100 Years ... and counting!

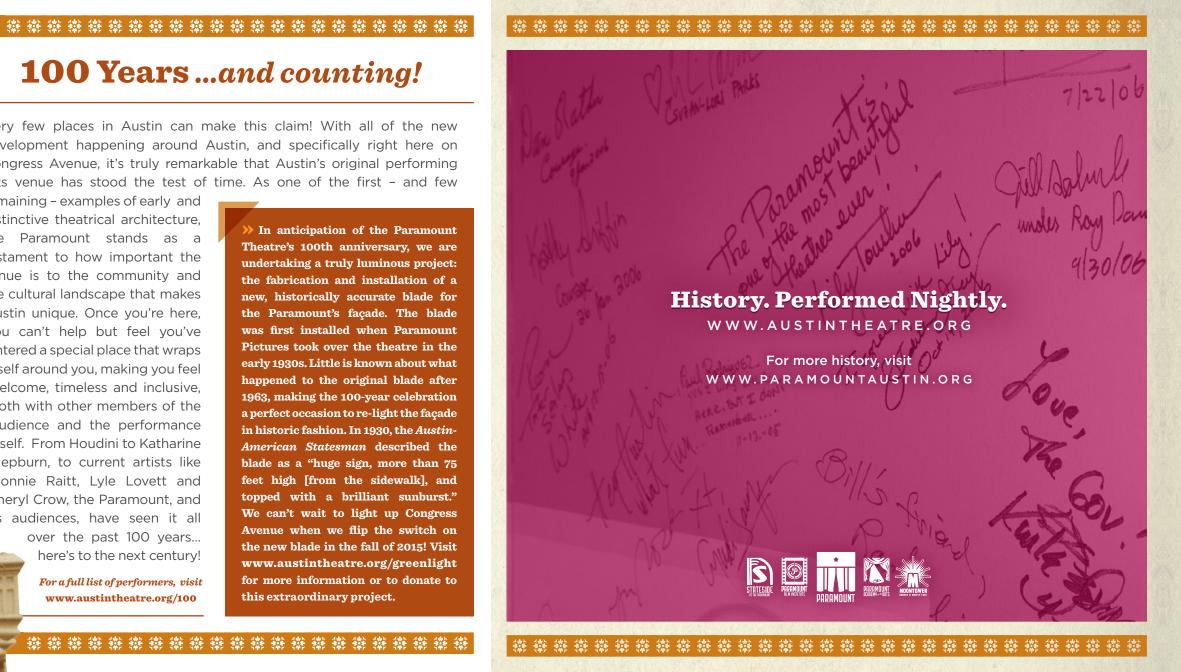
Very few places in Austin can make this claim! With all of the new development happening around Austin, and specifically right here on Congress Avenue, it's truly remarkable that Austin's original performing arts venue has stood the test of time. As one of the first - and few

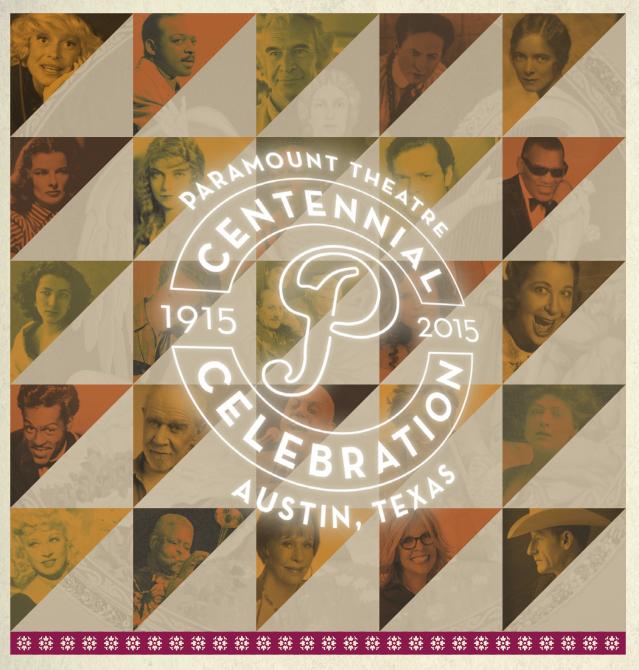
remaining - examples of early and distinctive theatrical architecture. the Paramount stands as a testament to how important the venue is to the community and the cultural landscape that makes Austin unique. Once you're here, you can't help but feel you've entered a special place that wraps itself around 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...

> For a full list of performers, visit www.austintheatre.org/100

> here's to the next century!

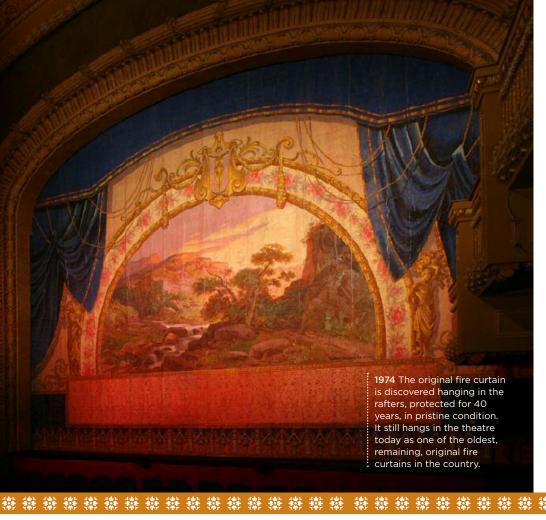
In anticipation of the Paramount Theatre's 100th anniversary, we are undertaking a truly luminous project: the fabrication and installation of a new, historically accurate blade for the Paramount's façade. The blade was first installed when Paramount Pictures took over the theatre in the early 1930s. 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.





Just the Facts

- The Paramount hosts more than 200.000 audience members each year
- An estimated 18 million patrons have seen a performance within these walls
- The Paramount hosts 250+ performances a year
- Over the years, it is estimated that as many as 10,000 artists have graced the Paramount stage
- The Paramount screens 100+ films each year
- The Paramount 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 most iconic festivals including SXSW, the Austin Film Festival and many more
- The Paramount launched the Moontower Comedy & Oddity Festival in 2012 and in its fourth year is already one of the largest comedy festivals in the country



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 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 new 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 devotion to 35mm and 70mm film exhibition, the Paramount remains the best venue in town for taking in a 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 films both old and new.

For a comprehensive list of Paramount film premieres, visit www.austintheatre.org/100







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 artists and thieves (an interesting combination). Saint Cecilia was painted during renovation in the 1970s, 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 Paramount is one of only a handful of historic theatres that still uses ropes and pulleys for all of its stage operations (most have gone to electric systems).

- Occasionally, the smell of cigar smoke wafts throughout the auditorium, usually when the theatre is "dark." and a gentleman can be seen in opera box right, dressed in early-century attire He is just one of the many spirits to supposedly haunt the theatre Additional ghosts and activity include "The Lady in White," and many more.
- Today, we encourage each of the performers who grace our stage, to sign our backstage "Artist Wall" (see back photo). While many famous and wellknown stars have signed, some of our favorite signatures include:
- Carol Burnett
- Buzz Aldrin
- David Byrne
- Marvin Hamlish
- Joan Rivers
- Hal Holbrook
- Diane Keator
- Lily Tomlin







October 11, 1915 The Paramount opens as the Maiestic Theatre with the comedy play When Knights Were Bold

1916 World-famous magician and escape artist, Harry Houdini, performs on multiple nights

1930 Paramount Pictures buys the theatre and begins running Paramount Studio-only films. The Paramount blade is erected. Live performances continue, featuring legendary stage actress like Helen Haves

1941 Katharine Hepburn performs The Philadelphia Story on the Paramount stage

1963 The Paramount blade is removed from building "to be refurbished." never to be seen again

1966 Batman film premieres at the Paramount with stars in attendance

1973 John Bernardoni, Charles Eckerman and Stephen Scott rescue the theatre - slated for demolition - with grand ideas of bringing back live performances

1975 The Paramount's Summer Classic Film Series is established, making 2015 the 40th anniversary of the Austin institution

April 22, 1976 The Paramount celebrates the return of live performances with a concert by jazz great Dave Brubeck, who plays to a packed house

July 8, 1977

The theatre earns its spot on the National Register of Historic Places 1982 Best Little Whorehouse in Texas film premieres at the Paramount with movie stars Burt Revnolds. Dollv Parton and Charles Derning, along with a parade down Congress Avenue

October 11. 2015 The Paramount officially reaches the centennial mark! The celebration is to be culminated with the lighting of the newly installed, historically accurate 47-foot blade