



Lights, Sound, Action!

Capri's \$650,000 in upgrades transform theater

By Laura French



Double doors and a new indoor marquee welcome patrons into the auditorium.



The lobby has been expanded so that the windows provide a great connection to West Broadway.



The marquee has been retrofitted with new electronic reader boards and LED light bulbs.



In the auditorium new state-of-the-art LED theatrical lighting has been installed.

People coming to the Capri Theater for the first time since April 2009 will notice some obvious physical upgrades. A new marquee lights up West Broadway with efficient LED technology. Big windows connect the spacious lobby and refreshment area with the neighborhood outside. A smaller indoor marquee lights the way to the auditorium, which has been repainted and refreshed.

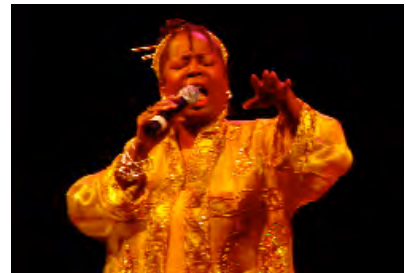
Arguably the most important changes are the ones you'll see and hear after the show begins: State-of-the-art upgrades to the sound and lighting systems.

"The acoustics at the Capri have always been very good," says Karl Reichert, Director of the Capri Theater. "We added some acoustical paneling to help fine-tune sound in the auditorium." However, Reichert notes, with the advent of wireless microphones, the wiring in the theater started causing problems. "The grounding on the sound system was creating radio frequency problems," he says. "There were times during a concert when you would hear a radio station coming through the house speakers. We needed to isolate the power for the sound system from the lighting board and other operations. That's not cheap, but we did it."

In addition, the existing speakers were "very old," Reichert says. "We didn't have confidence in their reliability—especially for audiophiles who know a lot about sound." New Bose speakers should satisfy the needs of the Capri's aficionados of jazz and blues.

While the acoustics were always good, the lighting was not. "We had a very old lighting system and not very many lights," Reichert says. "Jon Baker, our architect for Phase 1, engaged Barry Browning, production manager for the Jungle Theater, to design the lighting system."

The resulting system combines traditional theatrical lighting with LED technology that "consumes less energy and has a lot of versatility," Reichert says. "The LEDs over the stage can be programmed for any color without putting on gels." Audiences at the re-opening premiere



Debbie Duncan joined jazz artists Charmin Michelle, Dennis Spears (PCYC artistic associate) and the Wolverines Classic Jazz Trio in two grand re-opening Legends concerts at the Capri Theater June 20 and 21.

Photo: Marlin Poehsel

saw the stage change from red to blue in the wink of an eye and the clap of Dennis Spears' hands. In addition, the two winches of lights over the stage and in front of the seating area can be lowered and adjusted easily and safely.

The Phase 1 emphasis on sound and lighting serves two important purposes. First, PCYC, which owns the Capri, also runs the PYC Arts and Technology High School. Giving students hands-on practice with computerized sound and lights provides a valuable learning experience.

Second, Reichert notes, "We want to provide a viable venue for all sorts of performances. The sound system is ideal for chamber music as well as jazz, blues and spoken word. Our goal is to have a diversity of offerings—not just one genre of performing arts." While PCYC does not plan to become a producing entity beyond the current "Legends" series, Reichert says, they can provide a venue that's available for rent to arts organizations from across the Twin Cities, at "very competitive, affordable rates."

The goal, Reichert says, is "ultimately drawing great art to North Minneapolis." That's a sound idea.

Laura French is a public-relations professional and a volunteer for PCYC.

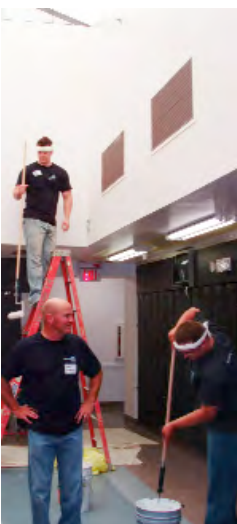


Summer show marks 8th year of theater arts for youth

Nearly 35 performers, ages 9 through 14, participated in PCYC's five-week Summer Theater Arts program. The program resulted in two performances of "Literal Les" at the Capri Theater on August 13 and 14. The production was directed by Austene Van. The original musical was written by Brian Grandison and T. Mychael Rambo. The play was a musical journey of a young student's struggle to find acceptance, friendship, and her special place under the sun and the moon.



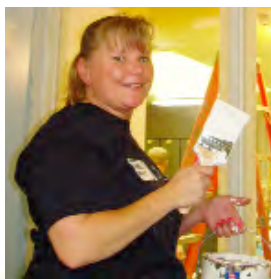
Mortenson volunteers spiff up Capri's second floor



In a one-day whirlwind of activity 18 volunteers from Mortenson Construction painted and spruced up the second floor of the Capri Theater on September 16.

The theater's second floor had not been included in the earlier upgrades given to the downstairs theater and lobby because of budget limitations. However, Mortenson decided to further enhance the theater's upgrades when it selected the Capri as one of two community outreach projects it would undertake to coincide with its 2009 fund drive for the United Way.

"Because of their work we now have a suitable dressing room for our artists when they give performances in the downstairs theater," said Karl Reichert, director of the



Capri. Prior to the spruce up performers had to use a make-shift dressing area in the theater's dance studio. The spruce up also enhanced the upstairs classrooms and commons area for future programming.

Thanks to Mortenson and its enthusiastic team of employees!

Annual Children's Gift Sale

Teach a child the joy of giving and brighten a family's holiday season

Teach a child the joy of giving to others by participating in PCYC's Annual Children's Gift Sale. You will also be making the holidays a little brighter for North Minneapolis families.



The Children's Gift Sale, an annual holiday tradition since the early 1960s, will be held **Saturday, December 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



With more than 5,000 gifts provided by generous, caring individuals, churches, youth groups, and others, we will turn our facility into a mini-shopping mall for this one day. There are separate departments for men, women, infants, pre-schoolers, elementary children, and teen boys and girls.

Almost 1,000 children make reservations for their "shopping" trip. They are met at the door by a caring volunteer and go shopping around the room, choosing presents for five of their loved ones. Each child donates \$1 for five new and unwrapped gifts for their family members and friends.

Here are some ways you can help:

- **Donate money**
Send us a donation to purchase gifts, and ensure that all children will be able to buy gifts for their family members.
- **Buy gifts**
Your donation of gifts and/or a monetary donation to the Gift Sale makes holiday dreams come true for our children. We suggest gifts in the \$3 to \$5 range. Contact us for a list of ideas.
- **Volunteer to set up**
Help us set up our "store" during the week of December 7th (Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.).
- **Volunteer on the day of the Gift Sale**
Volunteer as a "shopper" the day of the sale.

For further information contact Karen at (612) 643-2082, or email, kgoodenough@pcyc-mpls.org.

PCYC Annual Meeting set for Thursday, October 29, 2009

**Join us for the
 55th Annual Meeting of the
 Plymouth Christian Youth Center
 Thursday, October 29, 2009
 5:30 to 8 p.m.**

On the PCYC Campus
 2210 Oliver Ave. N. • Minneapolis, MN 55411

Bringing Up the Lights on West Broadway

- 5:30 p.m.** Appetizers & Punch at PCYC's renovated Capri Theater
- 6 p.m.** PCYC Program Report: Integrating the Arts
- 6:30 p.m.** Business Meeting & Executive Director's report
- 7 p.m.** Dedication of Paul's bench and "sit-down" dinner at PCYC's 2210 Oliver building.

Space is limited, so make your reservations early! **Contact Ellen Smit** for reservations: **612-643-2058** or **esmit@pcyc-mpls.org**.

Paul Monson Bench to be dedicated at Annual Meeting

It's been nearly a year since our friend and colleague Paul Monson died and began his great canoe journey into heaven. We will celebrate his life and his few brief years on staff at Plymouth Christian Youth Center at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 29, 2009. Paul will forever be remembered as a great friend-maker and connector for children and youth in North Minneapolis, for PCYC and Wilderness Canoe Base.

Please join us for the Annual Meeting on the PCYC campus, and lend your voice and spirit as we dedicate a Root of the Earth bench in his memory. Paul's Bench will be located in the alcove by our Meditation Room in our 2210 Oliver building and commemorated by a plaque on the wall with two phrases that capture the essence of the Paul we knew and treasured.

"I think that the loss of quiet in our lives is one of the greatest tragedies of civilization, and to have known for a moment the silence of the wilderness is one of our most precious memories." Sigurd Olson

"Plymouth Christian Youth Center - A Heart for Kids in the Heart of the City."
Paul O. Monson, on the occasion of PCYC's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2004

A bequest to PCYC ensures "Bright Futures in Action"

Over the years many close friends have chosen to ensure "bright futures in action" with a bequest to Plymouth Christian Youth Center. By including PCYC in their wills, they have contributed to the promise that PCYC will always be here for the children and families of North Minneapolis.

Have you, or are you considering, adding PCYC to your estate plans? Please let us know so that we not only confirm your intent but also share our thanks. Call Kathryn Rosebear, PCYC's Development Director, at 612-643-2049, or email krosebear@pcyc-mpls.org.

Volunteers!

Volunteer at PCYC and help make a difference in the lives of kids

Rocking Readers: Read individually to Kindergarten children one hour per week throughout the school year in one of our partner schools.

After School Enrichment: Help K-6th graders with their homework and assist staff with activities such as one-to-one reading, arts and crafts, theme workshops, and more in PCYC's after school program.

PYC Arts & Technology High School Tutor: Help a young person learn, grow and succeed by dedicating one hour a week to him or her as a tutor.

Library Assistant: Keep a library in order! Volunteer needed once a week for one or two hours, anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Scheduling is flexible. Responsibilities include entering titles and authors of books on an Internet based catalog (training provided); restocking books on library shelves; sorting through book donations to keep the book selections current and up to date. This small, cozy library is a place for PYC Arts & Technology High School students and community members to relax. No prior library

experience is needed—just a love of books!

Volunteer Coordinator/Recruiter: Help keep all our volunteers productive and happy and help us find others! We are looking for a creative self-starter who will recruit new volunteers, assist with the volunteer training and orientation, implement activities to keep new volunteers active and involved and develop a volunteer recruitment database.

Receptionist: Greet visitors, answer the phone and direct incoming calls at our reception desk each Tuesday from 12:45 to 5:00 pm. We are looking for someone who is able to work comfortably with handling inquiries regarding PCYC from guests on the phone and face to face. Some light clerical work is also involved. Computer skills are a major plus.

**For further information please contact
 Carl Griffin
 612-522-6501
 E-mail: cgriffin@pcyc-mpls.org**

Anne Long to receive AFP award

Anne Long, PCYC Executive Director, will be honored November 20 as Outstanding Professional Fundraiser of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Fundraising Professionals. The award will be presented at the association's annual Philanthropy Day luncheon. The award is given to "individuals who practice his/her profession in an exemplary manner and are an inspiration to others." Congratulations, Anne!



Summer recreation activities expanded to include drop-in service for PCYC kids



Eighty-six North Minneapolis children participated in a summer recreation program at Cottage Park thanks to a grant PCYC received from the Pohlad Family Foundation. The drop-in program allowed PCYC to offer additional summer activities to families with children in need of a safe and structured drop-in program. In addition to the Cottage Park program the Summer Friends program provided a structured academic enrichment and recreation program to 56 North Minneapolis children in grades K-6.



Congratulations Class of 2009!

22 graduate from PYC Arts & Tech High School

Jovonn Barefield, Dominique Brown, Ashley Bastin, Jerry Calhoun, Joyetta Chatman, Dontrel Chew, Ebony Dixon, Clara Fisher, Blake Harris, Michelle Harris, Tyron Jenkins, Tranetta Jones, Tyra Jones-Israel, Emmanuel Kennedy, Loutoua Lor, Konnie Middlebrook, Demario Parker, Bianca Pearson, Cleara Sims, Tanetha Stroud, Jaytoria Wells, Laquisha Williams, and Aaron Yang



For more on the new state-of-the-art upgrades to the Capri, see story and photos on Page 1.

Learn more about the Capri at www.thecapritheater.org.

McKnight and General Mills Foundations award \$565,000 towards Capri Renovation

PCYC is pleased to announce that the McKnight Foundation and the General Mills Foundation have each made major gifts to the Capri Theater Renaissance Campaign. Both McKnight's gift of \$500,000 and General Mills' gift of \$65,000 "are a strong signal to all who believe in the importance of the Capri to West Broadway, and its role in a revitalized and welcoming North Minneapolis," said PCYC Executive Director Anne Long.

Living Tributes

June 11, 2009, to September 25, 2009

- **In tribute to the birth of Casella & Adekola Okulaja's daughter, Charlotte Adenike**
Carl Griffin
- **In tribute to Sandy & Barry Baines on the occasion of their 35th Wedding Anniversary**
Bonnie Dudovitz & Jean Quam
- **In tribute to Dick & Nadene Balkus on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary**
Judith Mattison
- **In tribute to Harold & Marie Peterson on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary**
Ray & Lorraine Lundquist
- **In celebration of the 94th birthday of Uncle Joe Butler**
Anne & Jim Long
- **In tribute to Carl Griffin & Warren Colison on the occasion of their marriage**
Anne & Jim Long
Herb & Virginia Morgenthaler
Kathryn Rosebear & Stephen Parsons
Marba & Richard Pogue
Jean & Roger Schwartz
Ellen Smit

Memorials

June 11, 2009, to September 15, 2009

- **Donna Brastad**
Forrest & Harriet Anderson
- **George Carver**
Carl Griffin
Kathryn Rosebear & Stephen Parsons
- **Barbara Christensen**
Gregg & Laverne Orwoll
- **Jaye Dyer**
William & Joanne Johnson
- **Pastor Robert Evans**
Janet Larson Schultheis
- **Bette Johnson**
Sherry Anderson
Debra Benson
Dorrie Friendshuh
Jane Friendshuh
- **Marion Kuehn**
Jerry Kuehn
- **Marion Sletten**
Sharon Davis
Lois Molid
- **Bill Smith**
William & Joanne Johnson



Plymouth Christian Youth Center
2210 Oliver Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Published three times a year for
Supporters And Friends of PCYC

Executive Director: Anne Long
Editor: Carl Griffin
Design: Karl Reichert