



# COLUMBIA RIVER CLARION

Columbia River Theatre Organ Society

## The King of Kings-Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>

Join us at the Hollywood Theatre at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 17th for Cecil B. DeMille's silent classic *The King of Kings*. It will be accompanied by Donna Parker on the Beverly Ruth Nelson Memorial organ. Tickets are available at the box office, \$7.00, children under 12 free. A group price is offered for groups of 5 or more at \$5.00 per person, when purchased as a block of tickets. Off street parking is available in the medical office parking lots on Broadway behind the Theatre as well as a bus stop right in front of the theatre and the red, blue and green MAX lines stop 3 blocks behind the theatre.



## Finishing Touches for the April Debut at the Hollywood

On Friday, April 8, Rob Kingdom and Mike Bryant met Jonas Nordwall at the Hollywood Theatre to go through the organ, in preparation for its public debut at the showing of the C. B. DeMille classic silent film, *King of Kings* on Sunday, April 17.

As Mike explained at the membership meeting last month, this process is the digital equivalent of tonal finishing on a pipe organ. With the Hauptwerk system, note-by-note control is possible, just

as with pipes. Jonas is a master at regulation, and worked over the Nelson Memorial organ for about five hours.

There are still a couple of little issues, and Neil Jensen is working with Mike to sort them out. Nothing that an audience will ever notice, though.

While work was progressing, Doug Whyte asked Mike if we'd like to "play the house in" for a 1945 film noir being shown over the weekend, *Leave Her to Heaven*, starring Cornel Wilde, Gene Tierney, and Jeanne Crain. Mike played the evening performance on Saturday, and Rob handled Sunday evening. This gave us an opportunity to expose the organ to the public, and also to promote the showing of *King of Kings*.

While talking with the theatre manager in the lobby after the film began, Mike was told that a number of people who were relatively late arrivals expressed dismay that they hadn't arrived earlier to hear the organ. The manager also said a number of people who came to the snack bar during the music were very enthused about it, and hoped it would become a regular part of the theatre's offerings.

As a "shakedown" prior to Donna Parker's performance, the organ performed beautifully, and sounded great.



*Jonas Nordwall and Rob Kingdom working on tonal finishing*



Columbia River  
Theatre Organ Society

WWW.CRTOS.ORG

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# CRTOS Membership Meeting

Doug Whyte, the new executive director for the Historic Hollywood Theatre, addressed the collected CRTOS members that attended our March membership meeting. He was excited to have us there as he talked about a number of things coming in the near future as well as some long term goals of the theatre. He began by announcing that the paint and labor was being donated to restore the lobby area to something close to it's original color scheme. The restoration of the wave patterns originally painted there will hopefully come in time as well.



*Doug Whyte addresses CRTOS*

The Hollywood Theatre is having to work very hard for donations with the current state of the economy. There have been issues come up, like rain leaking into the electrical elements of the marquee which have required quick repairs. Upkeep of the theatre remains a large expense.



*Mike Bryant demonstrates console*

Following Doug Whytes address, Mike Bryant demonstrated the newly rebuilt console relay system. He gave us some examples of the features that had not been working previously as well as demonstrated some of the new features now available due to the Uniflex system. This was followed by some open console time.

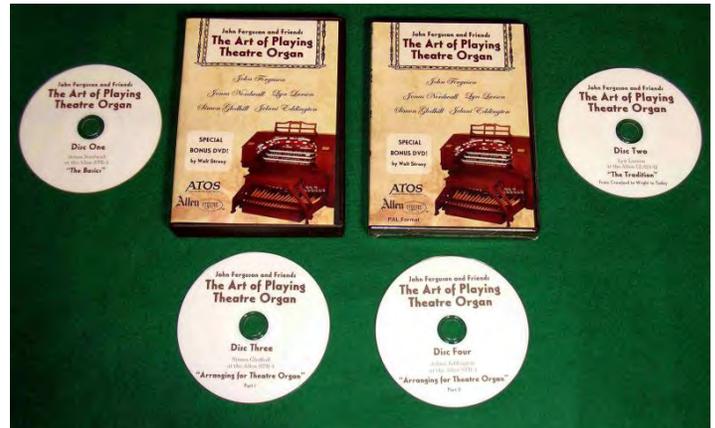
CRTOS also participated in the clean up of the backstage area, removing large piles of junk from the rooms our audio equipment is stored in. One of the problems has been a lack of trash bins back there. A member donated a large bin so it should stay tidier now.

In other news, there will again be a Youth Silent Film Festival this year. Stay tuned for screening dates.

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# Review: John Ferguson & Friends: The Art of Playing Theatre Organ

While nothing, in my opinion, replaces the benefits of having a good music instructor, the recent flood of new publications and products aimed at those of us that are self-teaching are rapidly closing that gap. For instance, Jelani Eddington's *The Art of Theatre Organ Arranging* volumes 1 and 2 are a must have resource for any self-learner. But the recent release of the DVD set *John Ferguson & Friends: The Art of Playing Theatre Organ* takes this to a whole new level.



Before you stick the first disc in and hit play, grab an empty notebook. You'll need a lot of pages for notes. It's also a good idea to turn on your organ and keep the remote -- specifically the pause button -- handy. Over the next 4 plus hours, you'll learn many of the basics needed to tackle this instrument from the likes of Jonas Nordwall, Lyn Larsen, Simon Gledhill and Jelani Eddington. Each disc offers the unique perspective of some of the top organists of today while progressively building on the discs before it.

You'll start by learning about the instrument itself and end up with some basic music theory lessons to better develop your intro's and endings. The discs cover a wide range of topics as well as some history about the great players of the past. My personal hope is that this series of discs will continue with additional releases and delve further into advanced music theory and concepts. Having these key concepts talked about and then demonstrated right there on my screen is a far better resource than anything except perhaps having a live teacher present to guide me. The DVD Set is available from the ATOS Market Place: <http://www.atos.org/marketplace/>

-Steve Jarvis



Jeanette Niewenhuis tries out the refurbished console.

## Classified

**Free with Donation to CRTOS Organ Fund:** Devtronix analog tone generating equipment. 3 paper boxes full of stuff, plus the 4 large boards containing the independent generators. **No amps or speakers.** Includes;

4 top note master generators with voicing boards. Preamps on voicing board., 1 expression regulator, 1 96 note independent Tibia generator with pre amps and tremulant, 1 84 note independent Diapason generator with pre amps and tremulant, 1 84 Viol independent (same stuff as above), 1 60 Viol Celeste independent (same as above), 1 power supply + and - 15 volts, 1 power supply + 15 volts, Various keyers and couplers, 4 trem modulators, and 1 pre amp.

Contact Bob Shafter at 503 233-7274 leave message, or [rshafter@aol.com](mailto:rshafter@aol.com)

# Update From the Historic Hollywood Theatre

*As a great deal of our time and effort are being spent on the installation of the Beverley Ruth Nelson Memorial organ at the Hollywood Theatre, I thought it a good idea to run quarterly updates from the theatre staff highlighting some of the other exciting functions and changes going on at the theatre. This month features a check list of new partnerships and upcoming improvements from the new Executive Director, Doug Whyte.*

The lobby and foyer are currently being painted colors that closely resemble the original colors from 1926.



*The Hollywood Theatre lobby as seen in the 1920's*



*The theatre lobby as it has been until now.*



Galen Huckins and Filmusik - Huckins is now an Artist in Residence at the Hollywood Theatre and beginning this summer his group, Filmusik, will use the Hollywood as its home base for presenting a new series of live soundtrack and mixed media performances at the Theatre. Filmusik works with sound films by removing and re-imagining the soundtrack, collaborating with film studios to get original film elements for their shows. Sometimes they re-create the entire sonic world from scratch with local actors dubbing a foreign or animated film on stage and foley artists creating the sound effects. They've had local Electronica artists score 1950's sci-fi, full choruses singing and chanting through desperado westerns, any genre of music and film is fair game. Eventually Filmusik plans to have a weekly entertainment offering at the Hollywood Theatre.



**Portland State**  
UNIVERSITY

The PSU Social Practice MFA program and the Hollywood Theater are proud to announce a new partnership. Artists from the PSU Art and Social Practice Program will create projects, events and programming in

relation to the goals, space and neighborhood of the Hollywood Theater in an effort to bring awareness to the mission of the theater as a non-profit as well as to revitalize the Hollywood as site of creative production and community in Portland. This ongoing collaboration will include designing limited edition movie posters, artists in residence, neighborhood documentaries, curated screenings, discussion series, themed events, musical pairings and more. In addition, as part of the Open Engagement conference this May the Hollywood will play host to artist Fritz Haeg who will create a new project that will be situated at the theater. The Art and Social Practice MFA Concentration at Portland State University, led by Harrell Fletcher and Jen Delos Reyes, educates and activates students to develop and utilize their artistic skills to engage in society and transcend traditional studio art paradigms. Students learn about a variety of working artists and non-artists who have engaged in civic activity, and apply their knowledge and abilities to initiate, develop, and produce participatory projects with the public-- individuals, groups, and institutions.

BridgePort Brewing and the Hollywood Theatre are teaming up to present a three-day music and film festival with special guest curators including Carrie Brownstein of the IFC TV show Portlandia and the bands Sleater-Kinney and Wild Flag. Festival dates are May 12-14. \*Beer and cider are now for sale at the Hollywood, and all-ages are still welcome.



Hollywood membership benefits have changed to include \$4 movies, free parking in the Whole Foods Market parking garage, and free popcorn!

For Membership information as well as upcoming events, please visit <http://www.hollywoodtheatre.org/>

## Photos Needed

Starting in next month's newsletter, I am planning on running a multi-part article touching on the history of this chapter. I am seeking photo's to accompany the article. If you have photo's of club events or functions and are willing to share them, please send to [newsletter@crtos.org](mailto:newsletter@crtos.org).



Steve Jarvis  
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## Upcoming CRTOS Events and Other Area Organ Activities

### Next Board Meeting

**Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Izzy's Restaurant at the  
Gateway Shopping Center

1307 NE 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Portland  
7 pm. (No-host dinner, 6:30).

All CRTOS members are  
encouraged to attend.

Columbia River Theatre Organ  
Society is a non-profit, educational  
organization dedicated to the  
preservation of the theatre organ and  
its music.

### Elsinore Theatre

[www.elsinoretheatre.com](http://www.elsinoretheatre.com)

### Oaks Park

[www.oakspark.com](http://www.oakspark.com)

Wurlitzer is used on Thursday  
evenings and Sundays all day

### PSTOS

[www.pstos.org](http://www.pstos.org)

### MBTOS

[www.mountbakertohome.org](http://www.mountbakertohome.org)

### OCATOS

[www.ocatos.org](http://www.ocatos.org)

Open Console at CHS May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

### NOTE

The 20th Anniversary event has been re-  
scheduled for May 27th due to unforeseen  
scheduling conflicts. Check back next  
month for complete details.

## King of Kings

Cecil B. DeMille's  
Silent Classic

THE  
KING of  
KINGS

WITH LIVE THEATRE ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT  
Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM  
The Hollywood Theatre  
4122 Northeast Sandy Boulevard  
Admission: Adults \$7 | Under 12 FREE

*Sunday April 17th @ 2pm*  
*The Hollywood Theatre*



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