

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Weekly Email 11/4/2016

Written by David on November, 4 2016

Dear Strand Fan,

Opening night of RAGGEDY ANN & ANDY is tonight! This live presentation of children's theatre provides the perfect family entertainment. Come and watch our youth blossom on stage as Kati Baulton plays Raggedy Ann, Nathanielle Barnett plays Raggedy Andy, and Emma Richard plays Babette. Special free matinees for all Shelby County second-graders will be presented at the Strand during the day on November 7 & 8.

Patricia Hall, in her book "Raggedy Ann and Andy: History and Legend" writes: Raggedy Ann, and her equally spirited rag brother, Andy are the world's best-known and most adored rag dolls. At the hand of their creator, cartoonist-illustrator-author Johnny Gruelle, the Raggedys weren't ever simply dolls. They were literary characters as well, possessing attributes and outlooks reflecting trustworthiness, kindness, and spunk. Because Gruelle was a natural born storyteller, it followed that his dolls would star in whimsical, fanciful tales, based on fantasy and make believe.

Tickets for the regular performances on November 4-6 & 11-13 can be purchased in advance for \$5 at shelbycountypayers.com or Mickey's and \$6 at the door the day of the performance. Audience members can sign up to win locally crafted Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls or a framed Nancy Noel print of Raggedy Ann. This production will enchant children and their parents and grandparents who remember the charming stories of Raggedy Ann and Andy.

Did anyone see our November-December flyers around town? If you did, we made a mistake. Those showed ELF being shown on Thanksgiving? wrong! It should be November 25th the day after Thanksgiving. We have corrected them and are in the process of redistributing them. Put is on your calendar, ELF (free admission) November 25th 1pm & 7pm.

This past week Darin McIntire from Steve Dennis Electric worked on our offices. The office project is something that is never on the front burner. We are a mission focused organization, and the offices are not directly related to our performances. They will be nice when done, but at this point we have done without them, as we will always do stage projects first. Darin was going to install part of our on-stage lighting system, but the Shelby County Players were setting up for Dancing with the Shelby County Stars. He couldn't do the stage work, so the offices came to the top of the job list!

We now have 3 of the four offices ready with electricity. They are close to completion. We should be able to finish them in our January work sessions (editor's note: while the offices don't impact the performance quality, they are critical to the organizational management of our corporation)

The weather this past week was fantastic for the Strand. Why? We had the temperature swings necessary to test our new HVAC: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning system. (warning, tech talk ahead) The temperature on last Thursday was chilly. So much so we had to heat the theater. There are 4 furnaces above the stage, two were set to heat and brought the auditorium up to a comfortable temperature. The very next day it warmed up a little. The auditorium was pleasantly warm, but we knew we were going to have a sell-out crowd. The units went back to AC mode. Sure enough all 6 auditorium units called for cool during the course of the performance. The temperature never varied in the auditorium.

That is the kind of results we were hoping for. The AC kept working throughout this very warm week keeping the Shelby County Players' cast nice and cool. The next test is to let the system be autonomous. We are now setting all 7 thermostats on "automatic." In theory it will know when to call for heat, and when to call for air. We will see.

The Strand constantly has activity. Last Friday night we had a full house to see the Dancing with the Shelby County Stars Preview. We had 8 volunteers for that event. During the day before the show we had Strand volunteers and a contractor working on upgrading our electricity. After the theater was cleaned and locked, two more Strand volunteers returned. Late that night after the show, they set up the sound requirements for the Shelby County Players' upcoming show. It takes many people to make the Strand run. Our audience doesn't see all the hands that help throughout each day. That was a typical day for the Strand!

We have Bob Zany performing at the Strand on November 19th. The Strand literary crew took a look at appropriate things to write about Bob's visit. Below is by local poet Grace Theobald published in her book "Beyond The Garden Wall" by

Blue River Press, 1951.

A JOKE

It's the big things like little jokes

And swell folks like you

That help to cheer old folks like me

When they are sad and blue.

So keep on passing out your jokes,

They mean more than words can say,

Just know to that other folks think of you

As you pass life's busy way.

Come to the Strand on November 19th for an evening filled with jokes, stories, and a good time. Mrs. Theobald was right
?they mean more than words can say.?

Thank you for your support. The Strand is challenging at times, but always fun. We have wonderful performances this month. We hope you can make it. See you at the Strand!

Images on this post:

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