

What's new at the Orpheum from 11-18-93 Linda Mack Star Tribune Article "Setting a Grand Stage"

Owner: MCDA for the City of Minneapolis

Manager: Historic Theatre Group

Architect: Hammel Green and Abrahamson

Interior restoration and lighting: Majestic Urban Revivals, the same group that restored the State Theatre interior

Renovation cost: \$10 million

Financing: \$2 surcharge on all tickets sold for State and Orpheum theatres, used to reimburse city revenue bonds

Number of seats: 2,650

Number of handicapped-accessible seats: 66 (42 wheelchair, 24 drop arm)

Number of restrooms: 32 women's (up 24) on main floor and mezzanine, 24 men's (up 12) on the lower level and mezzanine

Technical improvements:

Stage expanded to rear by 20 feet, creating a stage 100 feet wide, 58 feet deep and 64 feet high, with added wingspace on either side

A 5,000 square feet, two story dressing room addition with rooms for stars, chorus members, musicians and crew

Dock expanded to accommodate two semi-trailers at once

Added handicapped accessible seating at all levels except upper balcony. Improved handicap access to restrooms, orchestra pit and star dressing rooms

Upgraded mechanical and electrical systems, elevator and restrooms

Rebuilt auditorium seats, enlarged from 19 inches to 21, 22 and 23 inches

New stage lighting, controls and sound equipment

Orchestra pit expanded to seat 50

Interior esthetic improvements:

Decorative painting and restoration in auditorium and lobby

Plaster repair and replacement

New lighting fixtures, including a one-ton chandelier 15 feet high

New stage drapes of maroon velour with gold tassels

Renovated doors and hardware

Exterior improvements:

Cleaning and repair of existing brick and terra cotta

Reinstalling original cast-iron poster cases found in basement

New brick and terra cotta wall built around the expanded stagehouse on 10th St. to match existing 9th St. wall

Restoration of boarded-up windows and doors

Rebuilding the marquee and the neon 54-foot high "Orpheum" flag topped by a 10-foot-high neon flickering flame