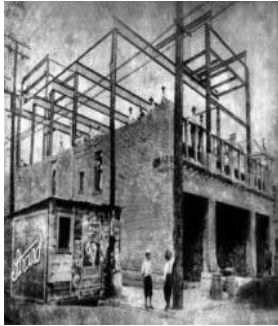


# The Curtain Raiser

DECEMBER 2009

ISSUE 1

## History



**Construction of the Strand Theatre circa 1920**

The Strand Theatre held its grand opening on Monday, November 15, 1920. The first pictures featured were "The Branded Woman" and Fatty Arbuckle in "The Garage." Admission prices were 17 cents and 33 cents. The Strand Theatre was the first structure to be built on the corner of 5th Street and Jefferson Avenue. It took eight months to construct and cost an estimated \$100,000. It was the first steel-framed structure in Moundsville, M.A. Sybert,

promoter, owner, and manager of the theatre, and local contractor Thomas Shimp & Sons, made certain that the building was technologically up-to-date, and included many modern amenities including central heat, Class "A" fire rating and the steel beam reinforced walls and ceilings.

The Strand ran first-run movies from 1920 until it closed in 1968. While not showing films, Sybert's Strand hosted a variety of Vaudeville acts, minstrel shows and other thespian productions. The theatre operated regularly until 1968. The Strand sat empty for eight years until it's reopening in 1976. The theatre ran first-rate movies for another 20 years until it closed in 1996. The curtain fell for what was to have been the final closing of the historic part of Moundsville's uptown.

## Preservation Project

Currently we are in Phase II of the Project. Right now, American Electric Power has installed a new 1200 amp service to the theatre. This constituted the installation of three new transformers at the electric pole and run the electric service into the building underground.

After going through a bidding process with electrical contractors, Yahn Electric of Wheel-

ing was awarded the job of running the new electric service throughout the building. This work is complete. Yahn is also installing the Fire Detection system in the Strand and will be complete by November 1st.

H.E. Neumann of Wheeling was awarded the project of installing the new HVAC throughout the building. The installation is complete, the systems have checked

out and the unit is ready to use.

Scherrer Engineering of Wheeling, our general contractor has roughed-in five new restrooms including a handicapped, unisex restroom.

We have gotten quotes on insulating the building and for pest control.

Our progress has been stopped until we are

able to accumulate capital funds to resume renovation. It is estimated that \$500,000 will be needed to finish the theatre. We will be holding events in the theatre before the renovation is 100% complete.

### Upcoming Events...

**November 8th Elkfest**  
GrandVue Park 6:00pm

**November 21st Open House**  
Celebrating the Grisell Center for the Arts and the Strand Theatre

**December 5th - Christmas Concert**  
**St. Francis Xavier Church**

This event is free to the public as a gift from the Strand Theatre Preservation Society for your support and generous contributions to the Strand Theatre Preservation Society restoration project over the past year.

### Did You Know...

**Former WV Governor Arch A. Moore's mother played the organ during the silent movies featured at the Strand Theatre.**



The Strand Theatre following the restoration of the original Marquee and Doors.

## FRIENDS OF THE STRAND

The backbone of any organization is its membership, which includes the scores of individuals who give significant time as board members, volunteers, donors, and patrons. Your support is an honored act of service to the community, demonstrating the value you place on the performing arts and all the ways the performing arts lift up, enrich, and inspire us.

We value the important role our supporters play in the continued success of what has become known as the "Strand Theatre Preservation Society." We continue to develop relationships with local businesses and donors, as well as officials on the state and federal level for grants and funding.

Today the Strand Theatre Preservation Society would like to develop a better relationship with you by offering a membership to you to become "A Friend of the Strand". Your membership will demonstrate that the community supports the project and looks forward to the rewards and benefits that will follow its completion.

The Strand Theatre Preservation Society appreciates your continued support!

### Membership

**Individual Membership Fees:** \$20 Per Person

**Benefits:** One Year Subscription to the Quarterly Newsletter

- E-Mail / Mail Notifications of News and Events
- Invitation to the Annual Dinner
- Name will appear on the website as a member of the society
- Discount on ticket sales and admission fees
- Membership Card

**Ways to Join...**

- Complete the form below and mail to:  
804 Fifth Street, Moundsville
- E-Mail - [Strand@StrandTheatreWV.Com](mailto:Strand@StrandTheatreWV.Com)
- Calling the Chamber Office 304-845-2773  
or Tiffany Turner 304-845-3431

**Business Membership:**

**Stagehand: \$100**

- One Year Subscription to the Quarterly Newsletter
- E-Mail/Mail Notifications of News and Events
- Invitation to the Annual Dinner
- Two (2) Complimentary Tickets to one (1) event of your choice
- Written Recognition in programs distributed at each event
- Name will appear on the website as a member of the society
- Membership Card

**Chorus: \$250**

- Stagehand Benefits PLUS:
- Two (2) Complimentary tickets to two (2) events of your choice
- ¼ page Ad in the Annual Musical Program  
and a Business Card Size Ad on the Yearly Ad Board

**Director: \$500**

- Stagehand Benefits PLUS:
- Two (2) Complimentary tickets to three (3) events of your choice
- ½ Page Ad in the Annual Musical Program  
and a Business Card Size Ad on the Yearly Ad Board

**Individual Membership \$20 per person**

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Membership**

Stagehand \$100 \_\_\_\_ Chorus \$250 \_\_\_\_ Director \$500 \_\_\_\_  
 Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

*For More Information Visit [WWW.STRANDTHEATREWV.COM](http://WWW.STRANDTHEATREWV.COM)*