reopened we have hosted 536 events. This auditorium has seen:

- 117 Concerts
- 70 Theatrical performances
- 33 Literary events including poetry & lectures
- 10 Pageants
- 26 Musical competitions
- 10 Comedy events
- 18 School performances
- 148 Films
- 24 Auditions
- 10 Magic shows
- 46 Community events
- 2 Weddings
- 11 Receptions
- 4 Memorial services

As of today the Strand has welcomed 45,994 patrons to this theatre.

In addition our lobby is filled with local artwork. These paintings spent years in storage and we are proud to offer the people who come through these doors a taste of our local artists. Just this past month the Strand received a donation of additional local artwork to add to the collection.

We have proved time and again the flexibility necessary to be an all inclusive performing arts center.

Through this journey we have learned many things. We average about 120 events a year, but that does not mean it is easy for each and every event. We have found the more the creativity the more challenging the space becomes.

When we started we did not have a back stage bathroom or dressing room. We have provided both although only marginally. We cannot get from stage right to stage left out of the view of the audience. This is thanks to our 1954 air handler still being in the middle of our stage.

We store everything anywhere we can. For those of you who have been to the men's restroom, you know we store our tables there. On our cabaret area we have an assortment of things that have no other place to go.

Our backstage is the worst. We store our scaffolding, ladders, monitor speakers, Hammond organ and a variety of other items in spaces that should be for performers.

The biggest problem is right here on stage. Our stage has become too small. Many of our performers will tell you that it is tight when they are on stage. Whether it is the 47 piece Community Band, the 22 cast members of Damn Yankees or the plethora of musicians for Rockphoria, we seem to always need more space.

Finally is something that is integral to the Strand?our theater pipe organ. The Strand is going to be the proud location of the Shelby County Historical Society Louisville Theater Pipe Organ. The Historical Society endowed this very special instrument that will bring back the music and history that was the heyday for all theaters, including the Strand.

The organ is to be installed in the old lodge hall space above the stage. Yes, there is an old lodge hall up there replete with oak floors, stained glass and wall paper. It was abandoned in 1916 when this theatre was built. The area has 16 foot high ceilings, perfect for a pipe organ installation. The organ will speak through grilles in the ceiling.

Here is our problem: We don?t have dressing rooms, storage space, expandability of our stage and a way to access the area where our theatre pipe organ will be installed.

To solve this problem we turned to history and the help of our friend and mentor Dick Delaney.

History told us that the lodge hall was originally accessed from behind the theatre in the section just to the north of this auditorium. That portion of the building extends three stories.

With just 17 feet of width, the section to our north could solve many of our problems. We knew that Dick Delaney and Patty Dewitt owned the building and it housed their sign shop. We asked whenever they wanted to sell that section, let us know.

They informed us and said yes three years ago?but as you know, things just don?t move fast. It took us all this time to finally sign our name on the dotted line and more importantly pass over the check, courtesy of our lender First Merchants Bank.

We are here tonight to announce the acquisition of the Strand Annex North at 210 South Post Street. This facility will be the catalyst for many upgrades and changes that will positively impact our performing partners and users of this theatre.

Story one will be an emergency exit and storage.

Story two will have dressing rooms and bathrooms

Story three will provide access to organ chambers and organ workspace.

Additional comments were made by:

Thomas D. DeBaun ? Mayor, City of Shelbyville
Noell Krughoff ? Shelby County Players
Russell O. Smith ? Shelbyville High School Music Department
Todd McComas ? Comedian and comedy promoter
Angie Caudill ? Director, Shelby Idol
Lora Norris ? Stage Director
Steve Frazee ? Shelby Community Band
Joey Gaudin ? Rock Musician and concert promoter
Gregg Steele ? Shelby County Historical Society
Carlton B. Smith ? Carlton Smith Pipe Organ Restorations
Nisa Hensley ? President, Blue River Foundation
Dick Delaney ? Stage Door Graphic and former owner of the Strand

After the comments, Dick Delaney presented the Strand with the new sign for our building, thus passing ownership from to the Strand Theatre of Shelbyville, Inc.

The press conference was attended by Shelbyville Today, The Shelbyville News and WSVX Radio. Please read or tune in to these news outlets for more information.

The Strand wishes to thank all our volunteers, donors and patrons for making this possible. Special thanks to the City of Shelbyville for our generous EDIT funding, the Blue River Foundation for being our fiscal sponsor and to Larry Lux and First

Merchants Bank that believe in the work of the Strand and financed the project.

Images on this post:

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