



**The Egyptian Theatre
Preservation Association
Newsletter
February - March 2015**



**Let's Put the 'P' Back in the Egyptian! ...
... Work Toward Finishing the Broadway Facade**

By Greg Rueger, ETPA President

Actually, our goal for 2015 is to do much, much more than repair the 'P' in the Egyptian neon sign, even though that feature has captured much local interest. As you recall, we have plans for restoring/renovating the theatre's Broadway facade in its entirety. The ETPA retained George Kramer, noted preservationist and past chairman of Oregon's Heritage Commission, to develop our design. The picture below shows what we will be doing -- bringing the wonderful show that is the elaborately decorated interior of our community's theatre to the street. The 'P' will once again be back in the Egyptian -- but through the addition of a historically based but entirely new marquee mounted on a new canopy/awning.

Where are we on this project? As you can see from the exterior restoration already implemented, quite a ways along. Our efforts to refurbish the theatre's exterior received major boosts from the Meyer Memorial Trust and Coos Bay's Urban Renewal Agency. We used these funds to initiate exterior renovation construction and much has already been completed. The exterior of our theatre boasts a new coat of paint and roofing work has been completed with improved gutters and drainage throughout. Our theatre's entrance has been restored, with new doors sporting fabulous cobra handles, a ticket booth that now extends out from the doors as it did when the theatre was originally opened, and a transom over the ticket booth that lets more light into our lobby area. Our Broadway facade also has four new poster display cases (with LCD TVs), decorative painting and a marble border, and a wonderful tile design walkway in front. We have ordered the new marquee and soon you will be seeing decorative Egyptian themed frames around our new poster display cases and the fire escape doors that open onto Broadway.

What remains to be accomplished? The main items still before us are the construction of the new canopy/awning, the installation of our new marquee onto the canopy/awning, refurbishment of our existing Egyptian pylon sign, the addition of decorative items on our facade above the canopy/awning, and some needed refurbishment of our historic ticket booth and lobby. For these we need to raise additional funds.

December was a great month on the fund-raising front. The Kinsman Foundation awarded us \$15,000 toward our facade renovation. (They previously provided us \$10,000 for our Phase 1 structural repairs.) The Pacific Power Foundation awarded us another \$5,000 (they gave us our first grant, \$5,000, in the Phase 1

capital campaign) and the Floyd Ingram Charitable Foundation awarded us \$10,000. We have applied for additional grants from the Coquille Tribal Community Foundation, the MJ Murdoch Charitable Trust and Coos County (a Coos County Economic Development Grant). We hope to raise the remaining funds needed by this spring and to have the new Broadway Egyptian facade gracing our downtown before we celebrate the Egyptian Theatre's 90th anniversary in November!

Won't you help us put the 'P' back in the Egyptian? (And more!). Please return the below form, with your donation. **THANK YOU.**

Egyptian Theatre Façade Fund 2015 Donation

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$250.00 \$500 Other _____

Please make your checks payable to "ETPA" and return this form and your donation to ETPA, 229 S 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 # _____ 3 digit Security Code _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature _____

WHERE HAVE ALL THE MEMBERS GONE?

Cheers to all you members who so generously re-upped when you received the November letter advising dues were due for the year 2015.

We are urging you who haven't as yet responded to do so without delay! Membership numbers are crucial in backing up grant requests for the ongoing projects on this beautiful community center we all enjoy. Membership forms are always available on the ETPA website and at the theatre.

And members, remember: The Fred Meyer Community Awards program is a great way to support the Egyptian Theatre. Fred Meyer advises that they have only 20 sign-ups so far that benefit the Egyptian. If you shop at Freddie's, go online and sign up. This is a painless way to help the cause.



George Whitty: A Night at the Egyptian

Coos Bay's own George Whitty will be performing at the Egyptian Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 7. The event marks the first time Whitty has performed locally since a sold-out show at the South Coast Musical Festival in 2009.

Whitty's performance will be an extraordinary improvised solo setting in which complete musical environments are conjured from total silence to a rich sonic tapestry.

George Whitty is the son of John and Teri Whitty of Coos Bay and a graduate of Marshfield High School. A four-time Grammy-winning producer, he has performed as a keyboardist for Carlos Santana, Herbie Hancock, David Sanborn, Celine Dion, the Brecker Brothers and Chaka Khan, and on some of history's biggest-selling CDs.

Tickets for the performance are \$12 for adults and \$7 for students, and are available at Books by the Bay in North Bend. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and "A Night at the Egyptian" with George Whitty will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Egyptian community mourns passing

Members of the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association joined other members of the community this week in mourning the passing of Tricia Benetti, who, with her husband, Joe Benetti, owned and operated Benetti's Italian Restaurant, across the street from the Egyptian Theatre.

The longtime ETPA supporter died Jan. 15, 2015, after a 20-month battle with cancer.

"Tricia and Joe were among our earliest supporters," ETPA President Greg Rueger said. "They put together our \$500-per-plate fund-raising dinner during our capital campaign – the most successful of our fund-raising events."

A celebration of Tricia Benetti's life is planned at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, at Benetti's Italian Restaurant.



Joe and Tricia Benetti hosted a fund-raising dinner at their restaurant in 2013.

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

Wow, 2014 went out with quite a bang! The last five days of 2014, we had more than 1,600 people through our doors. Wrapping up 2014, we are happy to announce that we had 102 events that drew more than 11,000 people to the Egyptian, with service of more than 1,200 volunteer hours! Thank you to all who came out to our events and all who volunteered to make our first six full months of operations successful.

I am asked frequently how I pick the movies and how much they cost so I thought I would fill you all in on what goes into programming the Egyptian. The studios charge us \$250 to \$350 to show a film, so when picking films, I keep in mind that I need at least 50 to 70 people at \$5 (full price adult ticket) to pay for the rental. Our movie prices for non-members are \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and \$2.50 for children 12-under. Members pay \$4 for adults, \$3 seniors and \$2 for children 12-under. So we actually need more than 50 to 70 people to attend. So you see, I need to pick titles that appeal to a lot of folks. Disney does not license any of their cartoons to theatres like ours and George Lucas rarely licenses *Star Wars*, so as much as I would love to show those, we cannot.

Upcoming events and first part of 2015 events include:

In the second weekend in January, we kicked off an 8-month Harry Potter series. We had 350 people attend the first Harry Potter film and many were in costume. The next Harry Potter weekend will be in February on Valentine's Day Weekend.

There are fun events being planned in March for **Spring Break** for the local school children. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we will be able to offer 2:00 p.m. matinees for three days during the week for the kids enjoying their Spring Break. Also in the works for Spring Break will be an Easter Egg Treasure Hunt. Watch our website and Facebook for details in March.

I am working on **Tall Ships Days** and we hope to bring a lot of fun programming around the Tall Ships being in Coos Bay. Disney has granted us the licensing rights to show *Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl*, which is a major accomplishment for us because Disney does not license their live action films often to theatres like the Egyptian.

February Schedule

February Schedule			
Feb. 6	Fri	The Notebook	7:30
Feb. 7	Sat	George Whitty Concert	7:30
Feb. 8	Sun	The Notebook	2:00
Feb. 13	Fri	Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets	7:30
Feb. 14	Sat	Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets	7:30
Feb. 15	Sun	Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets	2:00
Feb. 20	Fri	Talladega Nights	7:30
Feb. 21	Sat	Talladega Nights	7:30
Feb. 27	Fri	Transformers (Fundraiser)	7:30
Feb. 28	Sat	A Beautiful Mind Sponsored by Banner Bank fundraiser for the Nancy Deveraux Center	7:30
Mar. 1	Sun	A Beautiful Mind	2:00

Business Sponsors \$250 and up Since Our Reopening

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Abel Insurance Agency
Banner Bank
Bay Area Rotary
Benetti's Italian Restaurant
Boondocks, Inc.
City Subs
Coos Bay Downtown Association
Coos Bay Timber Operators
Farr's True Value Hardware
Fidelity National Title
First Call Resolutions
Kramer & Company
Pacific Power
South Coast Celtic Society
Southwest Physical Therapy
The Mill Casino

Did You Know?

You can help the Egyptian Theatre while you shop. Amazon Smile now benefits the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association. Simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com/> and say that you want to support the Egyptian Theatre.

You can also use your Fred Meyer card to help when you shop. Go to www.fredmeyer.com and click Community Rewards to link your Rewards Card to help the ETPA. We recently learned we have only 20 people signed up for the Fred Meyers program. If you have a rewards card, please consider signing up and helping us out.

We received a little over \$133 from these two programs for the quarter ending September 30th. Please sign up - every little bit helps!

Did You Know?

Your donations sold at Antiques and Collectibles in November and December netted us nearly \$400. Please continue to keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning for anything that we may be able to sell there. You will be given a form to use for a tax deduction if you request it.

Did You Know?

It costs about \$250 a day just to "keep the lights on" in the theatre so all of these donations really play a huge part in making us successful.

Thank you all and please, keep up the good work!



Preservation Association

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