Very few places in Austin can make this claim! With all of the new development happening around Austin, and specifically right here on Congress Avenue, it’s truly remarkable that Austin’s original performing arts venue has stood the test of time. As one of the first – and few remaining – examples of early and distinctive theatrical architecture, the Paramount stands as a testament to how important the venue is to the community and the cultural landscape that makes Austin unique. As one of the first – and few remaining – examples of early and distinctive theatrical architecture, the Paramount stands as a testament to how important the venue is to the community and the cultural landscape that makes Austin unique. Once you’re here, you can’t help but feel you’ve entered a special place that wraps itself around you, making you feel welcome, timeless and inclusive, both with other members of the audience and the performance itself. From Houdini to Katharine Hepburn, to current artists like Bonnie Raitt, Lyle Lovett and Sheryl Crow, the Paramount, and its audiences, have seen it all over the past 100 years…

In anticipation of the Paramount Theatre’s 100th anniversary, we are undertaking a truly luminous project: the fabrication and installation of a new, historically accurate blade for the Paramount’s façade. The blade was first installed when Paramount Pictures took over the theatre in the early 1930s. Little is known about what happened to the original blade after 1963, making the 100-year celebration a perfect occasion to re-light the façade in historic fashion. In 1930, the Austin-American-Statesman described the blade as a “huge sign, more than 75 feet high [from the sidewalk], and topped with a brilliant sunburst.” We can’t wait to light up Congress Avenue when we flip the switch on the new blade in the fall of 2015! Visit www.austintheatre.org/greenlight for more information or to donate to this extraordinary project.
When Knights Were Bold

with the comedy play

as the Majestic Theatre

The Paramount opens October 11, 1915

Just the Facts

• The Paramount hosts more than 200,000
  members each year.
• An estimated 16 million patrons have seen performances within these walls.
• The Paramount hosts 250+ performances per year.
• Over the years, it is estimated that as many as 50000 artists have graced the Paramount stage.
• The Paramount screens 500+ films each year.
• The theatre provides access to the performing arts to over 20,000 underserved youth each year.
• The theatre plays host to multiple film premieres each year and to some of Austin’s legendary stage actors and actresses like Helen Hayes, Live performances continue, featuring legends of stage and film.

Lights, camera, action!

Opening as a vaudeville house in 1915, the Paramount Theatre soon changed with the times to become Austin’s grand movie palace. The Paramount served film lovers through the depression, World War II, and through the decline of downtown Austin. Since then, as a first-run theatre for many years before the decline of downtown Austin. Since then, it has presented numerous world premieres independently and continues to do so in partnership with the Austin Film Society and festivals like South by Southwest and the Austin Film Festival. In addition to showcasing over 300 films, the Paramount has also played host to the annual Summer Classic Film Series, which will celebrate a milestone 40th season in 2015. With its historic architecture and decoration to 35mm and 70mm film exhibition, the Paramount remains the best venue in town for classic movie and recapturing the glorious atmosphere of cinema’s golden age. The Paramount marquee has long been the most coveted spot in town for film buffs both old and new.

Houdini, saints, and ghosts

The Paramount is well known for its grand proscenium that majestically frames the stage. Above the proscenium sits a graceful painting of Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians and artists (and thieves (an interesting combination). Saint Cecilia was painted during renovation in the 1910s, becoming a fixture for all who enter the theatre. Also found above the proscenium is the famous “Houdini Hole.” Legend has it, when the great escape artist performed here in 1916, he needed rope and rigging in the ceiling for a trick, and the hole was never fixed. The Houdini Hole is the famous “Houdini Hole.”

For a comprehensive list of Paramount film premieres, visit www.austintheatre.org/centennial.

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