



The Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association Spring 2024

As I was thinking about the putting together this newsletter, I started looking through old ones and came across an article I wrote in 2021 about the history of the theatre. We now have over 900 people who receive our newsletters and calendars via email and another 200+ who receive a mailed copy of the newsletter. So, I thought it a good time to review and update that article for those new to the theatre and those who have, as I had, forgotten much of her history.

Past, Present and Future by June Willoughby, Secretary to the ETPA and Newsletter Editor

For those of you who are relatively new to the area, you may not know much about the history of our beloved Egyptian, where she has been and where we hope she is going.

In 2005, the news came out that Coming Attractions wanted to sell the then 80-year-old theatre and add on to the complex at Pony Village. The Sounds of Christmas Concert in 2005 was to be the last and I remember the line wrapped down the block and around the corner as folks waited to get in to what we thought was to be the end of an era.

But instead, a small bunch of people gathered and spearheaded a group that formulated a plan to “Save the Egyptian”. The group convinced the City of Coos Bay to buy the building using urban renewal agency dollars. In March of 2006, the group incorporated and the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association (ETPA) was born as a tax exempt 501(3)(c). The Theatre once again started showing movies in late 2006. They were not first run movies and probably never will be again due to a deed restriction that Coming Attractions threw in at the last minute. But her doors were open and the smell of fresh popcorn filled the air!

In 2007, the balcony theaters were removed and the public was allowed in the balcony once again for the 2007 Christmas concert. In 2010, the 85-year-old Egyptian Theatre was recognized for its unique qualities by being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Also, in 2010, the City commissioned an engineering study that showed the back wall of the theatre was sinking into the silt and no longer structurally sound (have you ever seen how badly our stage tilts?) Then the Japanese Tsunami hit in March of 2011, and the City closed the Theatre over concerns it was structurally unsafe.

Originally, the engineer’s report to repair it had such a big number in it, that no one thought it possible to raise that kind of money. But several experts were brought on board and they saw the possibilities – we didn’t need to raise the whole amount all at once – the work could be broken into stages that were manageable and so the fundraising began. Over the next year and a half over \$1,000,000 was raised between grants and contributions! The work was started and in June of 2014, the Theatre reopened, complete with handicap accessible restrooms. (But we still have restrooms upstairs for those of you able to climb.)

In 2014, before we reopened, a new boiler was installed for heat and some unused cinema quality speakers were discovered and reinstalled. In 2015, we purchased a new (to us) digital projector with a grant we received. It is the best projector on the Oregon Coast. In 2016, the new façade was completed and we also started discussions with Tiffin of Ohio about redoing our stage rigging. In the summer we finished our projector upgrade to 4K resolution and obtained headphones for the hearing impaired. (If you have any hearing issues you should try them! I do frequently.) In 2017, we upgraded to Dolby Sound Surround. Have you seen the woofer backstage? It’s HUGE!

In 2016, we closed our Farmer’s Market Booth and set up a table in front of the Theatre. We opened for tours, sold a little popcorn and sold souvenirs. And, from noon to one, we had live organ music. Everyone was welcome to bring a sack lunch and relax to the sounds of the Mighty Wurlitzer. We hope to continue that this summer.





In the summer of 2017, a rope holding one of our stage backdrops broke and the drop fell. These are the antique, hand painted backdrops that hang above the stage and date back to 1925. The ropes were hemp and over time, they rotted. So, we stopped using all of those until such time as they could be fixed. If you attended any of the Teen Idol Contests over the years, or any live concert, you may have seen some of them. I didn't even know the backdrops existed until after the theatre was reopened under the ETPA and I took a tour. We did get some grants which allowed us to buy literally miles and miles of rope and cables to work on the rigging. That was started in the summer of 2019,

and actually continued during our most recent closure. Also, during the closure, people have been working behind the scenes to patch the drops themselves where they were ripped or were otherwise damaged over the years.

During 2018, we had to replace some equipment including our ice machine, the printer for the concession stand register, the box office intercom and the sound mixer board. Running a theatre is not cheap! Thanks to the many donations we received we were able to do this without using our capital reserves.

Then there was the roof. During the initial remodel in 2013, the roof over the stage house was replaced but the main auditorium room was not. In 2019 we noticed a few leaks so once again, the ETPA raised grants. The new roof was finished in the fall of 2020. So, we can be warm and dry and safe in the theatre once again.

Over the 6+ years that Kara Long was with us as our Executive Director, she experimented with programming to try and figure out what will sell enough seats to keep us solvent and what do people like. The Manhattan Shorts and Oscar Documentaries were some of what she found that did fairly well. In addition, a variety of groups in Coos Bay and North Bend like to rent the theatre for fund raisers. They do well and so do we. And of course, there are a few standalone movies that we can count on to bring in the crowds, like "Elf" and "The Goonies". (Goonies will be playing March 1st & 2nd!)

Since reopening after COVID we have hit a few bumps in the road. Kara decided to retire from theatre management and we finally found our current Executive Director, Jill Rasmusen, in the fall of 2022. Jill has worked very hard to develop new programming like "Wednesday with Walt" which ran last summer with a variety of Disney movies and cartoons. We plan on doing that again this summer. She also has experimented with renting the theatre for birthday parties. The party is held for an hour before a Saturday matinee and includes admission for 20 to the movie. We've had 2 parties so far. Contact Jill for more information on this.

The Community Concert Series returned to the theatre in the fall of 2023 to much acclaim. There is one concert remaining this season – a Beach Boys Tribute Band on April 14th, and we've heard rumors that acts are already being booked for next year. "Pigs on the Wing" will be back April 26th. We also had a fun event called "Circus on Ice" last May. It included a lot of audience participation and everyone had a great time. We think they are coming back this year.

We've been super busy in February with 16 events in 29 days! That has been a test for our wonderful volunteers. We're always looking for more people to help so we can keep the events flowing.

And we've had some more upgrades over the last year or two. The aisle lighting downstairs and in the balcony has been replaced. That resulted in replacing some of the carpeting in the balcony. We purchased a laser printer so we can print all of our own materials and a new computer for the office.

Recently we upgraded our wi-fi to allow renters to be able to get online. Previously we weren't able to do that because we had to keep our Point-of-Sale equipment on a secure line. We also just purchased a new podium that will be wired to the projection booth and allow presenters to control their PowerPoints and other presentations themselves. These purchases were all made possible through the various grants we applied for and received this last year.

We still have things that we need to address. I'm sure most of you are aware that the street in front of the theatre periodically floods. That is an issue the City must address, but thanks to the work of Jay Farr and his persistence in addressing the City Council members, we believe we are on the right track. He is our hero!

The back wall continues to leak when heavy rain hits it from certain directions. We're working towards a solution that won't break the bank. Until that is fixed, we have to put leveling the stage on hold. And we're at a standstill on replacing the main curtain but looking for some other options. But hey, this theatre is nearly 100 years old so some aches and pains are bound to happen. We have recently been in contact with George Kramer, one of the consultants who helped us back in 2011 and who has been involved with the Liberty Theater renovations. He has agreed to come back on board as a consultant as needed and help us "relight our fire" for getting the help we need.

Speaking of being 100 years old, the Egyptian will be celebrating her 100th birthday in November 2025. We plan on having a big birthday celebration so stay tuned. In the meantime, how can you help us? Well, I already mentioned volunteering. We can always use more people to share the fun behind the concessions counter. Or consider joining our Board of Directors and help us plan for our Centennial. Other than that, there are two things you can do to help us:

- 1. Come to events!** Show your support by attending movies and other events that we host.
- 2. Become a member of the ETPA.** Your membership helps keep the lights on and in return you get discounted tickets for movies that are sponsored by the ETPA. You also get 15% off concessions at any event.

But remember, you have to show your membership card to get these perks.

See you at the movies!



Since June has pretty much covered where we were, where we are, and where we want to be for this newsletter, I just wanted to add a few words. Our Executive Director, Jill, has been keeping busy, scheduling events, communicating with the public through our social media platforms, and keeping the business end of the theatre successful. In addition, we have an in-house janitor, but I've caught Jill numerous times

scrubbing and mopping the auditorium, stairwells, and lobby floors. She doesn't have to do these things, but she does them because she always goes the extra mile, and because she wants your experience at the Egyptian to be the best! She is a self-starter focused on tasks from start to finish, and we are all very fortunate she's ours! I also want to thank our Team of Volunteers for generously giving their time so that our events can be successful, we couldn't do it without you!

Birthday Parties!



Tut's Tablet

- ◇ Our Volunteers of the Year for 2023 were Patti Bennett and June Willoughby. Our Volunteer of the Month for January 2024 was Lynda Sanders. Thank you to all of our great volunteers!
- ◇ Did you know Egyptians were the first to invent eye makeup as far back as 4000 B.C.?
- ◇ They also invented paper in the form of papyrus long before the Chinese. Some of the art decorating the theatre's walls is painted or drawn on papyrus.
- ◇ Did you know that the cobras on our door handles are smiling? Take a look the next time you come to a show.
- ◇ Did you know Sidewalk Tiles and Seat Name Plaques are still available for sale? These can make a great way to remember a loved one who loved the theatre. Check with Jill for more information. 541-808-8295.
- ◇ We have a lost & found table in the lobby now. Unclaimed items will be donated or disposed of soon so please check.

We can always use more volunteers – will you help?

Now, as we are getting more bookings and are open more days a week, we are in need of more volunteers. There are only 2 paid people for the Egyptian—our Executive Director and our Custodian. All the other people you see behind the concessions counter, selling tickets and running the movies as well as the Board of Directors are volunteers. We have a small band of regulars and some other folks who volunteer from time to time. We need more people who are willing to give a few hours a month to help with concessions or one of the other jobs.

On a given weekend with 3 shows, we need up to 6 volunteers per show or 18 people. In a month that translates to 72 slots to fill and we only have about 10 people who volunteer on any regular basis.

For a little over an hour of work, your “pay” is free admission to the event (even concerts like Pigs on the Wing), free popcorn and free soda. What a deal! And beginning Feb 8th, 2024 volunteers who accumulate 50 hours will receive a free sweatshirt (\$50+ value).

Signing up for shifts is done via a Google Spreadsheet and/or via email. Training, except for projection which takes a couple of lessons, is on the job and really isn't that difficult. If you can spare a couple of hours a month, we could really use you.

Send an email to volunteer.at.the.Egyptian@gmail.com and join a great team.

Do you recycle your used cans and bottles for the \$.10 deposit? Would you consider donating that to the Egyptian? We have blue bags that you can fill and take to the recycling center.

With the single exception of Grauman's Egyptian in L.A. and its location on Hollywood Blvd, **EVERY OTHER EGYPTIAN THEATER EVER BUILT ON THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES... EVERY ONE HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED — EXCEPT YOURS.** Congratulations, Coos Bay.”
From a talk by George Kramer, Preservation Consultant, March 7, 2013.

2024 Business Supporters

7 Devils Brewing Co.
Banner Bank
Coos Bay Sanitation
Coos Bay - North Bend Rotary
Coquille Tribal Community Fund
Farr's Hardware
HMW CPAs & Associates, LLC
Juul Insurance Agency
McKay's Markets
Shoji Planning
South Coast Family Dentistry
Waste Connections

2024 Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association Board of Directors

Patti Bennett
Jeremy Conway
David Engholm
Chris Malone

Paul Quarino
June Willoughby
Patti Worthen

Jill Rasmusen, Executive Director

Members as of 2.10.2024

Adams, Frances & Dell	Franks, Patrick	Mace, Trish
Alford, Gary	Gabel, Leslie	Mahaffy, Robert
Anderson, Barbara	Galer, Tyler, Amanda & Sybil	Malone, Chris & Nicole
Anderson, Margaret Ann	Galten, Tim	Manders, Ernest & Sandra
Anderson, Susan	Garvey, Jerome	Mark, Stephen
Banks, Sheila	Gernegliaro, Mary Ann	Matthews, Verena
Baron, Rhona	Gould, Brian & Molly	McCraw, Kenneth
Batdorff, Alfreda & Jim	Graybill, Mike	Medlin, Cynthia
Bennett, Patti	Groben, Betsy	Miles, Barbara
Bennett, Tom	Halleck, Elaine	Miller, Linda & Steve
Benson, Philippa	Hannon, Melissa	Moffitt, Christine
Beuttel, Hank	Harder, Marcie & Mike	Murray, Wayne & Carol
Beyer, Dan	Harris, Dale	Nasby, Shelly
Blom, Don	Heath, Ann & Michael	Nay, Lora
Brecke, Brenda	Henke, Joseph	Noordhoff, Susanna
Buften, Linda	Hennick, Mike & Sharon	Paczecniak, Mary
Bunyard, Lorie	Hernandez, Jean & Jim	Pease, Annie
Burdg, Don	Herning, Norm	Pellas, Mike and Wendee
Cameron, Susan	Hicks, Scott & Marcia	Petrofes, Michelle
Carlson, Brad	Hodder, Jan	Poole, Art & Toni
Carlson, Kurt	Hooper, Steve	Poresky, Paul
Carpenter, Frank & Nona	Huffman, Donald	Quarino, Paul
Chilla, Barbara	Huggins, Robin	Rabin, Donna
Chu, Ben & Elisabeth	Huntsman, Connie	Reid, Josie
Coker, Tim & Sue	Hurbis, Charles	Reiff, Debra
Conway, Jeremy	Jacobson, Jill	Remele, Alan & Judy
Cook, Anne & Joe	Jaeggli, Sally & Nat	Rhea, Ralph & Anne
Cousens, Grant & Rae Lea	James, Margallee	Richardson, Steve
Crombie, Howard	Jansen, Joyce & Nick	Rieth, John
Crombie, William	Johnson, Debra Dee	Robb, Isaac
Crandall, Chuck	Kamrau, Bob	Robb, Joel & Karen
Davis, Norma	Keizer, Ann	Robb, Samuel & Caitlin
Day, Jackie	Keller, Diana	Roberts, Steve
de Jong, Pamela	Kendrick, Joan & Bill	Rodgers, Eleanor
De Metz, Carolyn	Kittrell, David	Rogers, Sharon
Demmers, Mike	Klein, Nancy	Rueger, Barbara & Greg
Detwiler, Michael	Knudsen, Jesse	Ryan, Margaret
Donaldson, Steve	Koreiva, M. J.	Saint, Janet & Jeff
Ellis, Janice & Allen	Larsen, Lynn	Scoville, G. Kent
Ehrendreich-Roberts, Denise	Lea, Janet	Seibert, Raquel
Engholm, Lupita & David	Leberti, Kimberly	Seip, Ron & Suzanne
Engle, Les	Lew, Dr. Wei	Serpa, Carol
Erickson, Kathy	Lilley, Melinda & Eric	Shafer, Jen
Farr, Jay & Victoria	Littlefield, Jane	Sharps, Charles & Susan
Farr, Joyce	Littlefield, Lee & Jon	Shinglehouse Auto & Salvage,
Fereday, Jamie	Littrell, Steve & Becky	Simon, Emily
Fischer, Dr. Gerald & Kay	Long, Kara	Simpson, Vern & Judy
Fisher, Laura	Lovell, Ron & Judy	Snyder, Juanita

Snyder, Pat & Gail
 Spooner, Yvonne
 Sprague, Jessica
 Stack, Patrick
 Stickler, Barbara
 Stockert, Mary-Margaret
 Stoffel, Janet
 Stoll, Alison & Wayne
 Sullivan, Jon
 Sund, Brenda
 Sund, Irene
 Swafford, Debra
 Swenson, Judy & Ed

Talbot, Linda
 Taylor, Barbara
 Tilton, Dave & Janet
 Todd, Carol & Don
 Toliver, LN
 Tribble, Michael
 Undell, Keri Lynn
 Valerio, Marie
 VanHorn, Sarah
 Veysey, Twila & Doug
 Vineyard, Kathleen
 Waesche, Aaron
 Wagner, Dick & Judy

Wheeler, Diana
 Whitmer, Margery & Bill
 Whitty, Teri & John
 Whitwer, Kathy & Richard
 Whitwer, Sharon
 Willoughby, June
 Woods, Jeanne & Steve
 Workhoven, Nick & Deanne
 Young, Robert & Gina
 Youst, Lionel
 Zimmerman, Al & Elaine

Please Note:

You must present your membership card in order to receive your discounted admission on ETPA events.

You can use it for the refreshment discount at any event.

If you are a senior citizen (55 or older) you must request the senior rate when you purchase your tickets.

March Events

Friday	1-Mar	5:00	Wine Walk
Friday	1-Mar	7:30	Goonies
Saturday	2-Mar	2:00	Goonies
Saturday	2-Mar	7:00	Pete's Dragon
Friday	8-Mar	7:00	Alice in Wonderland (Tim Burton)
Saturday	9-Mar	10:00	Finding Nemo
Saturday	9-Mar	2:00	Pursuit of Happiness
Wed	13-Mar	6:00	Coos Watershed Annual Mtg.
Saturday	16-Mar	2:00	Bridge to Tarabithia
Friday	22-Mar	7:00	Splash
Saturday	23-Mar	2:00	Splash
Friday	29-Mar	7:00	Mission to Mars
Saturday	30-Mar	7:00	The Thing (1982)



While we try our very best not to miss anyone from our member list, mistakes sometimes happen. If you see an error or omission, kindly email coosbayegyptian@gmail.com

Tut wants to know-
 Have you renewed your ETPA Membership for 2024?
 As of 2/10/2024 we have 168 paid memberships
 Last year we had over 225.



Preservation Association

229 S. Broadway, Coos Bay, OR 97420
(541) 269-8650 www.egyptian-theatre.org

EGYPTIAN THEATRE PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION
COOS BAY, OR 97420
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Please join or renew your membership for 2024



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____
Street address City Zip

Email _____ Phone _____

All memberships will receive a 15% discount on all food concessions.
Your membership card must be presented to the cashier at the time of the sale.

Please check one:

Senior/Military/Student	_____ \$25	Pharaoh	_____ \$100
Single	_____ \$30	Cleopatra	_____ \$250
Family	_____ \$45	King Tut	_____ \$500
Sphinx	_____ \$75	Pyramid	_____ \$1,000

Credit Card: _____ Exp: _____ CVC: _____

Volunteer Program

As a non-profit theatre, volunteer teams are essential to "running the show." Just 3-4 hours per month helps. If you have time, please check your interest in the box below and provide your email address above so we can send you a link to our sign-up sheet.

_____ Projection _____ Concessions/Box Office Sales

Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association, 229 S. Broadway, Coos Bay, OR 541-808-8295