

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Theatre Weekly Email: August 15, 2013

Written by David on August, 15 2013

Eventful. The Strand is certainly eventful. In order to be successful we knew before we even started the project, that the Strand would have to remain nimble and open minded.

This past week we got a good dose of both! On Monday last week we received a call from Indiana Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann's office that she would be visiting Shelby County and would like to visit the Strand. She would be visiting the next day! This was not a press conference, just a visit. Needless to say, we were thrilled.

We wanted to clearly communicate to Lt. Gov. Ellspermann what the Strand was all about. Since we are an arts organization, and art in its most basic definition is communication...let our stage do the talking, or in this case singing. We made a quick call to frequent Strand performer and former Shelby Idol winner Rob Springer. It just so happens that Rob had a song ready to go, and would be able to do it. He requested that we put a little reverberation in his mix. Strand Board member Ron Bush and Rob, with no opportunity for a rehearsal, made everything sound great.

The Lt. Gov. arrived shortly after lunch last Tuesday and spent about 45 minutes with us. The Strand volunteers discussed what the Strand means and what it has become. We are the performance home for many. We are a destination in downtown Shelbyville. We are also a place that believes in and celebrates the talents of all. After our short discussion we invited her to hear what the Strand was all about, and Rob immediately started his song. He was perfect!

As she departed, Lt. Gov. Ellspermann said she has visited many places, but this was among the most memorable! Being flexible and quick to react certainly help us shine.

Later in the week, we kept true to being open minded. Our Friday night concert was by national hip-hop artist Huey Mack. We have had Hip-Hop several times before, but this show was different. For the first time, the promoter brought in an outside sound and light company. Locally owned Kocher Brothers Sound provided quite the array of sound and lighting equipment. This is where being open minded came into play (warning, tech talk ahead).

When you attend the opera, you expect an overture. That is just the way it is. When you attend a hip-hop concert, you expect it to be loud. The Strand has a policy not allowing our peak sound volume to exceed 100 decibels. Our in house equipment doesn't work well super loud anyway, so it isn't much of a problem. The Kocher Bros. equipment has no problem getting loud. The Strand remained open minded and allowed the volume to be appropriate for the show. The audience had a great time, and everyone loved it! There were some ramifications, most notably we broke 3 light bulbs with the vibration! We love that. Let the Strand be used, that is why we exist.

Thank you to everyone who made that concert a great success. The patrons (all young, including Phil & Nancy), had wonderful comments and described the evening as "awesome."

The next night we switched gears and hosted the Bears of Blue River Festival Queen Pageant. There were many talents on our stage that evening. The contestants had wide variety of talents. We had singers, a monologue, cake decoration, flag twirling and even a self defense demonstration. The Pageant had its highest attendance since they moved to the Strand several years ago. Everyone had a great time. We congratulate all the contestants and this year's winner Erica Marcum. Erica is no stranger to the Strand. She has been a performer and volunteer at the Strand since she was a little girl.

The Bears of Blue River Festival is this week. The Strand has traditionally stayed dark during the Festival. This year we are trying something different. On Saturday August 17 comedian Greg Hahn will perform at the Strand. Our line-up of comedians has brought many out of town patrons. We generally have about 50% of the audience from our of town. We are hoping that the out of town patrons will enjoy the Festival and help add to their perception and experience in Shelbyville. Plenty of tickets are available. The show starts at 8:00pm and will be great!

The Strand deals with all sorts of things that sometimes make life difficult. We had one such thing this week. Behind the

theatre we have 4 trash totes that are generously provided by CGS Services. Someone dumped an old Lazy Boy chair next to our totes. This isn't something that is easy to remove. We have to arrange someone with a truck or trailer, take it to the County trash and pay to have it dumped. We have lots of other things to do besides dealing with this.

Other things to do. We are going to finish a long awaited project. Steve Dennis Electric is completing our electrical upgrade the first part of September. Steve contact Gary Nolley, who schedules the theatre, and requested we remain dark (litteraly) for about 10 days. The schedule worked out and the new equipment is ordered. The total cost of the project will be in excess of \$30,000 We have the funds because of many generous people and very hard work. Soon we will be able to do things like use more than 7 stage lights at a time! We are looking forward to saying goodbye to our 1916 panel that STILL powers the front of our theatre. We'll keep you posted on the progress.

Thank you for all you do. Your support is truly appreciated. Have fun at the Festival and we look forward to seeing you at the Strand!

Comedy
GREG HAHN
August 17, 2013
8:00pm

Friday Night Frights
The Shining (1980)
with special concert by
HARLEY POE

Bears of Blue River Festival
Downtown Shelbyville
August 16-18, 2013

Images on this post:

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