



PIPES

&

PERCUSSION

182
NOVEMBER
2017

**NEWSLETTER FOR
THE FRIENDS OF THE WURLITZER**

**& THE "KIWI CHAPTER" of the
AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**

**EDITOR: James Duncan
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**UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST of AUCKLAND
www.theatreorgans.com/wota**

ALL SYSTEMS GO !

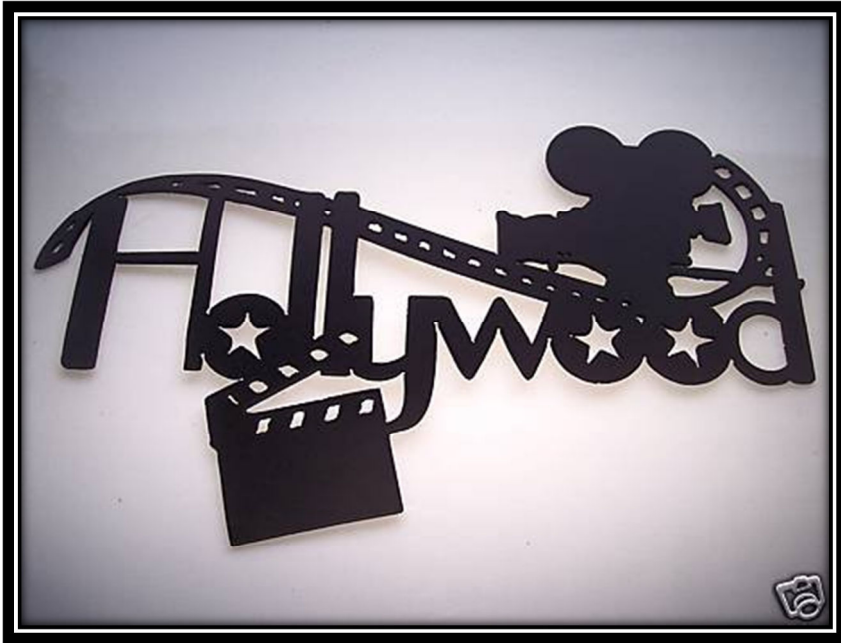
After months of no news to report, the wheels are starting to turn slowly but with increasing speed, as we are about to begin the work to prepare the Playhouse Theatre for the arrival of its new resident. See inside this issue with news on this project and ways you can help us.

On the strength of the success of our July "Highlights on Video" show, we are presenting another selection of musical gems on video featuring our very own Wurlitzer organ, recorded during our days at the Hollywood Cinema.

This event is one of the few tangible ways we can bring you some entertainment while the Wurlitzer organ continues to sit in storage, unable to make music for us. Sadly, it is not possible to finance bringing an artist over to play and try and source a suitable instrument while still having to meet the huge monthly storage costs.

So with the above in mind, here's a show which will give us all, our Wurlitzer "fix" and bring the Trust some much needed pennies. Please do join us on for our last event for 2017, on **Sunday November 5 @ the Playhouse Theatre**! There will not be a follow-up newsletter to chase those along that haven't booked, so we urge you to act on this newsletter and book your seats so you don't miss out.

*++ The opinions expressed in this Newsletter ++
are not necessarily those of The Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland.*



MAGIC MOMENTS On Video

With our very own

WURLITZER
THEATRE PIPE ORGAN

Sunday November 5 at 2pm

**The Playhouse Theatre
15 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden**

See Booking Form for Ticket Details

Tickets are not refundable – NO DOOR SALES

Raising funds for the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland

How many times have you been to a movie or show and thought; "I could go see that again!?" No doubt this could also apply to some of our Wurlitzer shows, so we're giving you the chance to relive some of those great moments.

During our latter days at the Hollywood Cinema, we introduced the concept of video projection of the organ console, relayed through the theatre projection plant on to the "big screen". During shows that featured additional artists we were able to add extra cameras and create even more magic on the big screen. After the show, the footage captured, together with sound, was merged together thanks to our videographers, these have given us some spectacular video memories.

It is from this video archive that we now present some *Magic Moments* with a couple of international artists at our Wurlitzer organ joined by guest entertainers.

The show will take the format of a normal concert presentation.

- **Doors open at 1.30pm (NOTE NEW TIME)**
- **We'll have a raffle, thanks to our new "Raffle Lady" Phyllis Robinson**
- **During interval there will be tea/coffee/orange juice available for in the Supper Room adjacent to the foyer**

This event is not open to the public, but you are more than welcome to bring friends along to enjoy the afternoon with you.

THIS & THAT FROM HERE & THERE.....

ORGAN INSTALLATION – STAGE 1 –

NEWS FROM JOHN PALMER – WOTA TREASURER

The Trust is thrilled to announce the details of Stage 1 of our Wurlitzer Pipe Organ installation in the Playhouse Theatre, Glen Eden. Stage 1 involves;

- Building the percussion chamber at the left back of the stage
- Building the organ pit, front right of stage
- Installation of a new console lift in the organ pit
- Removal of part of the wall back stage to install the swell shutters (those are the vertical louvre like structures that let the sound out of the organ chamber and control the volume.

Neil Warrington, WOTA's Team Leader for the Installation, will give you more technical detail elsewhere in this Newsletter, my part is to discuss how this will be funded. Below is a summary of the work required.

| Activity | Cost GST Inclusive |
|---|--------------------|
| | |
| Consulting and advice on pre-organ installation work | \$ 1,000.00 |
| | |
| Blower Repairs | \$ 2,139.00 |
| | |
| Transport Organ components from Kennards Storage to Playhouse Theatre | \$ 885.50 |
| | |
| Build percussion chamber, organ console pit, remove portion of back wall for swell shutters | \$ 8,393.12 |
| | |
| Lift for Organ Console | \$ 27,370.00 |
| | |
| TOTAL | \$39,787.62 |

We have just lodged a Funding Application with The Trusts Community Foundation (TTCF) for \$39,787.62. There will be additional costs, airfares, accommodation and there are sure to be a few unforeseen items. TTCF generously funded the removal of the Organ to the tune of \$25,000 so we hope they will look favourably on the reinstallation.

We are aware that many of you may be becoming weary of us asking for money and wondering just when this is all going to be finished. We really appreciate your support BUT storage and installation is an expensive business. That said, this is your opportunity to be part of something great. This event is as significant in the organ's life as its original installation in the Regent Theatre, Queen Street in 1926 and reinstallation at the Hollywood Theatre, Avondale in 1979-82. This installation will ensure a permanent home for the organ for the rest of our lives and it will preserve a gem of this country's cinematic history.

Stage 2 of the project will include installation of the blower, pipework, plus the connection of these and the percussions to the console. When that's done and we've got sound, the organ has to be voiced, so that all the pipe ranks sing in harmony and are matched to the new room in which they will perform. We will again need funding for Stage 2.

Storage Costs have taken their toll on our finances. Since the organ's removal from the Hollywood in September 2015, to Kennards Storage in Three Kings, we have paid \$26,552 to keep the organ safe and dry. Expensive, you bet, but the upside is that the organ is secure, in a temperature controlled and rodent free environment. Anything less and the remedial work which might be required doesn't bear thinking about. Kennards have been generous in their rates but despite that, there have been three rental increases in that time. It is interesting to note that if we add our dwindling funds to what we paid for the storage costs, we could have nearly funded Stage 1 ourselves.

This highlights the need to get the Organ Chambers built with all haste. This part of the project is the responsibility of the Waitakere Playhouse Theatre Trust (WPTT) who own and operate the Playhouse Theatre. Resource Consent for this has already been granted and WPTT are waiting for Building Consent from Auckland Council. The cost of the Organ Chambers and supply of power to the Organ will be borne by WPTT.

A donation form is included with this newsletter. Donations will be accepted by cheque or through our *Givealittle* page <https://givealittle.co.nz/>

We thank you in advance for your support.

John Palmer
Treasurer
Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland



ORGAN WORKS

WOTA Trustee Neil Warrington reports the following news from the Organ Tech Team...

"Work progresses on the refurbishment of the organ. I have acquired some leather from Pat Stenersen, wife of the late Les Stenersen, former owner of our Wurlitzer organ. It will be enough to get us started. She has also given me brand new tuning slides and reeds along with other miscellaneous items.



We are currently re-leathering the reiterating xylophone. The primary motor leather is the original Zebra skin and is well worn out. One of our team, FOTW member John Swales, is working on this in his evening spare time.

LEFT:
What better way to spend a fine Sunday afternoon? Releathering a ga-zillion tiny xylophone motors! John Swales happy in his work.

With the focus being on the organ's percussions as they will be first in during stage one. FOTW member Steve Crawford has the sleigh bell and glockenspiel and is working on them at home.

Also in the spotlight is the organ console lift. Rose Engineering no longer does

work off-site and are unwilling to install the scissor lift they manufactured for the organ back in 1998. The Organ Tech Team have talked over this issue and the suggested option is for another company to provide and install a new lift. Steve Crawford who works for an elevator company, feels that re-installing the old lift is a temporary solution in terms of continued certifying of the lift and in time it will not be certifiable due to its age and today's compliance requirements. Lift company Cremer, has viewed the lift and feel that it would require significant modification to the point where it would cost more to install it than to purchase a brand new one. The advantage with a new lift is that it will be warrantied and will be able to be serviced by Steve's company, Kone lifts, after the warranty has expired.

The new swell shades recently purchased for the Percussion Chamber are currently in the US and are expected to be shipped together with other organ components for an Australian organ installation around March next year.

Another item requiring attention was the organ's main blower. As per Rose Engineering's request we delivered the organ blower turbine and motor to them so they could assess the bearings. After investigation, they advise that the bearing is sound however they have concerns for the blower motor which under its present setup, is under too much strain.. The engineer's suggestion is that we mount the motor in line e.g. motor shaft is mounted directly onto the blower shaft. This is how the blower was originally designed. This will reduce the severe strain they consider the motor is under driving the blower turbine through the present belt system."

SPECIAL EVENT TO OPEN 2018

It is with much excitement that we announce the visit of USA organist Rob Richards who is passing through New Zealand on his way to perform an Australian concert tour early next year. Rob Richards, as most of you know, is Star Organist at Disney's El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood and has visited Auckland several times to perform on our Wurlitzer in recent years.

Through the kindness of Margaret & Brian Massey, Rob will be performing two shows on Margaret's gorgeous Rodgers theatre organ installed in their beautiful home in Narrow Neck.

These shows, with the title "**A Gift of Music**", will be presented on **Sunday February 18** and will be open to FOTW members. With seating limited to 24 per show, we are hoping that members will support the shows justifying the Trust's decision to proceed with underwriting the event.

Booking details will be advised in our first newsletter for 2018, but please do note the date in your diaries so we can count on your support.



MAGIC MOMENTS ON VIDEO
SELECTIONS FROM OUR VIDEO ARCHIVE
FEATURING THE FORMER
HOLLYWOOD WURLITZER

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 AT 2PM
(DOORS OPEN 1.30PM)

ALL SEATS \$15.00 - ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY
NO DOOR SALES – BOOKINGS CLOSE JUNE 23
SEE BOOKING FORM WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

A FUND RAISING EVENT FOR THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST OF AUCKLAND

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY....

CONCERT TICKET ENQUIRIES & RESERVATIONS

JAN NANCEKIVELL – PH: 522-8944

OR E-MAIL: JANDENISE@XTRA.CO.NZ

**THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
15 GLENDALE ROAD, GLEN EDEN**



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 – *Magic Moments on Video*

Selections from previous shows at the Hollywood Cinema featuring international theatre organists at the console of the ex-Regent Theatre Auckland Wurlitzer pipe organ and guest entertainers. **No Door Sales - Bookings Close November 1.**

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18 – *Rob Richards (USA) "A Gift of Music"*

Residence concert at the home of Brian & Margaret Massey

Two special shows featuring the wonder sounds of Margaret Massey's Rodgers theatre organ. Rob will present music from the shows, the movies and more....

SUNDAY MARCH (TBA) - *FOTW Club Afternoon @ The Playhouse*

More details to follow.



THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST OF AUCKLAND

**(A REGISTERED
CHARITABLE TRUST - CC 10966)**

**PRESERVING THE HISTORIC
FORMER REGENT THEATRE AUCKLAND,
1926 WURLITZER PIPE ORGAN.**

www.theatreorgans.com/wota



**THE
WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST
of AUCKLAND**

(REG. CHARITABLE TRUST No.10966)

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www.theatreorgans.com/wota

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**FRIENDS of the WURLITZER MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
and CONCERT TICKETS:**

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