

Carolina Theatre Newsletter

Summer 2023



An Evening With Phil Hansen

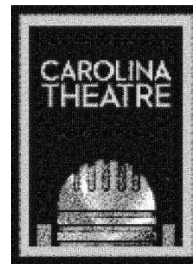
Can limitations lead to creative freedom? That's the question artist and speaker Phil Hansen asked Carolina Theatre donors and friends at a special event held in November at FFTC headquarters. Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and fellowship before convening in the Kearney Solarium for the program. Foundation leaders Michael Marsicano and Laura Smith provided an update on the theatre's progress and a sneak peek into what's to come for the theatre's opening.

Hansen gave an inspiring speech highlighting how his own physical limitations became the passageway to creativity, transforming his artistry and perspective. His inspirational story has been shared around the world, including on PBS and BBC, garnering millions of views.

Phil's speech included a dynamic interactive art experience. The audience was tasked with creating their own drawings that Phil later turned into a custom, collective piece. You can check out the piece made for the theatre [here](#). Attendees can zoom in and try to find the art they created at the event – happy searching!



Phil Hansen



[Click here](#) to view the interactive art created at the event.



Former FFTC Board Chair Jewell Hoover introduces artist Phil Hansen at a recent gathering of Carolina Theatre supporters.




Artist Phil Hansen's inspiring story of overcoming limitations has garnered worldwide acclaim.



In the News

The Carolina Theatre was recently highlighted on WCNC in a special feature with Larry Sprinkle.

 Check out the story [here](#).

Fun Fact

Gone with the Wind premiered at the Carolina Theatre on Jan. 29, 1940. In preparation for the big event, a ball was held at the Charlotte Hotel, and a local woman was crowned as Charlotte's "Scarlett O'Hara."





Blast From The Past: Cinerama

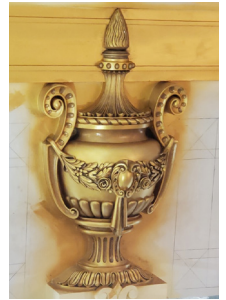
In 1961, the Carolina Theatre was closed for two weeks to undergo a major renovation and installation of a new technology, known as "Cinerama." To optimize audience members' experience of Cinerama, the theater's seating capacity was reduced from 1,400 to 668 seats.

Installation of an enormous curved screen, multiple projectors and a complex sound system also required significant alterations to the stage and surrounding area. The cost of the upgraded system was approximately \$250,000, which equates to \$2,285,000 in today's dollars.

To showcase the new technology, the theater held multiple showings of a full-length film entitled *This is Cinerama*, which featured such scenes as a roller coaster ride, the canals of Venice, a Spanish bullfight and views of Niagara Falls.

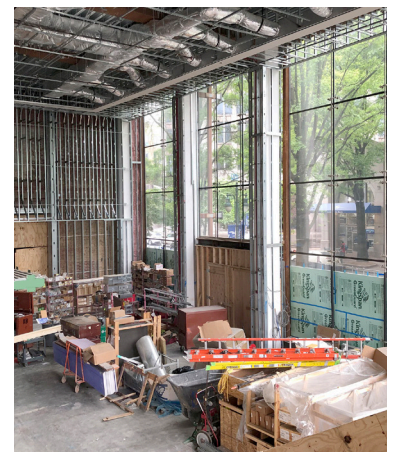
Construction Update

Specialty contractor Evergreene Architectural Arts has started work to restore the original decorative plaster and moldings in the audience chamber. The ceiling coffers and beams, column capitals and pilasters, and proscenium arch are complete. Work on the front-wall, decorative-arched lunettes is in progress and scheduled to be finished in a few weeks. Ornamental plaster details and decorative painting on the side walls and balcony ceiling begins this summer.



Ornamental plaster

While the plaster and decorative painting work is underway, work in the new lobby space continues. New HVAC and electrical rough-in work are complete. Framing for the ceilings and walls and support framing for the reconstructed Carolina Theatre marquee are in place. Additionally, support and power wiring is ready for a spectacular light sculpture to be installed later this year.



Work in the theatre lobby (top) and theatre itself (left) continues to progress.

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