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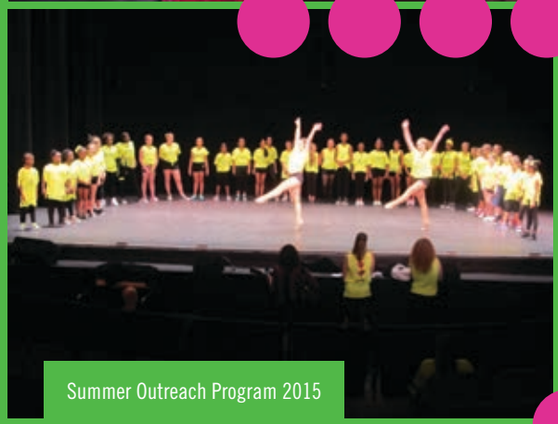
Community Outreach Programming

Summer Outreach Program 2013

Summer Outreach Program 2014



Summer Outreach Program 2015

Summer Outreach Program 2016

Christmas Show cast performs for pediatric patients

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Support Our Mission

Become a MEMBER

Tell a Friend

Opportunities to Celebrate and Sponsor

Donate

Name Your Seat

St. George Theatre

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Saving the Theatre

Actress Faye Dunaway with founders, 2nd Annual Gala, 2005

Co-founders Rosemary Cappozalo and daughters Doreen and Luanne with former Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro on the stage.

The story continues

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Community Outreach
Programming

Summer Outreach Program
The St. George Theatre Summer Outreach Program is a FREE annual program that teaches theatre arts to local youth, ages 9-18, with priority registration given to children from socially and/or economically challenged homes. We accept 75 students annually. Students gain practical skills such as stage presence, public speaking and how to prepare for auditions plus train in a variety of dance techniques. Lunch is provided daily along with dancewear, costumes, writing supplies and books. Our local restaurants donate the lunch even year. This is a two week program that concludes with a student performance and an awards ceremony. Dance scholarships are awarded, and students are invited back with their family to attend two main-stage performances later in the year.

Night of Theatre

Night of Theatre
Through our Night of Theatre community program, the St. George Theatre provides a special night to those members of our community for whom a theatre ticket would be out of reach due to financial challenges. Blocks of tickets are donated to community agencies who then select and invite those members they determine would most enjoy and benefit from this special experience. The attendees range from children to seniors, including those with disabilities. We partner with Project Hospitality who services the homeless, Seamen's Society who services foster child care and other non-profits such as Safe Horizons, Grace Foundation, Eden II, and so many more. We are most proud of inviting over 1,000 children with special needs to a performance of our annual Christmas Show each year.

Arts in Education
The St. George Theatre Arts in Education program delivers great educational live performances for grades Pre-K to High School. The live performances are performed by regional, national, and international professional touring companies, connecting the arts to the classroom curriculum. Teachers received a complimentary arts education study guide. These quality live performances and study guides are custom planned for each performance.

Public Performance Series
Serving the diverse needs and interests of our community, the St. George Theatre presents the best in entertainment from legends like Ringo Starr, Tony Bennett, Diana Ross, and Sophia Loren, to edgy and contemporary acts like YouTube sensation Postmodern Jukebox and Dawes. The St. George Theatre continues its long history of bringing live theatre, from world class performers to our talented local artists to the Staten Island community.

Community Events
Connecting our local artists with our patrons through live performances and art shows is an important goal of the theatre. Our annual Christmas Show, starring many local performers, is a beloved tradition in our community. Our "One Night of Art" brings local artists together to exhibit their artwork and meet the community. The "Island Originals" Show features local musicians.

Funders
St. George Theatre is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the Office of the Borough President and the Honorable Borough President James Oddo, Councilwoman Debi Rose, Councilman Steven Matteo, the former Borough President, the Honorable James P. Molinaro, Assemblyman Michael Cusick, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Richmond County Savings Foundation, The Staten Island Foundation, Northfield Bank Foundation, The Vincent Gruppuso Foundation, The Singers Forum Foundation, The Lois & Richard Nicotra Foundation, Con Edison, Gateway Arms Realty, Staten Island University Hospital/ Northwell Health, ShopRite, Richmond University Medical Center, American Guild of Variety Artists in memory of Bea Kalmus-Sher, and many business and individual donors.

Summer Outreach Program 2016

Arts in Education

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Support Our Mission:

For more information on any of the below listed categories, call Gina Schlagel, Director of Community & Corporate Partnerships, (718) 442-2900.

Mission Statement: The St. George Theatre Restoration Inc, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of the historic theater and its development as a cultural and performing arts center for Staten Island and all of New York City by providing community outreach programs, educational programs and public performances!

- Individuals or Businesses small and large can support our mission in many ways, and gain exposure to our audience of over 100,000 a year.
- We can create a sponsorship package customized to the needs of your business

Opportunities to SUPPORT the Historic St. George Theatre

1. Become a Member

Advance e-mail notice of shows and special events, exclusive member-only presale codes for shows before general on-sale dates, special promotions and discounts for select performances, invitations to special member-only events, personalized SGT membership card, subscription to the SGT electronic newsletter and a $10 credit to our Grand Lobby concessions (does not apply to artist merchandise.) Please speak with our Membership Coordinator today to learn more.

2. Name Your Seat Campaign

As part of our ongoing efforts to restore this magnificent theatre to its original beauty, new theatre seats were installed in the front orchestra, and the seats in the mezzanine have been reupholstered and repaired. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to refurbish these fine seats.

The inscription for a "Chair-Holder" can include your name, the name of a loved one, or as representative of an organization, corporation, or community group. As a "Chair-Holder" generations of theatre-goers to come will applaud your generosity! Seat prices range from $200 to $1000.
$200 Chair Holder - Front Mezzanine
$500 Chair Holder - Orchestra
$500 Chair Holder - Richmond County Savings Foundation Circle
$1000 Chair Holder - Richmond County Savings Foundation Circle First or Second Row

3. Community & Corporate Partner

Let us put your business in the spotlight with prominent signage in our Grand Lobby, as well as on our website, print materials and social media. Levels range from Silver, Gold and Platinum. We include ticket vouchers, Private VIP Champagne Tour (25 guests), theatre memberships and 10% discount, which can be used to build your customer and employee relations. We can create a sponsorship package customized to the needs of your business.

4. Performance Series Sponsorship

Your business can sponsor an entire series of shows. Sponsor recognition includes pre-show announcements, print materials, website, social media, signage, giveaways, and more.
Family Arts Series
Arts in Education Series
Classic Movie Series

5. Backstage Sponsor/Artist Dressing Rooms

Along with tickets to select shows, Dressing Room sponsors receive prominent exposure on artists' dressing room door and on our website. Levels start at $1,500. Rooms are named after St. George Theatre artists: The Tony Room, The Diva Room, Ladies/Men of Comedy Rooms and Chorus Dressing Rooms.

6. Fundraising Events

Opportunities to Celebrate and Sponsor

Sponsor and/or attend one or more of our special events. It's a great way to have a fun time with friends while supporting the St. George Theatre's mission.

The Annual Red Carpet Gala and Benefit Concert is our principal fundraising event but there are many more to support.

7. Donate

The St. George Theatre is a registered 501©3. Tax-deductible donations can be made in any amount on our website, stgeorgetheatre.com or by mail at:
St. George Theatre Restoration Inc.
35 Hyatt Street
Staten Island, NY 10301
Attn: Development Director

8. In-Kind

In-Kind donations are appreciated. Examples include office equipment/furniture, services and event-specific items/services (food/beverage donations by restaurants, prizes for event auctions, etc.) Prior approval and arrangements must be made by calling the Development office at **(718) 442-2900.**

9. Tell a Friend

Call, text, Facebook, email your friends and family about our upcoming shows and fundraising events. Sign up for our e-blasts to stay up to date on our special events and shows.

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Saving the Theatre

In 2004, Mrs. Rosemary Cappozalo with her daughters, Luanne Sorrentino, and Doreen Cugno, started a not-for-profit organization to save this historic theatre from being torn down. Mrs. Rosemary, a prominent dance educator, donated her life savings to the organization and "saved" the St. George Theatre. With support from the community, business leaders, elected officials, and their Board of Directors, a white elephant was transformed into a beautiful, thriving, majestic theatre for Staten Island and all of New York City. The Honorable James P. Molinaro and the Board of Directors led by Brian J. Laline have been instrumental in the success of the theatre's growth since 2004.

When they first entered the theatre, there was no electrical power, no plumbing, and the bathroom ceilings had crashed to the floor. There were large holes the size of their bodies where water was pouring through the ceilings, no orchestra seats, no carpeting, no stage lighting and no sound system. There was no working heating system nor air-conditioning system and only the birds and raccoons were finding comfort in the venue. Despite all the obstacles, the ladies had the theatre open in a few months. Restoration is still ongoing.

Since the theatre re-opened in June 2004, over 900 events have taken place and more than one million patrons have walked the red carpet. Favorites include Tony Bennett, Jerry Seinfeld, Louis C.K., Liza Minnelli, Jason Mraz, k.d. lang, The B-52's, Carol Burnett, Steve Martin, Diana Ross, Ringo Starr, Don McLean, Art Garfunkel, Joan Rivers, Kevin James, the Goo Goo Dolls, Wayne Newton, Chris Botti, Bobby Rydell, Yolanda Adams, Blondie, Tony Orlando, Cyndi Lauper, Rosie O'Donnell, Bret Michaels, Marc Cohn, Neil Sedaka, Lee Ann Womack, Taylor Hicks, Air Supply, New York City Opera, Ailey II, John Edwards, Long Island Medium Theresa Caputo, Howie Mandel, Brad Garrett, Jackie Mason, The Jonas Brothers, Blues Clues Live, Cirque on Ice, National Broadway tours including Peter Pan, Mame, Cats and Lost in Yonkers - to name a few!

Through community outreach programs, tens of thousands of children, teens, and seniors have enjoyed a concert, special event, educational program/ workshop, or tour at the St. George Theatre.
The re-opening of the theatre has given a major boost to the revitalization efforts of the St. George community.

Restoration

We continue to restore and maintain the historic venue, improving the patron experience, keeping up with trends in the industry and being conscious of preserving history and energy.

Most recent projects include a loading elevator dock, new state-of-the-art rigging system (52 line sets hung from a grid on stage that mobilize scenery, lights, and audio on stage), new exit doors throughout the theatre, safety handrails, purchase of stage lighting equipment, audio equipment, genie lift, stage curtains and legs, new theatre seating and newly renovated restrooms with more stalls on the first floor, to name a few. A state-of-the-art marquee, entry

doors and flooring, mezzanine seating and renovating the backstage dressings rooms are all in the plans for our next phase of projects.

These projects are supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the Office of the Borough President and the Honorable Borough President James Oddo, Councilwoman Debi Rose, Councilman Steven Matteo, the former Borough President, the Honorable James P. Molinaro, Assemblyman Michael Cusick, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Richmond County Savings Foundation, The Staten Island Foundation, Northfield Bank Foundation, The Vincent Gruppuso Foundation, The Singers Forum Foundation and the ShopRite/Mannix Family.

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History

Centered in the historic St. George District of Staten Island, just steps from the iconic Staten Island Ferry, the St. George Theatre was the most magnificent theatre on Staten Island. Solomon Brill of the Isle Theatrical Company broke ground on a beautiful 2,800 seat venue, in August of 1928 and the doors opened on December 4th, 1929. The cost of the project, which included an attached office complex, was two million dollars, $500,000 of which was for the theatre. Brill, who owned several other theatres on the Island and once owned a nickelodeon with William Fox of 20th Century Fox fame, promised to bring top-of-the-line vaudeville to the borough for an admission fee of 75 cents. He envisioned the St. George as a "dream" show house rivaling Manhattan's cathedrals of cinema.

The main architect was Eugene DeRosa; he was assisted by Staten Island resident James Whitford, who was known as the "dean of Staten Island architects." Mr. Whitford also designed the Ritz, Liberty and Victory theatres, none of which exist today. The ornate interior of the theatre was designed by Nestor Castro. Mr. Castro was the art director for the Libman-Spanjer Corporation which designed the interiors of many theatres in the Times Square area. The majority of the elaborate architecture that is visible to theatre patrons is the result of Mr. Castro's artistic genius.

At a time when many of the large movie houses were built by big Hollywood studios, Brill was an independent owner of fifteen theatres in the NYC area. Prior to his death in 1932, he sold one half of his interest in the St. George Theatre to Joseph Kohn, who later sold to the Fabian Theatre chain.

The Island's newest movie and vaudeville house outshone most of its competitors of the day, including Manhattan's Capitol Theatre on Broadway. Some of the theatre's unique features included the absence of any obstructions, a $25,000 Wurlitzer organ, an advanced cooling & heating system, one of the largest cantilevered balconies ever built and velvet seats, gilded balconies and grand staircases.

The St. George Theatre's interior is a variety of Spanish and Italian Baroque styles. The lobby is spacious with two box office windows and six windows displaying upcoming attractions. The foyer is illuminated by large stained glass chandeliers and majestic winding staircases lead up to the equally elaborate mezzanine level. Hanging above the grand lobby are oversized paintings of a bullfight and a Spanish village. Throughout the theatre are murals, tiled fountains and sculpted figures set in niches. The balcony and mezzanine originally had 1,400 seats and the orchestra section had another 1,600; about two thirds of those remain today.

The first movie to play was "So This Is College" and the headline "live" act was the husband and wife team of Blossom Seeley and Benny Fields. The movie and vaudeville format featured performers such as Al Jolson, Kate Smith and Guy Lombardo. The live performances ended in 1934 but began again during the 1940's when shows promoting the sale of war bonds featured personalities such as Rose Marie and Arthur Godfrey.

The theatre was sold in 1938 to the Fabian Theater chain who continued to operate it as a movie palace until 1977. Several owners since then have tried reincarnations of the space that included a roller rink, an antique showroom and a night club, none of which were successful. An attempt was made in the mid-1990's to reopen as a performing arts center and several performances were presented. This venture, too, failed and the owner ultimately gave up. With the exception of filming the finale of the 2003 film "School of Rock" at the theatre, the venue was basically padlocked for over thirty years, and a passerby had no idea of the rich history inside this treasure.