



Backstage

at the historic 7th Street Theatre

...where stars light the sky and the stage

2020: The year we won't forget (but would like to)

And how are you?

With this newsletter we bring our sincere hope that you and your loved ones are making it through this trying year. We have gotten to know so many people over the years and send you our best.

It's been a wild ride

You can see from our brief synopsis of the year that we did have some events, but most had to be canceled. Not mentioned here were three "Popcorn to Go" nights where we sold popcorn at the door, which was a big success, thanks to the many popcorn fans that we have.

As with every person and other businesses, there have been some never-before-seen challenges. How can we handle a safe reopening? How would we block off our seats? What do we do in the lobby for concessions? We blocked off seats with tape. It was an easy and economical way to separate groups of people. (See photo below.) We used blue painter's tape on the lobby carpet to mark where to stand for concessions. All volunteers and employees wore masks and gloves.

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2020 at the 7th Street Theatre

January:

- ◆ *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* film

February:

- ◆ Ted Vigil concert
- ◆ *Walk the Line* film
- ◆ HHS Drama presented the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
- ◆ Miss Grays Harbor and Outstanding Teen pageants
- ◆ Jason Andrews and Niels Dunker Magic Show and Juggling

March:

- ◆ *Bullitt* film

March 15 through July 31:

CLOSED DUE TO PANDEMIC.

- ◆ Five movies canceled
- ◆ Young Artist Showcase canceled
- ◆ 7th Street Kids performance canceled for the first time since they began in 1992

August:

- ◆ Grays Harbor Dance recital canceled due to restrictions for live events
- ◆ *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* film (our reopening film)

September through October:

- ◆ Movies: *The Graduate*, *Ring of Fire*, *Dial M for Murder*, and *Shrek*

November through December:

- ◆ *The Guns of Navarone* film
- ◆ Nov. 15, canceled due to second wave of restrictions: *The Polar Express*, *A Christmas Story* and *Christmas in Connecticut*



This was taken Friday Sept. 18 at Ring of Fire, a 1961 film which had many scenes filmed in the Wynoochee area. This is 57 people spread out in the auditorium before the movie.

We also had some challenges, and still do, about canceling and/or re-scheduling rented events, our movies, and how best to take care of our movie sponsors who have paid sponsorships for movies that we haven't shown yet.

In August our big reopening was *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*. The Star Wars films are not always available for licensing. In fact, the original deadline for screening in 2020 had been May 31st, and we had originally scheduled it in May. Then the studio extended the deadline for screenings through the end of 2020 once the pandemic spread and closures were happening all over the country. We hoped to get a decent attendance, and we did, but it was about 70% less than we had at the Star Wars film we screened in August 2019.

People were not and are not currently comfortable attending events in an indoor environment. Even though we can space our seating safely with our 990 seats at 25% or 50% capacity, it's still an enclosed room with people in it, which is understandably scary to a lot of people. We also have been having challenges with getting volunteers at the few movies we've had since reopening.

We all hope that a vaccine will soon become available and used by the majority of the population within the next six months.

What's next on our project list? Lighting and sound!

The top two complaints we get from our patrons is our lighting and sound quality. We have decided to tackle those two projects next.

In the late 1930s the theatre owner installed hanging baffling on the back walls of the auditorium and applied material to the front of the projection booth because there were problems with the bounce-back sound even then. We removed the baffling in 2008 because it was horribly filthy and could not be cleaned. We then discovered beautiful murals under them! Following that, we discovered that the sound quality was deteriorated.

We are in the process of hiring an acoustician to perform tests and provide us with options to improve the sound quality without damaging the murals.

The lighting throughout the auditorium is provided by light bulbs mounted above the façade walls (see photo to the right). There are high whites, low whites (which dim), red and blue lights. All of the lights are the old incandescent light bulbs, and many of them are burned out. Many of the sockets are not working. To replace the high bulbs requires an extremely tall ladder, and the person needs to check which bulbs need replacing and then travel up and down the ladder several times to get the right bulbs. Also, the blue and red lights are not easy to find these days.

Therefore, our plan is to replace all of them with LED bulbs. We will be replacing the lights on the marquee, the ticket booth, outside entry and lobby, all with LED. This will cut down considerably on light bulb burnout and the electric bill.

If we can raise enough money through grants and donations, we plan to change out all of the stage lights with LED.

We currently have a proposal for all lighting (except the stage) at \$22,000.

These two projects would be a huge improvement for our audiences to fully enjoy our events.



A view of the lights mounted above the façade walls in the auditorium.

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7th Street Kids Liaison: Jeannie McNeal
Backstage Editors: Callie White and
Mickey Thurman



She was in the movie!

At our Sept. 19 screening of the 1961 film *Ring of Fire*, which had many scenes filmed near Grisdale and the Wynoochee River, we were excited to greet a great lady who was actually in the film.

We discovered who she was prior to the movie that night and recognized her from the stage before the movie. Her name is Rena Girard. Rena stated that she had simply joined a group of GH Community College friends to be in a movie. She said, "Remember that these were the days when women wore dresses or skirts, no slacks, and it made running a challenge. The final scene shows all the passengers running across the trestle to escape the fire in full-blaze, high above the Wynoochee River. We didn't have to act scared, we were!"

Rena Girard

HHS 1958, GHCC 1960, UW 1962, WWSC 1964, SUNY@New York 1968.

How you can support the 7th Street Theatre

I'd like to give a year-long membership

Membership level desired:

Supporting Actor — \$25 to \$49 \$_____

*Lead Actor — \$50 to \$199 \$_____

*Director — \$200 to \$499 \$_____

*Producer — \$500 and up \$_____

**Is it okay to acknowledge you in our programs?*

Yes No

AND/OR

I'd like to make a general donation

General donation \$_____

Endowment fund \$_____

Total enclosed: \$_____

Name _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

If you are not already on our email list and would like to be added, please provide your email address: _____

Thank you for your support!

7th Street Theatre Association • P.O. Box 777 • Hoquiam, WA 98550

Donations, Memberships and Sponsorships

There are many ways you can support the theatre monetarily. The 7th Street Theatre Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation which owns and operates the 7th Street Theatre.

- You can be a **member** of the theatre with an annual donation of \$25 or more. Memberships help pay operating costs. Lead Actor, Director, and Producer level memberships are acknowledged in our concert and movie programs.
- **General donations** are set aside in a special fund for restoration and preservation of the building. Our next major project will be lighting and sound improvements.
- **Movie sponsorships** are a great way to support our programming and invite your friends to the theatre. Just \$60 per movie! You get up to 30 passes to share with your family, friends, customers, or donate.
- **Donation of Stock or Securities** — We have established a brokerage account to receive donations of securities. Charitable gifts of appreciated securities can provide tax benefits to the donor. You may avoid paying capital gains and qualify for a current tax deduction for the current fair market value of the asset, regardless of the original price paid for the stock. Contact us for more information.
- **Endowment fund:** We have an endowment fund at the Grays Harbor Community Foundation. Contact us for more information.

The form on this page can be used for memberships and general donations. For all other giving opportunities go to our website at 7thStreetTheatre.com and click on Support. Donations can be made via our website.

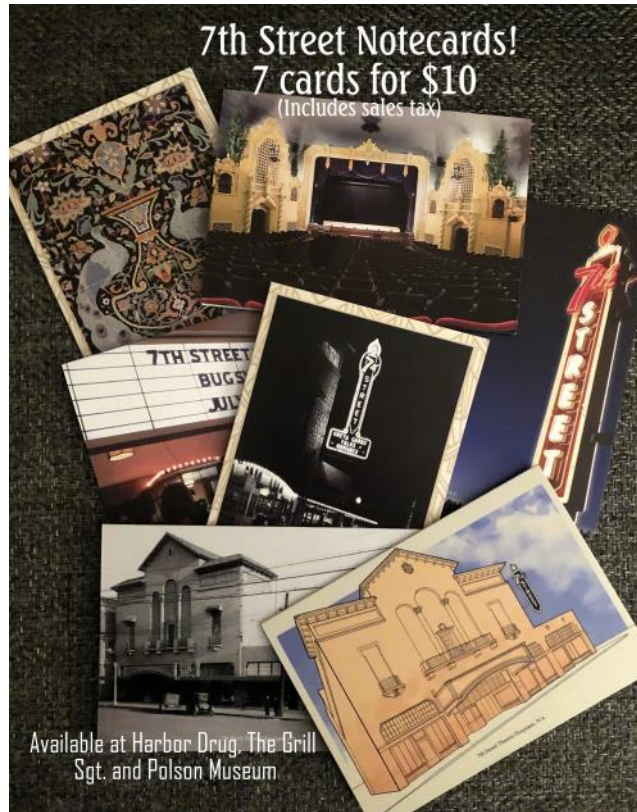
Phone: 360-537-7400 (message)

Email: info@7thstreettheatre.com

No events scheduled at this time

This is the section where we normally list our coming events. However, at this time, we have no set schedule. We hope to be able to show some movies by spring of 2021. It takes our staff about two months to fully organize our movies, and with the way things are right now, we feel that it would not be feasible to schedule anything.

Hoquiam High School Drama Dept. and Miss Grays Harbor will not be presenting their productions in 2021.



Beautiful 7th Street Theatre Note Cards

We recently created some beautiful high quality 7th Street Theatre note cards. There are seven images with envelopes, boxed up and ready for you!

The cards can be purchased at Harbor Drug, the Grill Sgt. and the Polson Museum in Hoquiam.



Be sure to check our website for times and ticket information, and sign up for our event emails. Events are added all year long!
www.7thStreetTheatre.com



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