SPRINGFIELD LITTLE THEATRE

NEXT STAGE

Preserving The Past
Ensuring The Future
Sharing Our Vision

Dear Friend,

The visionaries responsible for providing us with our beautiful home, the historic Landers Theatre, had a "Little Theatre" in them, and they knew our community would be enriched by the discovery that there is, indeed, a "Little Theatre" in all of us. We are so grateful for the determination of those visionaries, and honored to be a part of their legacy. They had the foresight, with the purchase of the historic Landers Theatre in 1970, to lay the groundwork that enables us to now entertain, educate, and involve over 60,000 individuals each year in Downtown Springfield.

The Landers Theatre was built in 1909 and the responsibility of its ownership is costly. Caring for our 109-year-old landmark is of paramount importance to our mission, and our beloved building needs YOUR help. While our theatre looks great from the seats, there are critical structural repairs that must be made to ensure the longevity of Springfield’s Crown Jewel. Without these repairs, the theatre risks further damage which could then require an even more extensive and expensive rehabilitation.

The Springfield Little Theatre organization of today is not the one of yesteryear. Our historic site home now accommodates over 100 productions a season, hundreds of volunteers, and an education program that serves thousands of young people each year. It is with the same determination of the visionaries before us that we are now moved to purchase a second space to address many of our organization’s pressing needs and allow our robust education offerings to continue to flourish. We invite YOU to dream with us.

As we honor the past and embrace the present, we would be remiss not to lay groundwork for the caretakers and visionaries of the future. We are passionately committed to laying a financial foundation that will ensure the future of The Crown Jewel of the Ozarks, elevate our community through the finest in arts education, and secure a vibrant second century of live theatre!

It’s time to act, and we are asking YOU to accept a leading role in Springfield Little Theatre’s NEXT STAGE: Preserving The Past and Ensuring The Future!

We need YOU to take center stage!

Beth Domann
Executive Director
Springfield Little Theatre

A PRODUCTION IN TWO ACTS

A PRODUCTION IN TWO ACTS

ACT ONE - The Landers Theatre
Ensure The Future of The Crown Jewel of The Ozarks
Safeguard Structural Integrity
Increase Building Efficiency and Security
Improve Building Accessibility for Programming
Preserve and Renovate

ACT TWO - An Education Facility
Elevate Our Community Through Arts Education
Purchase and renovate a dedicated education building to meet the immediate needs and serve the future growth of our Education Program

ENCORE - Our Endowment
Secure A Vibrant Second Century of Live Theatre
Provide enduring support for our facilities and operations by building our endowment fund
ACT ONE - The Landers Theatre
Ensure The Future of The Crown Jewel of The Ozarks

The Landers Theatre has been in continuous use either as a legitimate theatre or as a motion picture house since it opened in 1909. It is our privilege and our responsibility to serve as guardians for this extraordinary community treasure. We have identified 45 critical areas in immediate need of repair and restoration. Together, we can return our beloved jewel to splendor and ensure its viability for generations to come.

SAFEGUARD STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY
- Address critical issues of water and air infiltration
- Tuckpointing, Waterproofing, Gutter Repair, Roofing
- Restore basement foundation
- Strengthen rehearsal studio weight support capabilities

INCREASE BUILDING EFFICIENCY AND SECURITY
- Install a new, energy efficient HVAC system
- Install an upgraded security system
- Improve office suites for optimum efficiency and potential staff growth
- Improve building accessibility for programming

PREVERSE AND RENOVATE
- Maintain the historic grandeur of our beautiful auditorium
- Painting, Plaster Repair, Draperies
- Updates to restrooms, lobby, dressing rooms, and rehearsal areas
- Revive the appearance of our marquee and facade

PRESSING NEED: $2.5 Million

THE LANDERS THEATRE HISTORY

1909 - The Landers Theatre opens as a vaudeville theatre
1909 - Plans for a new first-class establishment are announced at the Baldwins Theatre
1915 - Birth of A Nation is screened at The Landers; silent movies become a regular feature between live productions
1920 - The Landers suffers from a major fire backstage
1926 - The theatre reopens as part of the Orpheum Circuit
1937 - The Landers becomes the 35th theatre in the country to show "talkies" starting with The Jazz Singer
1940 - The Five Star Jubilee is filmed on The Landers stage and becomes the first color TV series to be recorded outside New York or Hollywood
1960 - Springfield Little Theatre, Inc. purchases The Landers Theatre
1977 - The Landers is recognized as a national historic place
1982 - Springfield Little Theatre begins significant restoration of Landers auditorium
2001 - The Landers Theatre receives The McReynolds Award for Historic Preservation from The Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation

The Landers Theatre is a cornerstone of the community and a vital part of the cultural fabric of Springfield, Missouri.
Our Annual Impact

Over 30,000 served through Springfield Little Theatre Education efforts!

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“Springfield Little Theatre is a unique gem in the theatre world. After traveling to New York City to train with other young performers from all over the country, I realized how good of a foundation I had and how many other aspiring actors and actresses would love to have had the training and opportunities that I received through SLT.”

—Amanda Carpenter, 2012 Professional Track Graduate

“Ath has challenged me to see between the gaps through theatre. Just being an audience member was a reveler eschatly for someone on the opposite side of the world.”

—Heinrich Duff, Y.E.S. Young Alumnus

The theatre is a place where I can be who I am. I can be goofy and crazy. It’s a place where you won’t be judged because of what you look like or what you wear, how you act or even how you feel. The theatre lets me be me.

—Joseph Bercikowski, Former Youth Player

ACT TWO - An Education Facility
Elevate Our Community Through Arts Education

Dear Dreamer,

It has been my honor to serve as Springfield Little Theatre’s Education Director for 15 years. Our program has enjoyed tremendous growth as we have strived to bring the best in theatre education to Springfield and the surrounding area.

We proudly touch the lives of over 30,000 children every year through our performances and education initiatives. Our classes and education series of productions nurture every level of performer—from very young children excelling creative play, to students of all ages seeking a fun introductory or recreational experience, to adult learners, to our pre-professional youths and college level interns aspiring for a career in performance, technical theatre, or administration.

Our students learn the values of accountability, discipline, teamwork, kindness, hard work and play, attributes that will serve them in any of their future endeavors. Our graduates emerge as confident, creative, and caring community leaders, excelling in multi-facets of business, education, service, and the arts.

With so many educational opportunities, and so many productions throughout the year, it has become clear that we are in need of a dedicated education building and second performance space. Our theatre’s NEXT STAGE Campaign will not only provide a laboratory for emerging artists and a launch site for expanded community outreach, but will also help us make our ultimate dream of a Performing Arts Academy a reality.

Please act now with a gift of support that will enrich the lives of our young and young at heart for generations to come. Be a part of this exciting era in the rich history of Springfield Little Theatre!

Lorriane Dunn
Education Director
Springfield Little Theatre

IMMEDIATE NEED: $1.5 Million

Grow with us!

This is what COURAGE looks like!
ENCORE - Our Endowment
Secure A Vibrant Second Century of Live Theatre

Provide enduring support for our facilities and operations by building our endowment fund.

IT'S A BALANCING ACT

Part of the reason Springfield Little Theatre has been able to serve our community for nearly a century is that fiscal responsibility is equally as important to our organization as artistic excellence. At present, the escalating costs of maintaining our historic site home coupled with the rising expenses of producing the best in live theatre could soon compromise our cardinal intentions; keeping tickets reasonably priced, providing free vouchers to social service agencies, offering discounted tickets to area schools, attracting and supporting quality personnel, and maintaining our commitment to providing inclusive arts education. To balance our ideals with our desire to remain fiscally healthy, we have established the Springfield Little Theatre Endowment Fund.

Now is the time to make an investment in the future of Springfield Little Theatre and its facilities with a gift to our endowment. Help ensure the perpetual needs of YOUR COMMUNITY THEATRE are met through its second century and beyond!

PRESENT GOAL:
$1 Million

“There is a magic in the air on The Landers stage. I felt the rich heritage of those before me every time I walked in front of those golden lights. I felt the passion for this craft every time we rehearsed in the 4th floor studio. I felt the exhilaration of performing in the most gorgeous venue every time the curtain went up.”

— Dallas Magnon, Actor

“Tara the beauty and splendor of the historic Landers Theatre is matched by the talent and enthusiasm of the people, and the heart and professionalism of the productions that grace its stage. I am very proud to call Springfield Little Theatre my community theatre.”

— Betsy Stack, Patron
Over The Past Fifteen Years...

2003
SLT introduces Literature-to-Life program and expands education class offerings.

2005
SLT establishes costume shop as a sustaining revenue source and is dedicated for W. Curtis Stufflebeam ARtists Award. SLT introduces Young Artists.

2006
SLT awarded Missouri Arts Council Artists Award (Art Organization). SLT introduces Youth Players.

2007
SLT delivers Missouri Arts Council Artist Award to Missouri Arts Council and replaces Missouri Artists Award with W. Curtis Stufflebeam Artists Award. SLT announces annual Summer Institute.

2008
SLT students secure for High School Musical Television reality show; SLT Introduces Teenagers In Training and Shopspotters.

2009
SLT sends SLT's Executive and Education Director to Florida to teach arts education program; SLT hosts Little Theatre Centennial Celebration. SLT joins The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Ensuring the Future for "Any Given Child" Program. Springfield is the first city to participate in the program that now includes 23 sites across the nation committed to access and equity in arts education.

2010
SLT renovates 3rd and 4th floors of the Lander's Theatre to house rehearsal studios and董事会 room; SLT forms Education Angels and launches Education Series of performances.

2012
SLT launches Summer Conservatory and Technical Theatre Camp.

2013
SLT selected by American Association of Community Theatres to present national premiere of Exit Laughing; SLT relocates stage floor; SLT launches PreProfessional Track.

2016
SLT serves as Missouri State representative for the American Association of Community Theatres; SLT participates in OSHA program and replaces falling stairs in Playhouse. Broadway Arts Alliance selects The Lander's Theatre as site for its annual auditions; SLT creates Lander's Flymen documentary.

IT'S TIME TO ACT

We must address the structural issues of the 109-year-old Lander's Theatre. Let's continue to serve as the premier destination for live theatre in Southwest Missouri, and as a cultural and economic cornerstone of downtown Springfield. Countless volunteers consider Springfield Little Theatre not only their creative and recreational home, but also their stage to explore their talents and standing behind the scenes, but also serves the community at large through SLT's numerous outreach initiatives. While hundreds of young people benefit from Springfield Little Theatre's education offerings, which consistently operate at maximum capacity, hundreds more will benefit from the purchase of a dedicated education facility and second performance space. Furthermore, a second space addresses many of our 84-year-old organization's current needs: additional office space for essential function of the business operations of the theatre, increased production experiences for youth and adults, adequate space for volunteer activities, increased storage, access for the disabled and older, smaller space division to ensure quality program delivery; space to accommodate special events, an increase of both entry level and accelerated education offerings, and more opportunities to employ the educators and artists we are cultivating. Lastly, our responsibility to the next generation will be met with an investment in the Springfield Little Theatre Endowment Fund. Earnings from this endowment will help alleviate the financial strain to those who come after us, empowering them to confidently address their own pressing needs and promising opportunities during the next stage of Springfield Little Theatre.

BE A PART OF THE ACT

Join us as we embark on the NEXT STAGE for SPRINGFIELD LITTLE THEATRE, setting the scene for the future of an organization that has entertained, educated, involved, and inspired generations of Southwest Missourians. Together we can ensure the future of The Crown Jewel of the Ozarks: elevate our community through the finest in arts education and secure a vibrant second century of live theatre.

SpringfieldLittleTheatre.org/NextStage

The one beacon through the early days of downtown revitalization was Springfield Little Theatre, bringing generations of Springfield families downtown to enjoy outstanding live performances.

—Rusty Worley, Urban Ovation Alliance
Our Mission

Springfield Little Theatre is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization energized by the highest artistic ideals that strives to entertain, educate, and involve the community in live theatrical productions and in the preservation of the historic Landers Theatre.

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