

THEATRE HISTORY & TIME TRAVELS

While re-reading the history of the Ironwood Theatre this morning, several words came to mind. Dedication, care, and pride - to name a few.

The history made me do some thinking. What was the likelihood that the theatre would still be going strong today? Would the original architect, Mr. Albert Nelson, be pleased to see the building being used as it is today? And how about the first manager, Mr. A.L. Pikar? Would he love the idea that there is a vibrant youth drama club performing regularly at the theatre? Would both men be thrilled to know that the Barton Organ has been deemed a Heritage Instrument and that the ceiling mural has been lovingly restored? Would the full renovation that took place in the 1980s be cause for ongoing admiration of what local volunteers have done?



We never know in life what will endure and what will cease to be. Reflecting on all of the changes in our area since 1928, isn't it fabulous that the Ironwood Theatre has not only survived but is thriving once again? Hats off to all who have made it so, and to all who continue to generously support the Historic Ironwood Theatre. It is a true community gem. 🐾

Kristy Wesselhoft



Snap this QR code to stay connected to the Theatre's website and upcoming summer events.

THEN *AND* NOW



Those of you who are regular visitors to the Theatre box office know we have a large photo in our front window of a group of school children at the theatre, circa 1948. One of those children was a young boy named Dave Dapra, from St. Ambrose school. He is the one arrowed.

The second photo was taken 66 years later – Dave Dapra, M.D. at the Ironwood Theatre's Barton Organ. Sixty six years later! I wonder if that little boy knew in 1948 he would grow up to be a doctor? Thank you Dr. Dapra for sharing your photographs.



If you have photos to share, or a story of your earliest experiences at the Ironwood Theatre, we'd love to hear from you. You can either mail them to us at the Theatre office, or if you prefer, you can go to our website and click on the "Tell Us Your Story" link on the Volunteers and Support drop down menu. 🐾

Sunday, May 31 @ 3:00 PM



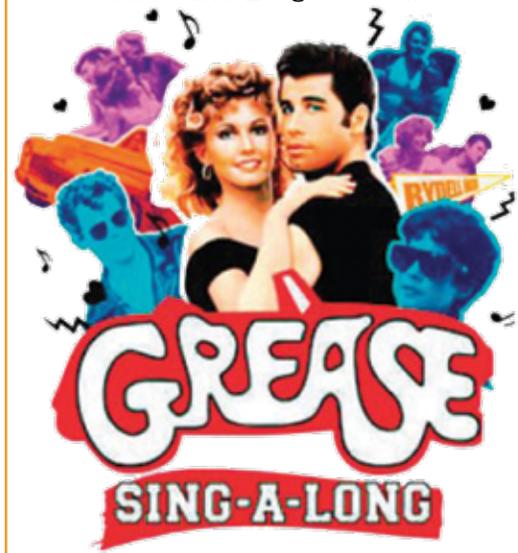
Celebrate the successful TWWW Exhibition at the Closing Ceremonies featuring The Chamber Singers spring concert. This gifted local choir will present a delightful program of work-related songs. This free concert will be followed by a light reception.

Fri. - Sat. June 5 & 6 @ 6:30 PM



Dancers of all ages perform tap, ballet, lyrical, jazz, and interpretive dance. The Dads & Daughters number is always a treat!

Sat. June 20 @ 6:00 PM



Get out your poodle skirts, saddle shoes, black tees and cuffed denims for a memorable night of music and merriment. Costume parade, Klassic Kruisers car show, jitterbug lessons, and more.

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

BY BRUCE GREENHILL, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Two very cool things are happening as I write this column. First, the Smithsonian Institution's The Way We Worked (TWWW) exhibition is in full swing at the Downtown Art Place (DAP). With all the affiliated TWWW activities going on throughout the region, one cannot help but reflect on the lives lived by our parents and grandparents, and the places where they worked and lived and played. For 87 years, this theatre has been one of those places. Second, today 48 third through sixth grade students selected to be part of the *Up North* Honors Choir are rehearsing in the theatre for their concert this evening. I wonder if some of today's grade school vocalists will one day bring their grandchildren to the Ironwood Theatre and reminisce about

the day they performed on the grand stage?

Author Steve Berry once wrote: "A concerted effort to preserve our heritage is a vital link to our cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, and economic legacies - all of the things that quite literally make us who we are."

I am proud to be a very small part of the efforts by a remarkable group of people - past and present - who ensure this theatre will be here for current and future generations. Whether as audience members or performers, this space continues to offer entertainment, education, and inspiration - and through the process, help us define who we are.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

In addition to the wonderful programs described above, we are also finalizing details on a couple of other shows you won't want to miss. So get out your calendar and reserve the following dates:

Thursday, July 30, 2015 @ 7:30 PM: TIM MESUN AND FRIENDS
A Benefit for the HOPE shelter. Join master keyboardist, the incomparable Tim Mesun (OK, we're biased, but why not, Tim is our resident Barton organist!) and his friends Paul Butcher (horns), Megan Gabka (oboe & vocals), and Madeline Gabka (horns & vocals).

Friday and Saturday October 2 & 3 at 7:30 PM: THE SUPERIOR HORNS
If you like the music of *Blood, Sweat & Tears*, or *Chicago*, or *Chuck Mangione*, you will love this exciting, new 18-piece band featuring some of the area's finest musicians.

Photo Credits: Ar Schneller, Betsy Wesselhoft, and Sandy Sharp

SHARE THE LOVE

As you will read elsewhere in this issue of the GRIFFIN, we will be conducting group tours of the Theatre every Wednesday and Friday throughout the summer. Guess what?



We need tour guides to lead those tours! If you would like to share your love of the Ironwood Theatre, and have an hour or so to spare on a Wednesday or Friday (or both!) we'd love to hear from you. Mark, Bruce and Randy will provide training for anyone who is interested. We're also still looking for a couple of part-time office volunteers for alternate Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Playbill design and layout by Sharp Graphic Design.

June 22 - 27

PRAIRIE FIRE CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Presents



Auditions: Monday, June 22
Rehearsals: Monday - Friday, June 22 - 26
Shows: Sat., June 27 @ 2:00 & 6:00 PM
Up to 75 local youth actors aged 7 to 18 will be cast in the roles of Peter Pan, Wendy, John, Michael, Nana, Tinkerbell, The Crocodile, The Pirates, The Lost Kids, and other inhabitants of Neverland!
Sponsored by Gogebic Range United Way.

Sunday, June 28 @ 1:00 PM



WILL ALLEN OF *GROWING POWER*

FARM TO FORK: THE GOOD FOOD REVOLUTION

Named by Time magazine as one of the world's "100 Most Influential People" former professional basketball player Will Allen advocates for sustainable food production through the creation of local gardens and community food systems.
Presented by the Range Master Gardeners.

Thurs. - Sun. October 14 - 18



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

A co-production by the Historic Ironwood Theatre and Theatre North. Join Mary, Bert, the chimney sweeps, the bankers, the kite flyers, and the Banks family for an evening of pure magic.



DID YOU HEAR THE BUZZ?

Break out the work gloves and brooms for our annual spring-clean working bee. If you can spare an hour or two (or more) on the afternoon of Thursday, June 11, and don't mind getting a little grubby, we'd love to spend some time with you. We'll provide refreshments and snacks – you provide labor and a can-do attitude! We'll start around noon and finish around 4:30 PM. Among the tasks on our to-do list are dust and polish the auditorium woodwork including all the armrests; clean the auditorium chandeliers and concourse lanterns; deep clean the green room, dressing rooms and make-up area; and haul a bunch of junk out of the basement for later disposal. 🐝

AWKWARD STAGE DRAMA CLUB SUMMER CAMP - IT'S FREE!



The Awkward Stage Drama Club will again offer a **FREE** summer drama day-camp for area 6th – 12th graders.

Camp happens Tuesday through Thursday over three consecutive weeks: July 28 thru 30, August 4 thru 6 and August 11 thru 14. Most sessions will be held at the Ironwood Memorial Building. Camp will culminate with the presentation of a play at the Gogebic County Fair, the weekend of August 14 thru 16. 🐝

TICKETS

THEATRE BOX OFFICE

Open: Wed - Friday Noon - 4:30 PM
906-932-0618

DAY OF SHOW

Available in the Concourse one hour before showtime

ONLINE: www.ironwoodtheatre.net



PayPal

EMAIL: info@ironwoodtheatre.net



IRONWOOD THEATRE, INC.
PO Box 187
IRONWOOD MI 49938

Return Address Requested

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time ... They have the heart.

THE GRIFFIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORIC IRONWOOD THEATRE



Summer Theatre Tours

Every Wednesday and Friday through the summer, join with others as we tour the theater; hear the fascinating history; stand on stage; and learn the story of a remarkable group of people who in the mid 1980s saved this rare Midwest gem from the wrecker's ball. 🐾