

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

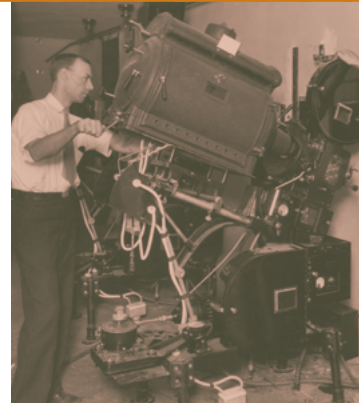


1974 The original fire curtain is discovered hanging in the rafters, protected for 40 years, in pristine condition. It still hangs in the theatre today as one of the oldest, remaining, original fire curtains in the country.

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.

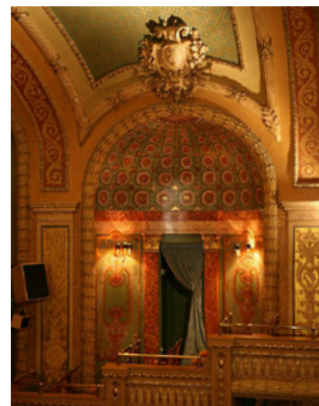
➤ Also found above the proscenium is the famous "Houdini Hole." Legend has it, when the great escape artist performed here in 1916, he needed rope and rigging in the ceiling for a trick, and the hole was never fixed.

➤ 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 well-known stars have signed, some of our favorite signatures include:

- Carol Burnett
- Buzz Aldrin
- David Byrne
- Marvin Hamlisch
- Joan Rivers
- Hal Holbrook
- Diane Keaton
- Lily Tomlin



October 11, 1915
The Paramount opens as the Majestic 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 Hayes

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 Reynolds, Dolly Parton and Charles Durning, 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