

Restored Ansonia Theater May Bring You to Tears

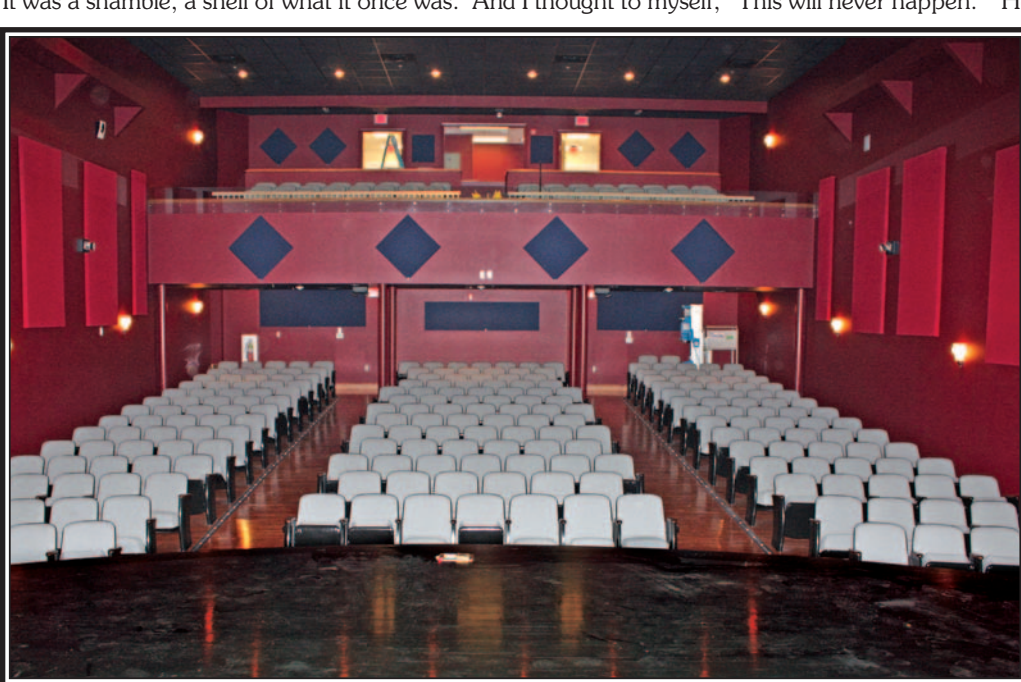
On Tuesday afternoon, May 24th, I telephoned the Anson County Arts Council to inquire about the newly renovated and restored Ansonia Theatre. "Is the theater available only for Arts Council functions or may local groups rent the facility?" I asked Mrs. Catherine Crandle, Secretary/Treasurer of the council. My heart leapt when she told me that I could be one of the first to come aboard and sign the rental agreement, which had already been prepared. "Of course, I would need to take a look and make sure it is conducive to our needs. When are you available for a look-see," I asked? There wasn't a moment's hesitation, "Come right now and I will be happy to take you on a tour," Crandel replied proudly.

Within about one minutes time I had arrived and was anxious to see what was behind those double doors I had so often walked through as a girl, and walked past as an adult. What was presented to me on May 24th was astounding. Standing at the back of the theatre I peered down the now lighted aisles and onto the stage and was overcome by emotion. Truly fighting back tears it was a sight to behold. (*Publisher's note: She DID cry!*) Instantly I was taken back through time, a time when we sat in the very same seats that are sitting there today and watched wonderful film after wonderful film, usually on a Saturday afternoon, until its closing some twenty-plus years ago.



The seats have been refurbished, but as I sat and relaxed in one I could feel myself settling in, sliding forward and allowing my head to rest as I peered to where the films were shown. Now a beautiful stage stands in all its regality and beckons to those with a purpose, to those who dreamed of one day having a beautiful theatre in the heart of Anson County to use for a treasure trove of fabulous affairs.

I remember many years ago, back when the first words of restoration were just a whisper; I visited the theatre then as well. It was a shamble, a shell of what it once was. And I thought to myself, "This will never happen." How ashamed I felt for ever having a doubt.



The view from the balcony (top) and the stage at the beautifully renovated Ansonia Theatre.

Thank you Anson County Arts Council. Thank you for every single detail you so painstakingly thought through and carried out. As a girl who remembers the Ansonia Theatre as a great little place to watch a movie with my girlfriends, to an adult who truly appreciates the arts and what this particular building can mean for all Ansonians, I am humbled by its majesty. It's a part of our history now becoming part of our future. And, in a word, it's wonderful.

Proudly I write that on Monday, December 19, I have rented the special space for a special Christmas recital, a recital I can now hold in Anson County. IN Anson County, something I haven't been able to do for as long as I can remember, and that makes me a proud Ansonian with many, many plans to use the timeless theatre. Sometimes you have a mighty, magnificent oak, and for whatever reason, that oak is taken down, forever gone during our lifetime. The Ansonia, like the mighty oak in peril, wasn't taken down, but instead, given new life through a series of long and tedious rebirths, now and finally whole again. Go and visit the Ansonia. Its beauty may just bring you to tears, especially if its future crisscrosses with your personal past experiences as it does mine. I can hardly wait to see it again. *By Melanie Lyon*

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Bowman Class of 1978

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Free Childbirth Education Classes Offered by Chesterfield General Hospital

In a release from Chesterfield General Hospital: Expecting parents can get free childbirth education at Palmetto OB/GYN on Tuesdays in June and July. A registered nurse is available to answer questions in order to provide the best possible care for a healthy pregnancy. Our childbirth education expert will teach you what is normal and what you can expect while being pregnant. Your childbirth coach will learn how to be supportive as well. We'll talk about what worries you the most about labor and practice some ways to help you relax. Not your first baby or having a C-section? These classes can help you too.

Call 843-537-7881 ext. 4587 for more information or to sign up.

Four-Week Childbirth Education Series: 4 classes, meet 1 hour each Tuesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., June 7, 14, 21, 28 and July 5, 12, 19 and 26. To complete classes before you deliver your baby, sign up when you are 28 weeks pregnant.

Deep Creek School Reunion

There will be a Deep Creek School Reunion on Saturday, June 11th at Deep Creek Fellowship Hall. Classmates are invited to come out at 11:30 a.m. to enjoy a covered dish lunch.

Anyone who lives in Deep Creek School is invited.

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