The Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association Newsletter
Holiday Issue 2015

What's Been Happening by Greg Rueger, ETPA President

Before giving you the good news on our new facade, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our ETPA members, patrons, board members, staff, and volunteers a **very** Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a joyous New Year!

Work continues apace on our new facade now that we have resolved a structural issue discovered when the old canopy over our Broadway entrance was removed. Our engineers specified additional anchoring of a major beam to which components of the new canopy will be attached. The required beam anchoring and a modification of the steel framing for our new canopy has been completed by DBL Construction and, as you can all see, the frame is now solidly attached to the Theatre! With this issue resolved, work will progress rapidly and you will see pleasing facade enhancements added each week. Full completion of the Broadway facade restoration is now expected by mid January.

With Thanksgiving upon us, we wish to offer a special thank you to the donors and foundations that have supported our efforts to restore our community theater's Broadway facade. Thank you City of Coos Bay (urban renewal grant), Coos County (economic development grant), Coquille Tribal Community Fund, Floyd Ingram Charitable Trust, Kinsman Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, Oregon Community Foundation, Pacific Power Foundation, and our many, many local donors!

Our Egyptian Theatre enjoyed a wonderful 90th birthday celebration and your ETPA board of directors team was re-elected at our November annual meeting. **Here's to a SECOND 90 years of the incomparable Egyptian Theatre serving our community!!!**

Enjoy all of the wonderful seasonal offerings planned for you at the Egyptian Theatre right after Thanksgiving and throughout this December! Our new high definition digital projection system is truly amazing (thank you Meyer Memorial Trust). Come check it out!

The Egyptian Theatre's 90th Birthday Celebration

Over four days of revelry, movies, special foods and wonderful memories surrounding the original opening of the Egyptian Theatre, the friends, patrons, members, board, staff and volunteers of the Egyptian gathered together to celebrate the 90th birthday of our local icon and community home. Below please find excerpts from a thrilling account of the original opening, and following that a selection of photos from our recent 90th birthday celebrations:

The Sun

Thursday, Nov. 19, 1925

> The first-nighters stormed the ramparts of the Egyptian theatre on opening night and many hundreds were turned away. It was surprising, indeed, to see the crowd that had assembled for the initial performance. L. J. Simpson welcomed the patrons ... He spoke in laudatory terms of ... this unparalleled and magnificent theatre. There were present representatives of the leading motion picture concerns of the Pacific coast, and many distinguished film stars sent congratulations ... once within the patron is

dazzled with the vari-colored paintings, wrought in Egyptian splendor by the artists brush ... The decorations are exquisite, and would cause the Pharos (*Sun spelling*) of old to stand in amazement as they gazed on their enfolding charm and beauty ... 1700 were present opening night. (Courtesy of the Marshfield Sun Printing Museum).

And, after 90 years, still going strong!

Many people enjoyed Sunday's celebratory program with Lionel Youst and the 1929 historical movie.

Our volunteers — true angels — Dez Royce at the ticket booth before our showing of The Great Gatsby

A rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" played by Paul Quarino on the Mighty Wurlitzer as Chef Frank and the North Bend High School's culinary students' pyramid of cupcakes and cake are unveiled.

Hundreds line up for our special birthday cake!

Sounds of Christmas Concert

A longtime South Coast holiday tradition, “The Sounds of Christmas” concert featuring Lee Littlefield on the Wurlitzer pipe organ and Wilbur Jensen and the
Christmas Brass will be back at the Egyptian at 12 o’clock noon on Saturday, December 12th. It is an opportunity to step back from the hustle and bustle and enjoy this musical interlude in the beautiful surroundings of the Egyptian Theatre with family, friends and the community. As it has been for more than four decades, the concert is a gift to all from the musicians involved and from the Egyptian Theatre.

Admission is free; donations are always welcome.

Young Bucs Concert

The Egyptian Theatre and the Wurlitzer Organ Fund thank the Young Bucs (Blue Grass Reunion and DooWop) for the wonderful evening of music they presented as a birthday gift fundraiser in October. The ‘joint was rockin’ with an enthusiastic audience enjoying the talent of these popular local musicians led and organized by Les Engle. A big thanks to Les, Fred Corbett, Brian Hampton, Kevin Freeman, Joe Potmesil, Stevie D.(uarte), Jacob Renard, Bob and Jerene Shaffar, Doug Jones ,Tom Beckstrom, and Paul Biondi.

From the Director's Chair by Kara Long, Egyptian Theatre Executive Director

Our new projector is now here. At the end of October we did a three day installation of our new projector. It makes our picture: bigger, brighter and sharper. Make sure you get a chance to come check it out.

We had a great visit from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) on November 12th and 13th with over 1,300 Coos County school children in attendance. We are looking forward to more OMSI shows in the future.

Please check out our upcoming holiday calendar for some must-see Holiday events and traditions. The "Elf" sockball fight is back with help from our friends the Soroptimists International of the Coos Bay Area. "Elf " with the sockball fight will be shown this year on November 27 (6 pm), 28 (7 pm) and 29th (2 pm). The showing on the 27th will start with a visit from Santa! Last year the Soroptomists distributed 925 pairs of socks to local charities that were thrown during the sockball fight. This year they will be back to help collect and distribute what we hope will be more this year.

December 12th at 12:00pm will be our 41st Annual "Sounds of Christmas" Concert with our own Lee Littlefield at the Mighty Wurlitzer and Wilbur Jensen with the Christmas Brass.

Other notable concerts will be The California Honeydrops Live at the Egyptian Theatre, December 16th (ticket information coming soon. This will be a fundraiser for Music on the Bay and The Oregon Coast Lab Band). Please check our website at www.egyptian-theatre.org and Facebook page under Egyptian Theatre Coos Bay for our full holiday schedule.

A huge "thank you" to our amazing volunteers--
without them we would not have our amazing theatre to share. 🙂

In Memoriam

The ETPA mourns the recent passing of Janet Horton-Payne. Janet was a staunch supporter of the Egyptian and committed to our success from the early days of the Association right on through the successful conclusion of our recent efforts to save the Egyptian and beyond. She volunteered in many capacities, but serving popcorn to our patrons seemed to be what she enjoyed doing most.

We are grateful for the time Janet spent with us, and we will miss her warm smile and generous heart.

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Preservation Association

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