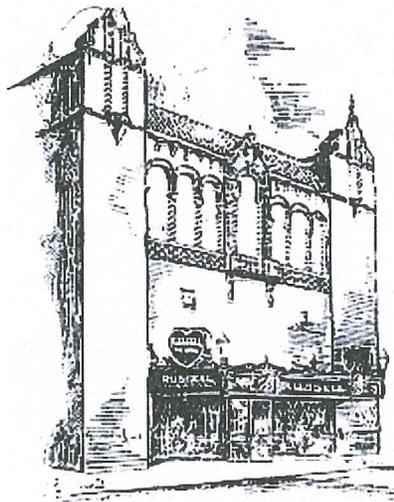


Preservation Project Awards

Application



The Russell Theatre

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Maysville, Kentucky

2011 NOMINATION FORM

Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Historic Preservation Awards Program

NOMINATIONS must be postmarked or received in the Kentucky Heritage Council office by Monday, April 11. Entries may also be submitted via email to kyheritage@ky.gov or by fax at 502-564-5820. For each entry, submit a completed nomination form, narrative description and supporting documentation to:

Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
ATTN: Ida Lee Willis Awards

1. Nominee

Name The Russell Theatre

Title / Organization The Russell Theatre Corporation

Address P.O. Box 371

City Maysville State Ky Zip 41056

Phone 606-564-1156 Email luanne@maysvilleky.net

Home Phone: Luanne Mattingly

2. Award

(check one)

Memorial Award

Preservation Project Award

Service to Preservation Award

3. Description

Include a brief narrative description of the project(s) the nominee has accomplished. Relate this description to the criteria for the appropriate award.

4. Supporting Documentation

Attach or enclose any photographs, articles, publications or letters of support for the nominee that would assist in the determining the impact of his/her contribution. Before and after photographs should be included for a Preservation Project Award. When submitting by mail, materials may also be submitted on a CD/DVD attached to the nomination form. When submitting via email, please submit all files in one email in PDF format; do not send multiple files. For questions, contact Diane Comer at 502-564-7005, ext. 120, or diane.comer@ky.gov.

5. Submitter of Nomination

Name Janice T. Applegate "Jan"

Title / Organization Events Committee Member

Address 770 Oakpointe Drive

City Maysville State Ky Zip 41056

Phone 606-759-5195 Email applegate_jan@yahoo.com

The Historic Russell Theatre

Colonel J. Barbour Russell, a flamboyant, well-known Maysville businessman who made his early fortune in the grocery business, decided to erect a movie palace in downtown Maysville in 1928. He had many great accomplishments in this river town, but little did Russell know that with the erection of the grand downtown theatre he would realize his greatest prominence.

Russell contracted with architects Frankel and Curtis of Lexington and interior designer Ralph Culpepper of Columbus, Ohio, to build a luxurious structure that he envisioned as a handsome fireproof theatre, made of steel, concrete, brick, and terra cotta in Spanish Revival style. This was envisioned at a time of great economic expansion in the United States, and it became a reality right at the start of the Great Depression when people needed to be transported away from the grim realities of poverty and into a world of escape.

The Russell Theatre is one of the few remaining atmospheric theaters in the United States. The Russell, being an atmospheric theatre, is a historical type of movie palace which has an auditorium ceiling that is intended to give the illusion of an open sky as its defining feature. The decorative and architectural elements gave one an impression of being seated in a spectacular foreign setting. The Russell Theatre featured a Mediterranean garden theme, with painted facades of lush landscaping, stone and plaster balconies. There was a sense of enchantment in the richly, ornate décor inside the Russell. The elaborate design featured statues of famous literary figures, gargoyles, fanciful masks, ornate columns, twinkling stars, moving clouds and rainbows. Spanish shawls hung from the balconies decorated with faux Lombardy trees and trailing ivy.

The movie and the structure provided an atmosphere of make-believe and escape and eased the mood of the people who went there, helping them to forget reality, if only for a while.

The Russell continued to be the center of entertainment throughout WWII, where people could attend a movie two to three times per week.

The Russell Theatre received national recognition in 1953 when Maysville's own *Rosemary Clooney* chose the Russell to premiere her hit movie, "*The Stars Are Singing*". Rosemary herself chose to sit with her best friend from childhood, Blanche Chambers, who is Afro-American. From the theater's beginnings, African-American patrons sat in the upper balcony accessed by a separate stairway; they were not allowed on the main floor or in the lobby restrooms, but nonetheless, they had balcony seating and were able to enjoy the movies. The Russell was desegregated in the early 1960's.

"What the Roxy was to New York, the Russell is to Maysville".

The Russell Theatre has a distinguished past, standing as a Maysville icon since 1930. It is one of the most historically intact atmospheric theaters in the region.

The Russell Theatre in Maysville, KY is listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 31, 2006. Reference number 06000216

By the 1970's, the popularity of downtown movie theaters began to decline with the rise of television and shifting demographics as families moved to the suburbs. Many atmospheric theaters were lost, either through neglect, demolition or fire.

The Russell continued to operate until 1983 under different management, marking the only period in the Theatre's history when the only significant changes were made to the interior design. Much of the original jewel tone colors were painted over with bright paint. While the Russell's original interior design changed somewhat over time, many of the Theatre's architectural features survived. After closing permanently in 1983, the Russell was used as a restaurant, used furniture store, used clothing store and a newspaper filler operation. Eventually, the building was abandoned to the elements. Heavy wind and rain ripped off a section of the roof, causing a damaged gutter to drain in to the theatre. Exposed to the elements for a long period, the sodden plaster of the west interior wall collapsed into the auditorium. Except for the original segregated balcony seating, the seats were sold to restore another theater out-of-state.

In 1995, a committee was formed to restore the building. The roof was repaired and the exterior appearance has been restored, but interior restoration is not complete.

The Russell Theatre Corporation has worked diligently to rescue and stabilize this nostalgic and valuable part of our community's history. The roof has been replaced, asbestos was removed, doors were replaced, and the marquee has been restored. The lobby has been restored, a gift shop with Russell Theatre memorabilia was added off the lobby, two restrooms off the lobby have been completely updated and modernized.

Currently, there are plans to use hydro-solar to heat and cool the building.

Over the past decade, The Russell Theatre Corporation has worked diligently to rescue and stabilize this nostalgic and valuable part of our community's history, and restore The Russell to its rightful place in our community's entertainment and tourism industry.

Our goal is to reopen the Russell as both a movie palace and a place for special events to support education, entertain the young and the old, and highlight our cultural diversity and heritage.

Today, as part of the growing trend of downtown revitalization, we have seen the need to restore and preserve the structure as a vital part of our community's entertainment and tourism industry. The Russell would offer a place to go locally, where families would connect and enjoy entertainment together. Local stores could extend their weekend hours and provide a service for working parents.

When the restoration is complete, The Russell will be revived as a movie and film venue with emphasis on themed movie marathons, classics, documentaries, art films and other movies not available at mainstream cinemas. It will also serve as a site for live sporting telecasts, concerts, speakers, seminars, video conferences, exhibits, educational programs, special interest events, and tourism activities.

Maysville, with a population of around 8, 000 serves as a regional center to surrounding counties in Northeastern Kentucky and Southern Ohio which borders Appalachia, totaling around 65, 000 people. By providing entertainment, educational and other opportunities, the Theatre will help the people of this region economically as the price of gas continues to climb. This in turn would have a positive effect on thousands of people, and be beneficial to the economy of the community.

The possibilities are endless for the Russell Theatre. The uses of this historic building are limited only by one's mind.

The restoration of the Historic Russell Theatre has been and continues to be a labor of love. The Maysville community takes pride in its efforts to retrieve the money for this project. Each effort is well supported by the people in this region.

We have persevered through years of bake sales, soup sales, pig roasts, used sporting goods sales, three Dessert Smorgasbords, a Halloween Run, four Progressive Dinners with tours of downtown Maysville and historic Washington, auctions, two Sock Hops, to a year-long planning for a capital campaign, only to have it suspended because of our economic state that currently exists. And yet, the desire has not waived for the return of the Russell. Our Events Team always searches for ways to get a little closer to that day when we'll once again enter the lobby into a world of magic that the Russell Theatre provides.

If this small community can do it, anyone can, through hard work, creative efforts, and working together with a shared a commitment so the Russell can once again take its rightful place in the region's entertainment and tourism industry. It will offer limitless usage for sports, education, industry and business training, seminars, conferences, exhibits and family entertainment for the people of the Ohio Valley.

It is our sincere hope that with the restoration of the historic Russell Theatre, that once again "The Stars will be Singing" and the people of Maysville will be proud of what a little town with a lot of love has done.

The Russell Theatre Fact Sheet

- Erected by Colonel J. Barbour Russell in 1929
- Luxurious fireproof theater, cost estimate at \$125,000
- “What the Roxy is to New York, The Russell will be to Maysville”, Russell said
- Structure made of steel, concrete, brick and terra cotta, and follows the Spanish style of architecture
- Interior decorations by Ralph Culpepper of Columbus, Ohio consisting of Mediterranean garden interior theme with statues, gargoyles, masks, columns, twinkling stars, moving clouds and even a rainbow when the show was completed
- The mood of the theater was one of make believe and escape
- Architects of The Russell were Frankel and Curtis of Lexington, Kentucky
- Theatre seated seven hundred people on the main floor and two balconies (uppermost was “colored” balcony)
- First movie shown was “Whoopie” with Eddie Cantor on December 4, 1930
- Last movie shown was James Bond’s “Octopussy” in 1983
- Screen debut of Rosemary Clooney in “The Stars are Singing” was at The Russell on Wednesday, January 28, 1953 at 7:30pm. Ticket price was \$3.00.
- Within forty days, \$40,000 was raised from the community to purchase the theatre largely via small donations in 1996
- The Russell Theatre listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places formally as of April 2006
- New website www.russelltheatre.org

**Samples of our
Fundraising Efforts**

Brick the Mini Russell

for the Minatures Gallery at the

Kentucky Gateway Museum Center

with Artisans Ashby & Jedd

At The Museum

Friday, Nov. 6 - 1-5 pm

Sunday, Nov. 8 - 1-4 pm

At The Russell Theatre

Sat., Nov. 7 - 10-4 pm

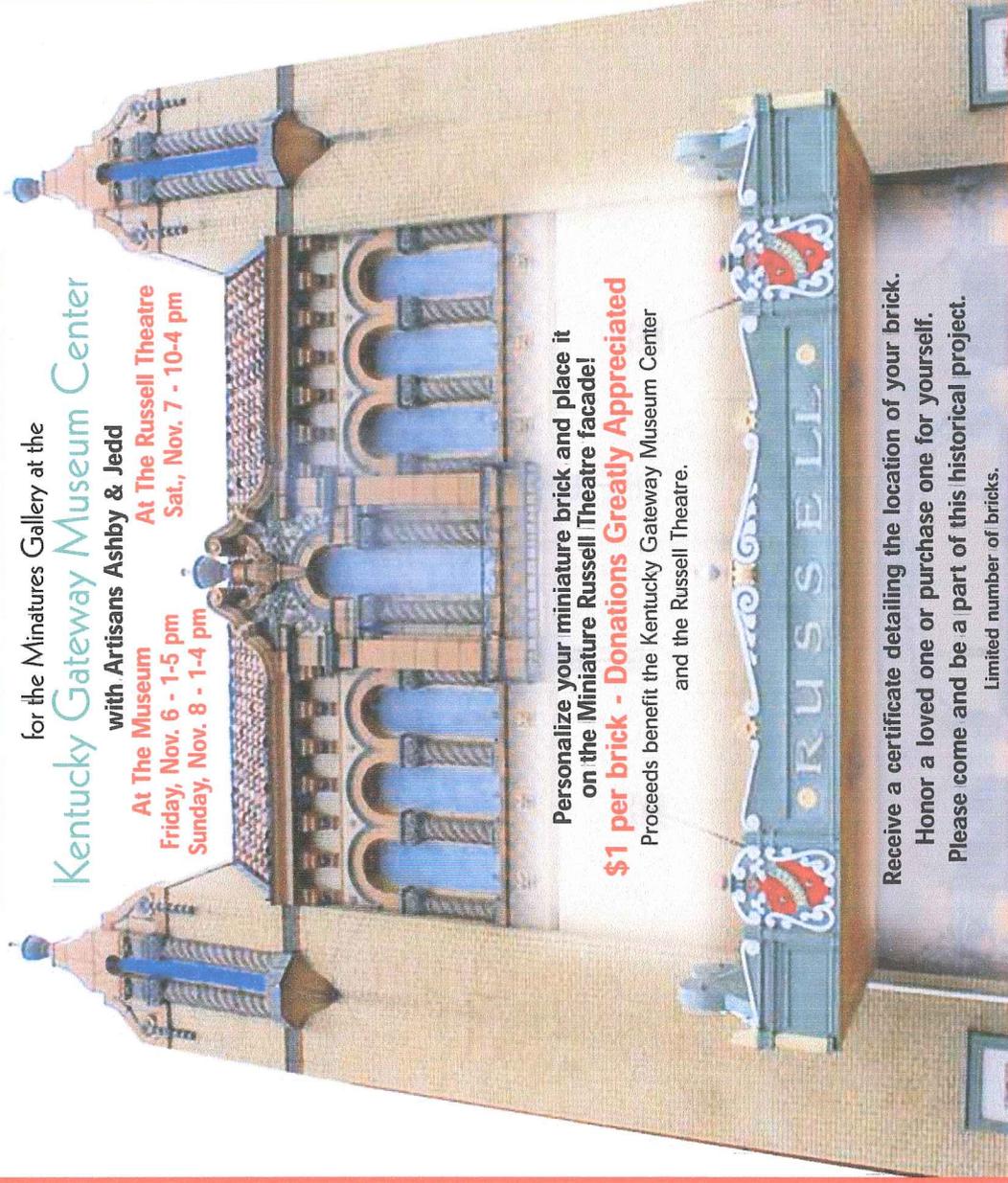
Personalize your miniature brick and place it
on the Miniature Russell Theatre facade!

\$1 per brick - Donations Greatly Appreciated

Proceeds benefit the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center
and the Russell Theatre.

Receive a certificate detailing the location of your brick.
Honor a loved one or purchase one for yourself.
Please come and be a part of this historical project.

Limited number of bricks.



INTRODUCING
*Memories under
the Stars*

Robert Roe has taken the "I Remember The Russell" interviews, and turned the information into a book to raise funds for The Russell Theatre. Also available is the compiled interviews on a DVD.



Books \$10 **GREAT**
DVD \$7 *Christmas gifts*
Bundle \$15 *for everyone!*



Call 606.000.0000

or visit the Russell gift shop

All Proceeds Benefit General Operating
Expenses at The Russell Theatre



Let's Rock & Roll for The Russell Theatre

Sock Hop with The Torques Benefiting The Russell Theatre

The Torques were the original band that played
the Teen Canteen Sock Hops!



Torque Original members include Phil Copeland --Lead singer; Bill Brooks-Guitar;
Mike Thompson--Drums; Charlie Carter- Keyboards

Friday, April 23, 2010

Limestone Center

(Old Tom Browning Boys Club at the Viaduct)

8pm-11pm

\$25 per person • \$45 per couple

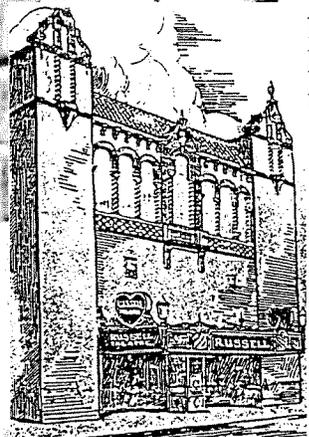
\$200 for a reserved table for 10

Snacks-Cash Bar

Tickets are available at Tierneys Ltd., Downing Insurance,
Traxel's Jewelry and Peggy's Gifts.

For more information call 759-7816 or 564-3457

Leave your mark...be a part of the Russell Theater Walk of Fame



Buy a brick for the Walk of Fame and help save one of our city's most important historical buildings.

Number of bricks at **\$100** per brick: _____
(located in front of the theater)

Number of bricks at **\$35** per brick: _____
(located on sidewalk towards Market Street)

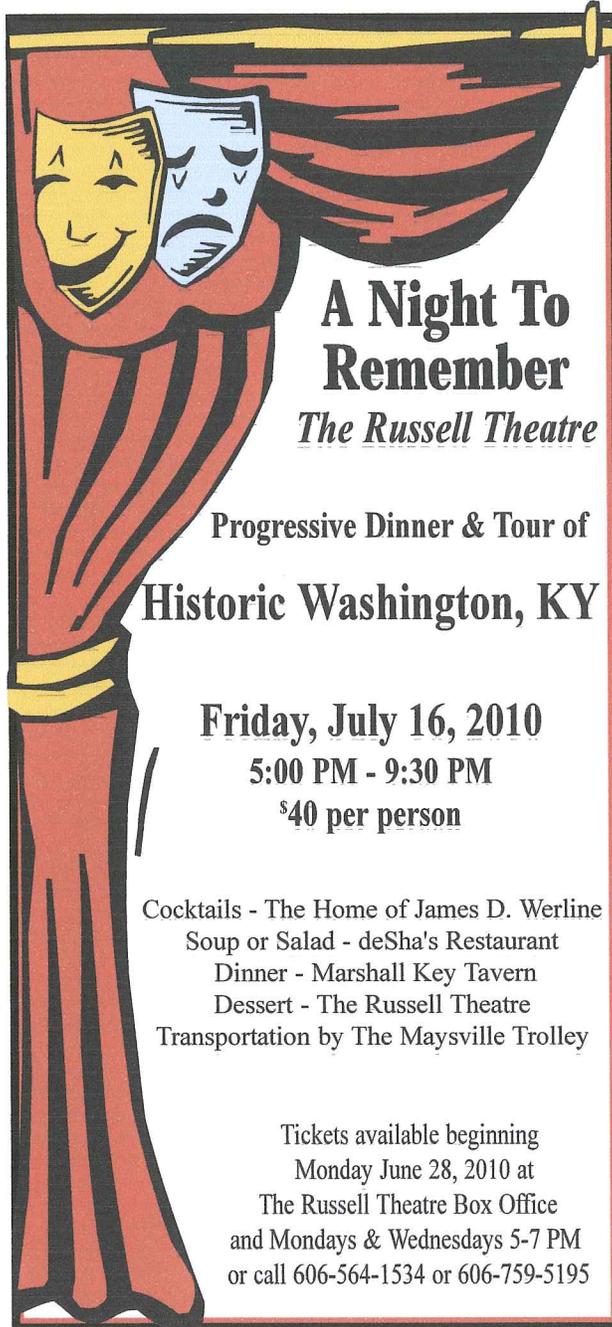
Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name/ names to be printed on brick:

Please make check payable to:

Rescue the Russell Theater

P.O. Box 371, Maysville, Ky. 41056



A Night To Remember
The Russell Theatre

Progressive Dinner & Tour of
Historic Washington, KY

Friday, July 16, 2010
5:00 PM - 9:30 PM
\$40 per person

Cocktails - The Home of James D. Werline
Soup or Salad - deSha's Restaurant
Dinner - Marshall Key Tavern
Dessert - The Russell Theatre
Transportation by The Maysville Trolley

Tickets available beginning
Monday June 28, 2010 at
The Russell Theatre Box Office
and Mondays & Wednesdays 5-7 PM
or call 606-564-1534 or 606-759-5195

News Article for the Russell Theatre's Progressive Dinner, July 16, 2010

Supporters of The Russell Theatre will host a Progressive Dinner and Tour of Historic Washington, Kentucky, Friday, July 16, 2010.

The evening will begin at 5:00 PM in front of the Russell Theatre, where guests will board a Maysville Trolley, complete with a tour guide in period costume. We will then go to the home of James D. Werline, overlooking the Mighty Ohio River and the Simon Kenton Bridge, where guests will enjoy Cocktails and Appetizers. Our next stop will be Maysville's deSha's Restaurant, where participants will have their choice of a delicious bowl of soup or a refreshing salad. The tour guides will share facts and stories as we journey to the next venue; The Marshall Key's Tavern in Washington, KY. Melissa Manley and her staff will serve the main Dinner Course in the Tavern with the musical sounds of a dulcimer. Upon completion of this course, the participants will be transported to The Russell Theatre in downtown Maysville as their final destination, for Desserts as they take a guided tour of the historic theatre.

The volunteers for The Russell Theatre invite you to purchase a ticket to this innovative and informative fundraiser. Space is limited to the first 50 people, due to the capacity of each trolley. Tickets will be on sale at the Russell Theatre Box Office, beginning Monday, June 28, 2010 and will continue every Monday and Wednesday until the event from 5:00PM-7:00 PM. Tickets will be \$40 per person and must be purchased in advance. The Russell Theatre is located at 13 East Third Street in downtown Maysville, Kentucky. Please call 606-759-5195 or 606-564-1534 for more information. We hope you will join us for an evening of fine food, fun and adventure as you support The Russell Theatre.

Jan Applegate, Chair

We're Serving Up Some Barbeque!

Friday, Sept. 17

During the
Free Concert Downtown
with Rosemary Clooney
Festival

The Russell Theatre
will sell

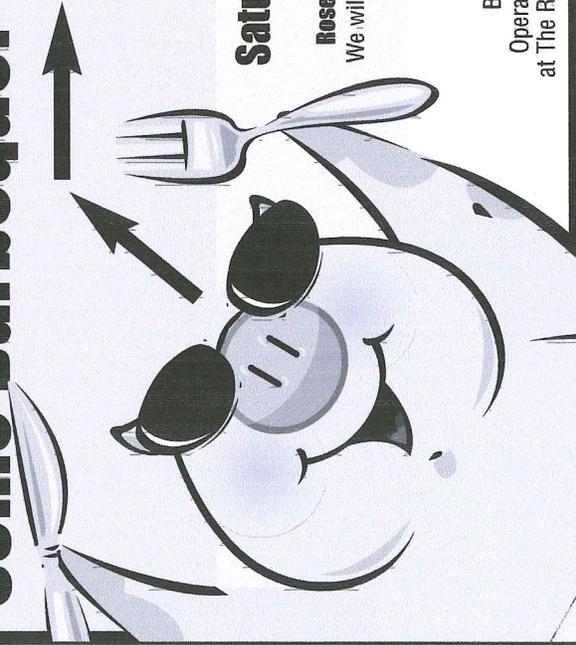
Russell Hughes
Best Barbeque Sandwiches,
Chips and Drinks.

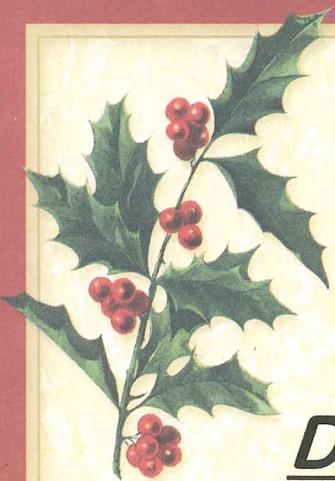
Gift shop open. Tours.

Saturday, Sept. 18

During the
Rosemary Clooney Festival
We will have the Gift shop open
and Tours.

All Proceeds
Benefit General
Operating Expenses
at The Russell Theatre





CHRISTMAS
DESSERT SMORGASBORD

Friday December 5, 2008

4:00-8:00 p.m.

\$5.00 per person

children under 3 are *Free*

113 W. Second Street, Maysville, KY
(Directly across from the Opera Theater)

***Come Enjoy Christmas Music, Hot Coffee and
Delicious Desserts
Before or After the Christmas Parade!***

**Tickets are available at Traxel's Jewelry Store,
The Store Downtown, Tierney's *or* at the door**

All proceeds go to The Russell Theatre

Door prizes every half hour!





CHRISTMAS DESSERT SMORGASBORD

Friday December 4, 2009

4:00-8:00 p.m.

\$5.00 per person

children under 3 are *Free*

10 E. Second Street, Maysville, KY
Chandler's Banquet Room

***Come Enjoy Christmas Music, Hot Coffee and Delicious
Desserts***

Before or After the Christmas Parade!

**Tickets are available at Traxel's Jewelry Store,
The Store Downtown, Tierney's or at the door**

All proceeds go to The Russell Theatre!

Christmas Dessert Smorgasbord
To Support The Russell Theatre

Friday, December 4, 2009



4:00-8:00 P.M.

10 E. Second St., Maysville, KY
\$5 per person & under 3 is free

Christmas Dessert Smorgasbord
To Support The Russell Theatre

Friday, December 4, 2009



4:00-8:00 P.M.

10 E. Second St., Maysville, KY
\$5 per person & under 3 is free

Christmas Dessert Smorgasbord
To Support The Russell Theatre

Friday, December 4, 2009

4:00-8:00 P.M.



10 E. Second St., Maysville, KY
\$5 per person & under 3 is free

Christmas Dessert Smorgasbord
To Support The Russell Theatre

Friday, December 4, 2009

4:00-8:00 P.M.



10 E. Second St., Maysville, KY
\$5 per person & under 3 is free

Christmas Dessert Smorgasbord
To Support The Russell Theatre

Friday, December 4, 2009

4:00-8:00 P.M.

10 E. Second St., Maysville, KY
\$5 per person & under 3 is free

The Russell Theater Events Committee is asking organizations throughout our community to help with this fun event by baking some yummy Christmas desserts. If you belong to a group or organization that you think might participate, please pass along this information.

Please contact Phyllis McMurtrey, Dessert Co-ordinator 606-759-7333 or Cell: 584-0919 or email: korash99@hotmail.com if you would like to help to make this event a success!

We need all sorts of BITE-SIZED, HOMEMADE desserts; some without sugar. Please list those with nuts.

Thanks for your help!

Jan Applegate & Kaye Browning, Co- Chairs



CHRISTMAS
DESSERT SMORGASBORD

Friday December 3, 2010
4:00-8:00 p.m.

\$5 per person or \$5 Plate "To Go"
(children under 3 are free)

10 E. Second Street, Maysville, KY
CHANDLER'S TOO

***Come Enjoy Christmas Music, Hot Coffee and Delicious
Homemade Desserts
Before or After the Christmas Parade!***

**Tickets are available at Traxel's Jewelry Store,
The Store Downtown or at the door**

Thanks for supporting The Russell Theatre!

The Russell Theatre

**The newest addition to the
Kathleen Savage Browning Miniatures
Collection**

 Ledger Independent

Russell Theatre miniature on display at KGMC

By MARLA TONCRAY, News Editor | Posted: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 11:00 pm

When you look at the facade of the Russell Theatre, each detail jumps out at you, the ceramic tile encasing the box office, the wrought iron handles of the double doors, all the way up to the urns topping the east and west towers of the buildings.

The only difference between this facade and the real facade of the historic theater is the size of the structure; everything else is replicated exactly, all the way down to the design of the tile floor of the vestibule.

The newest addition to the Kathleen Savage Browning Miniatures Collection at the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center has arrived and is now available for public viewing.

The Russell Theatre miniature joins two other historically significant buildings to Maysville's downtown: the Cox Building and the Bethel Baptist Church, which once stood on Fourth Street.

Browning commissioned the work to add to the ever-growing collection at the museum and work began in May 2008, by artists Allison Ashby and Steven Jedd, who also created the Cox Building and Bethel Baptist Church.

"It should serve as an inspiration for the community to want to save the building," Browning said, referring to the ongoing efforts of the Rescue the Russell organization to restore the theater, which was built in 1929 by Col. J. Barbour Russell and hosted the 1953 premier of Rosemary Clooney's movie "The Stars are Singing."

The next phase of the project is for Ashby and Jedd to create a miniature which will showcase the interior of the atmospheric theater and will be on display next to the facade miniature.

Ashby referred to the building as a jigsaw puzzle, because each piece is individually crafted and painted before being assembled in its final form.

Taking almost two years to complete, a unique feature of this miniature compared to others in the collection is the fact more than 1,800 of the buildings 11,000 bricks are inscribed with someone's name, making this piece more personal to the community than others.

The purchased bricks line the east and west towers of the theatre facade, with the names turned inward, forming a time capsule of sorts for the community.

In November 2009, during final work on the piece, local citizens could purchase a brick for \$1 and inscribe their name, or a family members name on the brick, with proceeds of the fund-raiser going to KGMC and the Rescue the Russell.

"All those good wishes are in that building, it's a good addition," Ashby said of the brick project.

And while it is difficult to see all the fine detailing of the building while standing on East Third Street and looking upward, the 1/12 scale miniature allows visitors to view up close the architectural details that went into the creation of such an elaborate building, which Barbour hoped would be "what the Roxy is to New York."

Jedd and Ashby's work highlights such small details as the six "Comedy and Tragedy" masks; the lions faces which serve as anchors for the chains supporting the familiar green marquee with its heart-shaped Russell Theatre signs at each end; and the orange and blue stripe on the bases of the building's three urns adorning the top pediment of the building.

The couple created their work from pictures of the building, as well as studying it from the street and while only the ceramic tiles encasing the box office are real tiles, the replicas of the building's other terra cotta tile work looks authentic due to as many as eight layers of paint to develop the correct color tones and then coatings of varnish to protect the pieces.

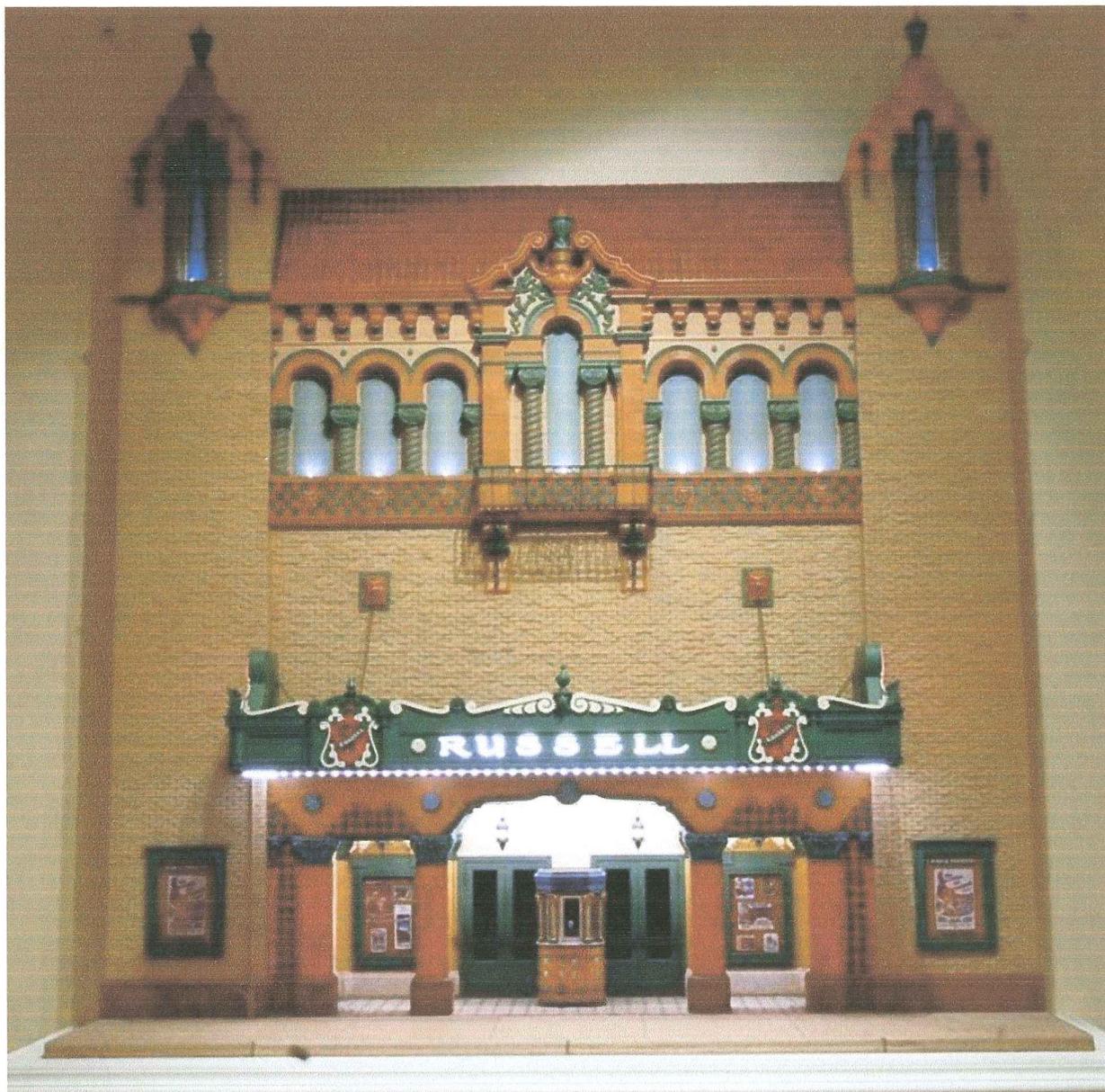
To coincide with the premier of Clooney's movie in 1953, Jedd and Ashby also researched movies of the same time frame so that movie posters are accurately displayed in the display cases located near the box office.

Using archived collections of local newspapers, Jedd said the movie posters created for the Russell Theatre miniature are actual movies that once played to Maysville audiences.

The Kentucky Gateway Museum Center is located at 215 Sutton Street, Maysville; for information contact 606-564-5865; to learn more, go to www.kentuckygatewaymuseumcenter.org.

Contact Marla Toncray at marla.toncray@lee.net or call 606-564-9091, ext. 275.

For more area news, visit www.maysville-online.com.







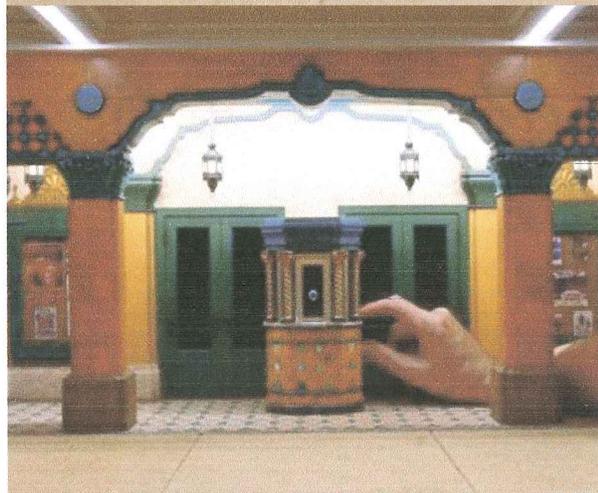
The color of these photos is not probably accurate - at least on our computer they read way more saturated than they actually are.



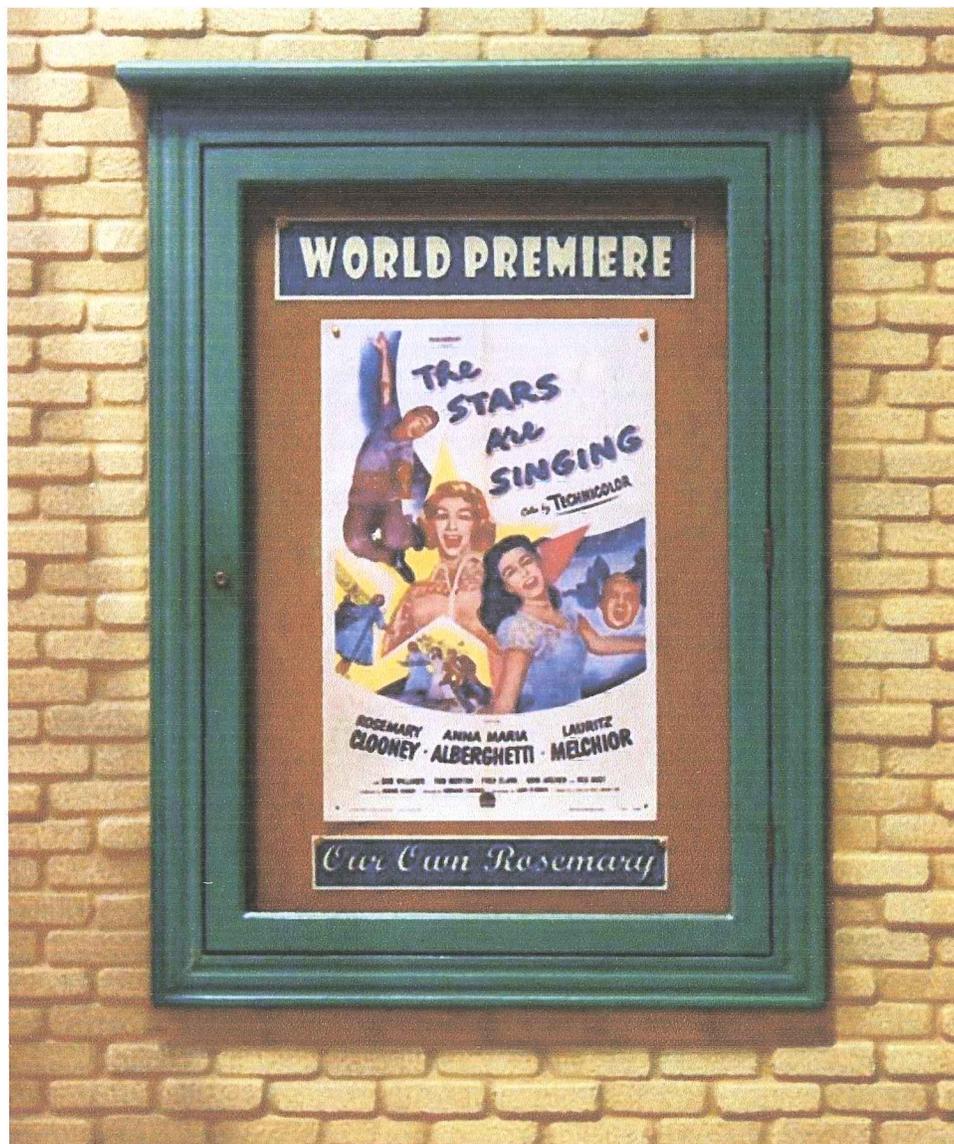
The green we used more or less matched a green that has subsequently been painted over on the actual building. Our research is based on what was there a couple of years ago when we started this project and we had already painted our Russell before they repainted the real one, and we were

committed to keep what we had.

We are working exclusively on finishing up the exterior model, so I haven't really given much thought to the interior, but I when we get there I will try to emulate the transparent glazes and colors of the original paint ~ that found above 10 feet or so ~ that almost looks like the style of painting found on antique carousels and circus wagons.



Buy this photo Terry Prather/Staff Jedd makes an adjustment to the ticket booth in front of the model theater.





RUSSELL









RUSSELL





RUSSELL
THEATRE

WELCOME TO
MAYSVILLE





CLOSED

