The Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association Newsletter
December 2012 - January 2013

What's Been Happening

In our last newsletter, we reported that we received a preliminary estimate stating we should be able to perform the work needed to safely re-open the theatre at a cost between $500,000 and $550,000. Our current Capital Campaign is designed to collect $750,000 -- $225,000 from local fundraising and $525,000 from grants. We set our target at $750,000 to provide a contingency and to fund the addition of an ADA compliant restroom. Should the $750,000 raised provide us with more funds than needed to re-open the Egyptian, we will proceed with additional enhancements to the theatre, such as completing our restoration of the balcony, upgrading the theatre's electrical systems, and adding energy efficient lighting. However, our main objective is to do what is necessary to re-open the Egyptian in early 2014.



Mike Vaughan painting Obelisk

Two major events have occurred since our last newsletter:

First, in mid-October, we began our Capital Campaign both for local fundraising and grant funding by unveiling a mural of an Egyptian obelisk, painted by City Councilor Mike Vaughan, on the south wall of the pedway near the theatre. This obelisk is to serve as our public gauge of progress toward collecting the funds we need. Our obelisk shows both the progress we are making toward collecting the $750,000 needed for construction as well as what our community has already invested in the Egyptian since March of 2006, when our city bought the theatre. The amount of community support we've received thus far is important to the foundations we are applying to for grants. In this article we will focus on how we are doing toward raising the $750,000 we need for construction.

Second, the owner of our theatre, the City of Coos Bay's Urban Renewal Agency, awarded KPFF Engineering a second contract that covers everything from detailed engineering designs, obtaining construction permits, and producing construction bid packages to providing engineering oversight and inspection during the actual construction. Our Urban Renewal Agency is providing the funding for this critical work so that progress can be continued while the ETPA focuses on raising the $750,000 needed for actual construction. The city plans on issuing bids for construction next April and starting construction next summer, assuming we are successful in raising the funds needed by that time.

Though we celebrated our formal campaign kick-off in mid October, we have been working at this for months. At our kick-off we were able to announce that we had already applied to nine foundations for a total of $465,000 in grants. In October we issued requests to three additional foundations for a total of $85,000 more since it is unlikely we will receive every grant we apply for. As part of the grant applications, Coos Bay's Mayor, Crystal Shoji, wrote a letter which she signed along with all six living past Coos Bay Mayors. The letter stated their strong support for our efforts and explained why they feel preserving the Egyptian is very important to our community. (This letter is reproduced on pages 5-6 of this newsletter.)

By the time we held our official campaign kick off, we had already received lead donations totaling a little over $34,400. When we include a transfer of previously held renovation related donations, an additional $16,300 in major donations, and $9,000 received in October from other fundraising events, by the end of October we had collected just under $75,000 or 1/3 of our total goal of $225,000. And this is just three weeks after our campaign kick-off. Not bad - and more is being received every week!

What can you expect in the immediate future? We want to maintain our schedule for re-opening the Egyptian

Theatre in early 2014. The fund raising will continue so that by this April the city will be able to issue a request for construction bids. Please help us reach this worthy goal by:

(1) volunteering your talents to help us put on successful fundraising events and activities
(2) participating in the many fun fundraising events we will put on over the next five months, and
(3) joining many of your fellow ETPA members in donating toward re-opening OUR theatre.

Teamwork gets the job done! Can we do it? You bet we can!!!

Greg Rueger
President, ETPA

Additions to the ETPA Board

We are happy to announce the election of two new directors to the ETPA's board – new to our board, but certainly not new to the task of helping us preserve and restore the Egyptian for the benefit of our community. Welcome Bob More and Paul Quarino! Bob brings his well honed fundraising capabilities to the table. Grant writer extraordinaire and a leader in many local charitable and civic organizations, Bob has taken on the role of ETPA director and Capital Campaign coordinator. He will also serve as one of the ETPA's 3 representatives on the joint City of Coos Bay and ETPA Egyptian Theatre Restoration Steering Committee. Paul brings his concert organist, master organ restorer and enthusiasm for all things Wurlitzer to the ETPA board. A lifetime member of the ETPA, Paul was donating his skills toward restoring the Egyptian's "Mighty Wurlitzer" long before the ETPA was formed. Now that he has retired, Paul plans on spending more time with us in Coos Bay (his current home is in Portland) and devoting his energy toward helping us re-open the theatre!



Bob More, MC, at the Campaign Fund Kickoff



Anella Dumas, ETPA-VP and Paul Quarino looking on at the Campaign Fund Kickoff Event



Upcoming Events

November 23, 2012- Santa Claus is Coming to Town! Join in on an annual holiday tradition: Santa's arrival in Coos Bay. Meet your friends and neighbors on the Coos Bay boardwalk on Friday, November 23rd (the day after Thanksgiving) at 5 p.m. for hot apple cider and cookies and caroling. Santa will arrive by tugboat around 5:30 p.m. Then Mayor Shoji and Santa will light the Christmas tree and walk with families to Joey's Arcade where children may visit with Santa and receive a candy cane. The festivities will continue with a free movie, *Christmas is Here Again,* at the Broadway Hall (right across from the Egyptian

Theatre) sponsored by the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association and Brian and Lea Menten. The movie starts at 7:00 p.m. but seating is limited so please come early!

December 8, 2012 Egyptian Nights - Member Appreciation Event/Annual Meeting –As many of our members may recall we used to have a member appreciation day at the theatre where we would host a free movie, have refreshments, and give away door prizes to let you know how much we appreciated your support of the organization. We are planning just such a special event for the evening of December 8, 2012, so mark your calendars and save the date! Although we don't have the theatre as our venue this year, we are putting together a fun evening where you can mingle with fellow members and meet the officers and directors who are on the ETPA board. We will answer your questions about progress in our efforts to re-open the theatre, and hope to get your support and ideas as well. The event will start at 7:00 p.m., and will be held at St. John Entertainment, 1509 Airport Way, North Bend, OR. Refreshments will be served. Please plan to join us for this special event. Our goal is to reopen the Egyptian Theatre in 2014. Teamwork gets the job done!



2011 Sounds of Christmas Concert

December 15, 2012 – Annual Sounds of Christmas Concert - Please join us for the 38th Annual "Sounds of Christmas" concert, featuring Lee Littlefield on the organ and Wilbur Jensen and the Christmas Brass. The concert is hosted by the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association and will be held at the North Bend Presbyterian Church. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December the 15th at Noon. Admission is free, with donations gratefully accepted.



January 12, 2013 – Team Casino Poker Tournament – Join us at the Broadway Hall across from the Egyptian Theatre at 7:00 p.m. for a fun-filled night of gaming excitement! For a $75.00 entry fee you will enjoy a "Texas Hold'em" tournament run by professional dealers. Winners of the tournament will receive loaded credit cards representing their share of the split. Watch our website (www.egyptian-theatre.com) for more details.

Meet Your Board Members - Lee Littlefield

Disclaimer: I enjoy playing the organ much more than tooting my own horn. That said, when asked to write something about myself for the Egyptian Theatre newsletter, I'm happy to say that music has always been a big part of my life.


Lee Littlefield playing the Mighty Wurlitzer

I was born and raised in Coos Bay. Our family lived in Englewood on 10 acres along a little creek where my mother still resides. Music lessons for my three siblings and me began in the 2nd grade, studying with Mrs. G. W. Kaufman. We were good music students, practicing our lessons each week after school under the watchful eye of our auntie. None of us found it to be drudgery, and it was a big deal to stay up late to attend the Community Concerts at Marshfield High School or to take a trip to Portland to see the traveling productions of the big Broadway musicals during their heyday in the 1960s and 70s. Kudos to our mom for instilling a love of music in her children.

Moreover, the Coos Bay D9 public school music program was second to none statewide. I can't say enough about Alice Holmback (elementary), Elaine Anderson Bessey (junior high), Helen McPherson (Marshfield Senior High School), and my organ teacher, Sister Annaloris (Coos Catholic

School), each one a much loved and respected music teacher for all. As a college music major, again, the musical foundation taught and learned in this town was solid, ensuring a fantastic college experience at Willamette University (BA) and at the University of Oregon (MMEd).

From childhood, I always had a real curiosity for the instrument under the old green cover down in the front of the Egyptian auditorium - I knew it was a pipe organ and from LP albums we listened to at home, I had my favorite theater organist - George Wright. During my high school years, Jack Coxon, who was a professional musician, had a permanent gig playing the Hammond B3 at The Skyroom atop The Chandler Hotel. He also knew how to play theater organs. Curiously, his music making was self taught and all played on the black keys----and he sounded fabulous. On several occasions he would let me into the theater and listen to me play the Wurlitzer, offering valuable tips and critiques. I have to say that when I play "Lullaby of the Leaves" or "Vienna, City of My Dreams," I play them both in the style of Jack Coxon.

I became a music teacher in Salem, Oregon when I graduated from college, and I met my husband, Jon, while he was in law school. Jon, too, had been raised in Coos Bay so we were very pleased to return to our hometown, he as a lawyer, I as a music teacher for North Bend D13. We had two children, Peter and Jane, who both have professional careers in the upper mid-west.

It was Christmas season of 1974, our first year back in Coos Bay, that the Mighty Wurlitzer and the Christmas Brass presented the first "Sounds of Christmas" concert, a free Saturday noon hour event. Additionally, there were brown bag Wurlitzer organ concerts each Friday at noon during the month of December. Ann Doving Heath, Colin McNabb, Ardys Banry and myself – we each took a Friday at the Wurlitzer, playing for shoppers, working professionals, and anyone else who heard the sounds filtering out of the theater.

It is amazing that the instrument, installed in 1925, would actually work and respond—in conditions, shall we say, not optimum. Each year I would sweep out the area around the console cleaning up all manner of filth and walking on boards suspended above bay water to reach the console platform. It's hard to fathom at this point, that occasionally even the pedal board had water lapping around it during high December tides.

Those days are over! The Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association (ETPA) is proactive about the care and maintenance of the organ and, under its management, has implemented major improvements:

- Sanitizing the building after years of filth and vermin, especially in the orchestra pit where the organ console sits;
- Installing sump pumps with re-wired and reliable electrical service to keep water from under the stage and the pit;
- Totally upgrading the heating system with which an ambient temperature can be maintained to prevent hot and cold spikes and to inhibit the natural dampness associated with life on the coast (both terrible conditions for any fine instrument).

The organ has been carefully tended by Paul Quarino, who has generously come from his home in Portland since 1980, donating his time and expertise. He is the reason the organ plays and sounds as beautifully as it does. He is a master craftsman with tools, parts and knowledge of what makes this one-of-a-kind instrument tick. Paul Quarino is also a much sought after Wurlitzer Organ artist. He has traveled to Coos Bay multiple times to play concerts and silent movie events for the benefit of the Egyptian Theatre and the Wurlitzer.



Percussion Section of Mighty Wurlitzer showing marimba, and drums, block and castanets

I presented a "Restore the Organ" Concert in the fall of 2007. Through ticketed admission and donations, approximately $3,000.00 was raised - all specified for organ upkeep.

I am confident that by the time the Egyptian Theatre and the Mighty Wurlitzer reach their 90th birthday in 2015, the theatre doors will be open again, and movies, music and the magic of all things entertainment will once again excite and beckon patrons to come and experience what this wonderful venue can offer. I look forward to the day when I am able to sit at the console in the beautiful Egyptian auditorium and transport myself and the rest of you into the world of theater organ music as it can only be played on the Mighty Wurlitzer.

City of Coos Bay

Office of the Mayor

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Egyptian Theatre (Egyptian), an icon and anchor of the City of Coos Bay is located in the heart of the downtown business district. Opening as a movie theater in 1925, the facility has been a community-gathering place and vital component of the city's economy for more than eight decades. The Egyptian is one of just a few remaining historic theaters in the country with the Egyptian motif, which became popular with the discovery of King Tut's tomb; it is the only one of these theaters to contain its original Wurlitzer organ from the 1920s. The Egyptian gained status on the National Register of Historic Places in May 2010, and was selected by the Historic Preservation League of Oregon for the 2011 Oregon's Most Endangered Places list in May 2011.

The City of Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency (Agency) purchased the Egyptian in March 2006 in an effort to assure that it would remain to serve the community. At that time, owners who had been providing the latest movies in the facility offered the building for sale when they opened a new modern movie complex for the community. A citizen group approached Coos Bay's Agency, which is made up of the Mayor and members of the City Council, with a request to purchase the Egyptian in order to preserve the historic icon. Following the City purchase of the Egyptian the Agency entered into a management agreement with the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association (ETPA) who has been successfully operating the theater, which remains in the City's ownership. In March 2011, the City closed the Egyptian to the public due to structural deficiencies that were identified by an engineer's structural review commissioned by Agency. The engineer's report was needed so that the ETPA and the Urban Renewal Agency could seek grants and donations for funding renovations.

Since the closure of the Egyptian the Agency and the ETPA have partnered to restore and open the historic theater. The ETPA board and City's Agency are working in partnership, with both providing funding and in-kind services towards the goal of

Coos Bay Boardwalk

preserving the theater. Over the past 17 months, the structure has been maintained, and a strategy for reopening the theater is being implemented as follows:

- Heating and lighting have been kept on, with marquee lighted at night to maintain a presence in the downtown.
- A market/feasibility study completed in May 2012 and shows strong community support for the theater.
- Weekly inspections of the building by city staff assure that problems are not occurring in the building.
- The Egyptian Theater Preservation Association developed a strategic plan for their future.
- An historic preservation consultant is working with the organizations to provide advice and expertise.
- A professional fundraiser and grant writer is identifying strategies for fundraising, and working with the organizations to develop a capital campaign and secure grants.

At this time, we hope that you will support our efforts to restore the Egyptian Theatre by preserving an important historic icon that is close to the hearts of so many people, and also a centerpiece for the redevelopment of our downtown.

Sincerely,

Coos Bay Mayor Crystal Shoji

Mayor Jeff McKeown
2006-2010

Mayor Joe Benetti
2000-2006

Mayor Joanne Verger
1992-2000

Mayor Roger Gould
1988-1992

Mayor Chuck Holbert
1983-1986

Mayor Don Poage
1978-1982



Dear Friend of the Egyptian Theatre,

Memories are powerful things. They can transport us back to another place and time. For me, and perhaps for you too, memories glow even more brightly at Christmastime. One particularly happy memory for me is of a concert we put on at the Egyptian Theatre the night before Christmas Eve. It was one of those spur-of-the-moment events that turned into magic. The lobby was filled with family and friends, many of whom had just arrived in town for the holidays. As they talked and laughed together, I realized that the experience we were sharing was the essence of what the entire Egyptian Theatre project has always been about. It is about people gathering together to enjoy our theatre, making memories that last a lifetime.

This Christmas we'd like to give you the opportunity to give the Gift of Memories to a friend or loved one. For a donation of $25.00 or more we will send you a special holiday gift card to give to the person of your choice, telling them that you made a donation to the Egyptian Theatre Renovation Fund in their name. Perhaps you would like to share a special memory you have about the Egyptian Theatre. This is the perfect way to share that memory with your family and friends, and at the same time offer your support to get your theatre open once again!

Our gift card is displayed at the top of this page. Just fill in the information for yourself on the gift donation card (shown on the next page), add the person's name you will be sending the card to, enclose your donation of $25.00 or more, and mail it to: Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association, 255 N. Broadway, Coos Bay, OR 97420, by no later than December 15, 2012. We will mail your Holiday Memories card to you, complete with an envelope so that you may send it on to your family and friends. Please join us at this special time of year to share the gift of memories with those you love.

On behalf of our board of directors I wish you a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to the day in the near future when we can gather at the Egyptian Theatre once again and build more memories together. Our goal is to reopen the theatre in 2014. Together we can do it!

Sincerely,
Susan Watson, Treasurer
Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association

Egyptian Theatre Capital Campaign Fund - - Gift Donation

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Gift Recipient Name _____

o $25.00 (minimum) o $50.00 o $100.00 o $250.00

o $500.00 o Other _____

Please make your checks payable to "ETPA" and return this card to 255 N Broadway, Coos Bay, OR 97420. If you prefer to make your donation with a credit card, please fill out the information sign and mail. **Thank you!**

Circle one: VISA MasterCard

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature _____

Stop by the ETPA Office
Do your Christmas shopping with us!

The office at 255 N. Broadway (in the Tioga) will be open on Black Friday and all the Saturdays between now and Christmas from 11 to 5. **Please stop by and pick up your membership buttons and any items your membership includes.** We also have new black hoodies with the original King Tut design, "Save the Egyptian" tees, other assorted tees and sweatshirts, coffee mugs, etched wine glasses, 2013 Egyptian Theatre Calendars, pens, note cards, pins and other Egyptian items for sale. We can now accept cash, checks, VISA and Master Card.



Window painting by David Wilhite

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM

THE EGYPTIAN THEATRE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION!