

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Articles prior to December 5, 2018

Strand Theatre Weekly Email: October 3, 2012

Written by David on October, 3 2012

The Strand is always working with new events. Gary Nolley, the master of the schedule, keeps busy making sure the Strand is utilized to its fullest. The Strand is there to be use, and we are grateful to the plethora of groups and organizations that help us with our mission. Live entertainment is a wonderful thing. Many groups use live entertainment to help with there goals. This week the Strand worked a Shelby Senior Services event for January 2013. This event planning started in the middle of summer is almost complete. When asked by the Strand if this was a fundraiser, Dianna Pandak of Shelby Senior Services said "No, it is a Friendraiser!" We love that term. Raising awareness is a big part of any group.

The Strand has two distinct messages we always want to deliver. The first is what we are about. The Strand is our local performing arts center that believes live entertainment should be a part of our community. We help facilitate that goal. The second is our events and programs. Someone attending the Shelby Community Band Concert, or attending a comedian might be informed about the event, but not the mission of the Strand. The term "Friendraiser" is a wonderful way to describe the interconnection we all need to keep with groups that interest us. Look for more information on the Afternoon of Vaudeville in January. The planning is done and the implementation begins. Dianna Pandak, Carol McDaniel, Mary Ann Turner, and Betsy Stephen are all ready to get the word out on this wonderful event.

Did you notice it has been chilly? We did too. The time of year has come to test our furnaces and get the Strand ready in case we need heat. For the 58th time, the furnaces at the Strand will go through the start-up process at the beginning of the season. As you are counting your fingers, yes...that means they were installed in 1954. During warm weather, Bob S., the master of the antiques of the theatre, requires we keep the pilot lights lit. This allows the furnaces to stay dry. We look forward to a day when we have new modern units. We spend over \$100 each month just for the pilot lights! The high on Saturday for the Shelby County Players' performance is forecast to be 54°. There is a good chance we will need to use the heat. You can help. If we fill all 377 seats, the heat will not be needed! Not only will you help keep the Strand warm, but you will watch an excellent play too.

The Shelby County Players loaded "A Murder Announced" this past weekend. The set is built and the performers are ready. Once again the SCP have transformed the stage into another locale and another place. The set, designed by Mike Evans, utilizes the height afforded by the Strand's stage. Our renovation plans will make it easier on Mike and all the other designers who use our space. We look forward to the creativity they will bring when there is more room to work with and an actual proscenium to use!

A comment was made this week that the Strand's stage wasn't level. We have talked about this in the past, but it is still interesting. Yes, our stage is not level. The original stage was built for vaudeville acts. In the teens it was common to "rake" the stage, or slope it up from front to back. Our stage is still the original raked stage. We have a several inch fall from the back wall to the edge of the stage. Unfortunately our 1954 air handler (the same one we talked about earlier) is using our stage as its home. Once we remove that unit the Strand will remove the old stage and make it flat. It is a nice oddity, but not very functional. The terms upstage and downstage are from the old raked stage days.

The stage is getting a lot of discussion for our upcoming renovations. One of the major topics is the finished stage height. There are several factors that will play into that decision. Our theatre pipe organ concert console as well as our planned grand piano will be kept in the existing Orchestra Pit. The stage will be dependant on space required for those instruments. We would like to lower the stage slightly (in the 4" range) but we will have to wait and see how things turn out.

Our web site had a major addition. Strand Board member Cody V. decided we could do a better job in helping patrons find restaurants and other places when they visit the Strand. He designed and programmed a map that is part of our web site. If you click on the establishment on the left side, the icon for that establishment will highlight on the map. This is still in beta testing, but try it out and send us any suggestions. You can find it here: <http://www.strand-theatre-shelbyville.org/location/near-the-strand/>

The Shelby County Players perform this week. The Agatha Christie mystery "A Murder Announced" will be on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. It will conclude with a Sunday matinee. This is a great opportunity to see live theatre in the heart

of Shelby County.

Thank you for your support. The Strand is always growing and always changing. We are ready and willing to adapt to the ever changing needs of our artistic community. In October we have a fun schedule of a variety of events. We hope to see you at the Strand!

Images on this post:

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