

# HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST

ORPHEUM \* STATE \* PANTAGES \* NEW CENTURY

## THE INSIDER

June 2012

### SPOTLIGHT SHOWCASE IS NEXT WEEK!



Join us on Monday, June 11 to honor Minnesota's finest fresh musical theatre talent

Tickets are almost gone - so get yours now for Hennepin Theatre Trust's *SpotLight Showcase*. This seventh annual event celebrates our state's best high school musicals as part of our *SpotLight Musical Theatre*

*Program* and is set for June 11 at 7 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre.

#### Top five reasons to attend the *SpotLight Showcase*:

- 1) See the stars of tomorrow perform today: current Broadway actress and Tony Award-nominee, Minnesota native Laura Osnes, received a *SpotLight* award during her freshman year at Eagan High School for their 2001 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.
- 2) Be a part of the energy and buzz of a capacity crowd at the Orpheum Theatre. Last year's *Showcase* sold out with more than 2,600 people in attendance!
- 3) It's a bargain at \$15. With more than 50 years of collective experience among the professional artistic staff and nearly 1,000 students performing on stage, it's one of the most complex productions you'll ever see.

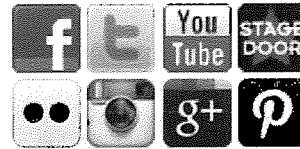
[READ MORE](#) [BUY TICKETS!](#)

### BLUE MAN GROUP DAZZLES AT THE ORPHEUM JUNE 15-24

**Bald. Blue. Blissful.** The eclectic trio create an entirely new experience for theatre fans in June!

*Blue Man Group*, the critically acclaimed trio of blue and bald performers whose wildly popular multi-media theatrical shows and concerts combine comedy, music and technology, brings its **first ever theatrical tour** to Hennepin Theatre Trust's Orpheum Theatre, June 15-24, 2012. The Baltimore Sun raves, "*Blue Man Group* packs a wallop. It's a big, loud, funny, silly, visually arresting production." E! Entertainment News says, "*Blue Man Group* is what every live performance aspires

### CONNECT



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# BLUE MAN GROUP

to be."

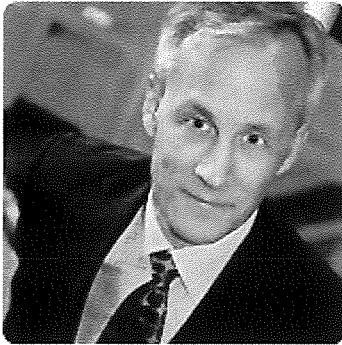
Delivering classic moments as well as new content, the production also features a new physical design centered around a proscenium-sized LED curtain and a high resolution screen creating an entirely new visual experience. They have performed on television shows including "The

Tonight Show," "Ellen" and "Regis and Kelly" and have been featured in "Scrubs" and "Arrested Development."

Find out more about the phenomenon that is *Blue Man Group*!

[READ MORE](#) [BUY TICKETS!](#)

## TOM'S TIP



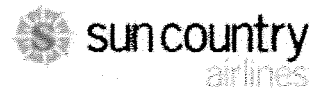
**Save July 12 for *Summer in the City*- Donors can join us for this exclusive event filled with delectable food and refreshing beverages provided by Trust restaurant partners, plus theatre tours and prize drawings!**

On behalf of Hennepin Theatre Trust, I invite you to **join us from 5-7:30 p.m.** on

**Thursday, July 12** at the Orpheum Theatre for our **eighth annual *Summer in the City***, the annual celebration to thank all of our outstanding Trust Donors. This invitation-only event includes complimentary drinks and tasty appetizers from these Trust restaurant partners: **Rosa Mexicano, Crave, Rock Bottom Brewery, Thom Pham's Wondrous Azian Kitchen, The Capital Grille, Solera, Cosmos, Bradstreet Craftshouse, D'Amico Kitchen, Seven Sushi Ultralounge and Mission American Kitchen.** You can also enjoy behind-the-scenes theatre tours, win prizes including restaurant and hotel gift cards and partake in exclusive demonstrations by top chefs and bartenders.

**All of those who have made a tax deductible contribution of \$100 or more to Hennepin Theatre Trust as of Monday, July 9, will be invited to join us for *Summer in the City* as part of our Donor Program.** As a Donor, you can also receive great benefits, including advance access to premier seating locations at the State, Orpheum, Pantages and New Century Theatres before tickets go on sale to the public. Or consider the gift of a tax deductible membership for the theatre lover in your life! **The Trust is a non-profit organization that relies on contributed support to continue our work.** For more information on becoming a Donor and joining us for *Summer in the City*, please contact Individual Giving Manager Kathryn Tjaden at 612.455.9516 or [kathryn.tjaden@hennepintheatretrust.org](mailto:kathryn.tjaden@hennepintheatretrust.org).

*Every month, Tom Hoch, Hennepin Theatre Trust President/CEO, shares his thoughts or a helpful tip. If you have a question that you want answered, please email it to [info@hennepintheatretrust.org](mailto:info@hennepintheatretrust.org) and include the subject line "Tom's Tip."*



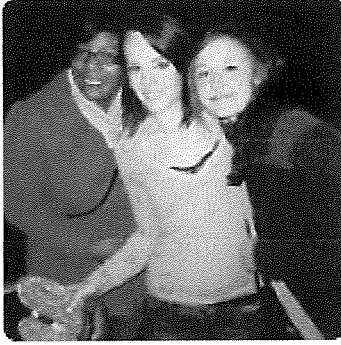
## Become a Sponsor!

Hennepin Theatre Trust relies on the support of sponsors and community partners to help fulfill our non-profit mission.

To find out how you or your company can make a difference, please contact Resource Development Director Lisa Lane.

[Email Lisa](#)

## CRITICAL VIEW WRAPS UP EIGHTH SUCCESSFUL YEAR



**"Million Dollar Quartet- let's party like it's 1956!"**  
—*Critical View* and FAIR Downtown student Adam Fox

**Hennepin Theatre Trust's *Critical View* student reviewer program, offers students from urban high schools and eclectic backgrounds the opportunity to attend**

**touring Broadway shows** and write reviews that are posted on the Trust's website and in community newspapers like the Twin Cities Daily Planet. *Critical View* will conclude for the school year by attending *Blue Man Group* at the Orpheum Theatre next week. **This year long intensive program**, which includes some **40 students from eight high schools** including DeLaSalle, FAIR Downtown School and Southwest High School, also offers young people **free behind-the-scenes workshops** with some of the Twin Cities' top media personalities. For example, MPR reporter and ArtHounds Producer Chris Roberts and Star Tribune theatre critic Graydon Royce met with the group at the MPR Studios in May.

"*American Idiot* pushes the boundaries and makes you think," wrote *Critical View* student Lily Hammer from Breck High School in Golden Valley. "I do know that I walked into the theatre ready to be wowed, endured an incredible artistic experience, and walked out yearning to see it all over again." Students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend live stage productions also receive study guides and the same press kits as the professional media to help them prepare for the show. They also attend non-Broadway productions including *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* and *High* starring Kathleen Turner.

*Photo: Critical View students Jennifer Sarbo, Serena Throughbred and Kyanna Sturm*

[READ MORE](#)

## TALK-IT HENNEPIN FINALE SET FOR JUNE 7 AND 9



**Plan-It Hennepin is reaching an important milestone- we welcome and encourage your contributions at the last *Talk-It Hennepin* events this week**

**Tomorrow, Thursday, June 7, at 7:30 pm in the New Century Theatre, the four-part *Talk-It Hennepin* series wraps up with a**

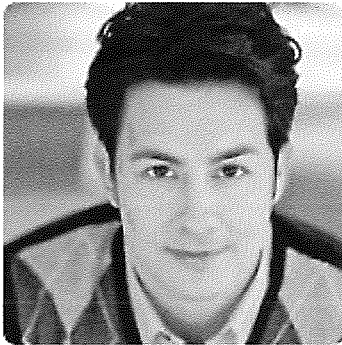
**compelling conversation, *Owning Public Space - The Power of Place Identity*, about creating and managing a shared,**

multi-ethnic urban space on Hennepin Avenue. Three fascinating speakers will bring broad experience and innovative ideas to the table: Cultural geographer and MacArthur Fellowship recipient **Don Mitchell** will talk about contested urban spaces; **Chancee Martorell**, founder and director of Thai Community Development Center and East Hollywood's Thai Town, will share her street-wise work within that multi-cultural space and nationally-recognized, Saint Paul-based artist **Seitu Jones** will draw on theory and practice from in his work in multiple cities around the country.

The last of our four free *Talk-It* workshops also wraps up this Saturday, June 9, with **Putting It All Together – Naming and Claiming**, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the New Century Theatre. This workshop will include the local artist team of **Tacoumba Aiken, Mankwe Ndosi, Leah Nelson** and **Harry Waters Jr.** and will build on the values, vision and design ideas for Hennepin Avenue generated at the previous three workshops. Concepts developed by earlier participants will be symbolically placed on the 42-foot-long model of Hennepin and steps will be identified for implementing these ideas.

[READ MORE](#)   [LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!](#)

## RAISING THE CURTAIN



**Q&A with Christopher Kale Jones, Under the Streetlamp Tenor and Former Jersey Boys Star**

**Under the Streetlamp**, the new male vocal quartet featuring recent star cast members from the Tony-winning Broadway musical *Jersey Boys*, will make its **Minnesota debut at the Pantages Theatre** at 7 p.m.

on **Sunday, June 17**. [Click here](#) for a video preview of their show from their PBS special "Under the Streetlamp: Live!" that aired locally on Twin Cities Public Television in March.

**Christopher Kale Jones**, who received rave reviews as Frankie Valli when *Jersey Boys* played the Orpheum Theatre in spring 2008, hits town again for this engagement. We recently chatted with him about this hot new singing group.

[READ THE Q&A](#)   [BUY TICKETS!](#)

## SHOWTIME!

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Nov 10          | <a href="#">Historic Theatre Tours</a>  |
| Nov 10          | <a href="#">David Sedaris</a>   |
| Nov 10 - Nov 11 | <a href="#">2 Sugars, Room For Cream</a>  |
| Nov 11          | <a href="#">The Charlie Awards</a>  |
| Nov 15          | <a href="#">Give to the Max Day</a>   |
| Nov 17          | <a href="#">The Brian Setzer Orchestra Christmas Rocks! Extravaganza with Totsy</a> |
| Nov 18          | <a href="#">The Australian Pink Floyd Show</a>                                      |
| Nov 23          | <a href="#">Mannheim Steamroller Christmas</a>                                      |

Nov 23 - Dec 31 A Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol

Nov 26 Historic Theatre Tours

Nov 27 Chris Isaak and Band Beyond the Sun Tour

Dec 1 Kathy Griffin

Dec 8 Historic Theatre Tours

Dec 10 Broadway Confidential: Catch Me If You Can

Dec 11 - Dec 16 Catch Me If You Can

Dec 14 - Dec 16 The Blenders

Dec 19 - Dec 22 All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914

Dec 31 Historic Theatre Tours

Jan 3 - Jan 27 Elton John and Tim Rice's AIDA

Jan 8 - Jan 13 Priscilla Queen of the Desert

Jan 14 Broadway Confidential: Aida

Feb 1 - Feb 24 Reefer Madness

Feb 5 - Feb 17 The Book of Mormon

Feb 11 Broadway Confidential: The Book of Mormon

Feb 27 - Mar 17 Shear Madness

Mar 15 - Mar 16 Monty Python's Spamalot

Apr 2 - Apr 7 Flashdance

Apr 11 Boz Scaggs

Apr 22 Broadway Confidential: Mary Poppins

Apr 23 - Apr 28 Mary Poppins

May 17 - May 19 Rock of Ages

May 31 - Jun 23 Sunset Boulevard

Jun 10 Broadway Confidential: War Horse

Jun 12 - Jun 23 War Horse

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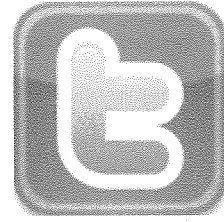
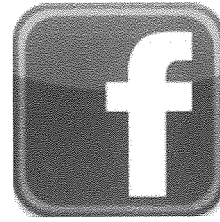
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## SpotLight Showcase is Next Week!



*SpotLight* students perform during the 2011 *Showcase*. Photo Credit: Brianna Royle Kopka

**Join us on Monday, June 11 to honor Minnesota's finest fresh musical theatre talent**

Tickets are almost gone - so get yours now for **Hennepin Theatre Trust's *SpotLight Showcase***. This seventh annual event celebrates our state's best high school musicals as part of our ***SpotLight Musical Theatre Program*** and is set for **June 11 at 7 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre**.

**Top five reasons to attend the *SpotLight Showcase*:**

1) See the stars of tomorrow perform today: current Broadway actress and Tony Award-nominee, Minnesota native Laura Osnes, received a *SpotLight* award during her freshman year at Eagan High School for their 2001 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

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3) It's a bargain at \$15. With more than 50 years of collective experience among the professional artistic staff and nearly 1,000 students performing on stage, it's one of the most complex productions you'll ever see.

4) Catch a sneak peek of our 2012/13 Broadway Season: student medleys include "What a Feeling" from *Flashdance* and "Don't Stop Believin'" from *Rock of Ages*, just added as a season special.

5) Added bonus! Broadway vocalist, Minnesota native and *SpotLight* spokesperson Linda Eder, who performed at the Pantages in December, will be singing with the top 24 finalists for the Triple Threat Award.

What are you waiting for? Get your tickets now and we'll see you next Monday at the Orpheum Theatre! Single tickets are extremely limited but VIP packages, including programming and gift offers, are still available. For tickets or more information on the *SpotLight Musical Theatre Program*, please visit our website.

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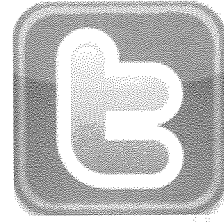
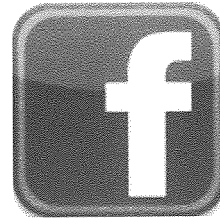
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## Blue Man Group Dazzles at the Orpheum June 15-24

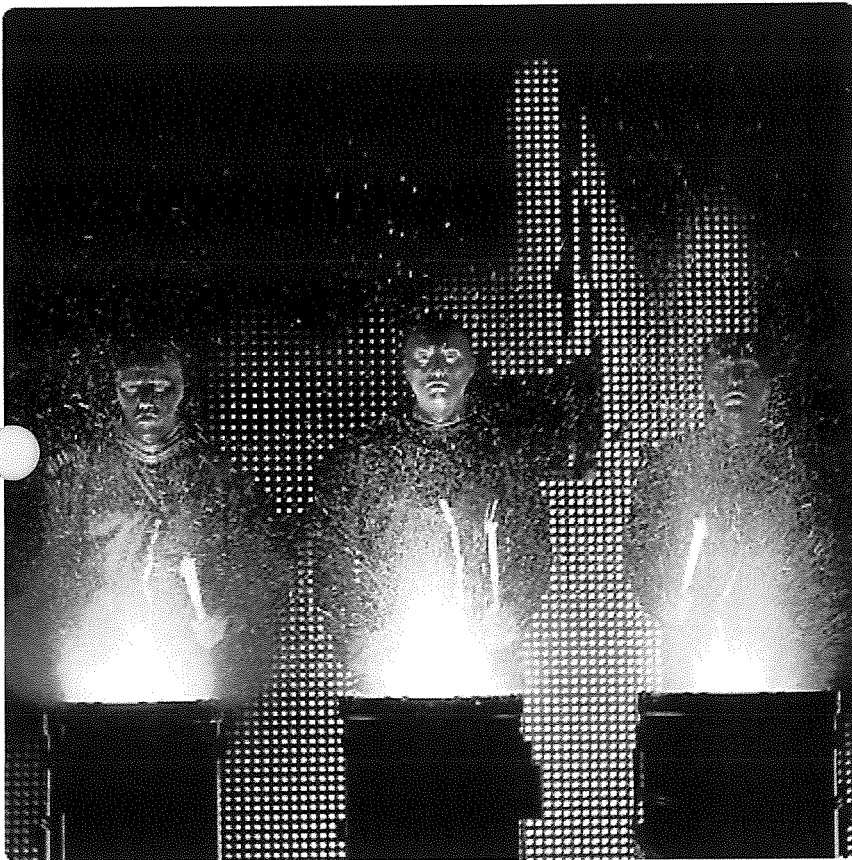


Photo Credit: Paul Kolnik

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Find out more about the phenomenon that is *Blue Man Group*!

Did you know:

Blue Man Group has an official cruise line - they are the headline performance on the Norwegian Epic by Norwegian Cruise Line. "Audio," the debut album by Blue Man Group, was nominated for a 2000 Grammy Award for Best Pop Instrumental Performance. Their music has also been featured in commercials for Intel and in the movie "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines." They founded Blue School, a private non-profit elementary school in Manhattan that opened in 2008 and features cutting-edge educational theory and science as part of the curriculum.

**Get your tickets now** to this new intimate experience with the untraditional and wildly popular trio of talented performers. To purchase tickets or learn more about the show, please visit our website.

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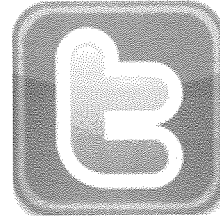
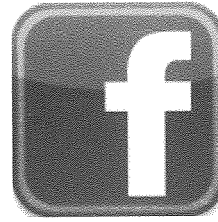
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## Critical View Wraps Up Eighth Successful Year



2011-12 *Critical View* Students

**"Million Dollar Quartet- let's party like it's 1956!" –Critical View and FAIR Downtown student Adam Fox**

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Students interested in participating in the 2012-13 school year should check our website later this summer for an application. **This free program is open to any high school student in the metro area.** The application deadline will be in mid-September. **Special thanks to Trust Donors Fred and Ann Moore for their ongoing and outstanding support of this dynamic student program.** *Critical View* is made possible by the generous donations of people like the Moores. To find out how you can make a difference in our community by offering a financial contribution to educational initiatives like this, please contact Individual Giving Manager Kathryn Tjaden at 612.455.9516 or [kathryn.tjaden@hennepintheatretrust.org](mailto:kathryn.tjaden@hennepintheatretrust.org).

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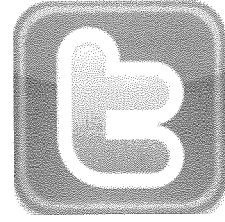
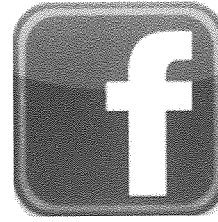
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## Talk-It Hennepin Finale Set for June 7 and 9



Participants in the May 12 workshop give their ideas for Hennepin Avenue.

***Plan-It Hennepin* is reaching an important milestone - we welcome and encourage your contributions at the last *Talk-It Hennepin* events this week!**

**Tomorrow**, Thursday, June 7, at 7:30 pm in the New Century Theatre, the **four-part *Talk-It Hennepin* series wraps up** with a compelling conversation, ***Owning Public Space - The Power of Place Identity***, about creating and managing a shared, multi-ethnic urban space on Hennepin Avenue. Three fascinating speakers will bring broad experience and innovative ideas to the table: Cultural geographer and MacArthur Fellowship recipient **Don Mitchell** will talk about contested urban spaces; **Chancee Martorell**, founder and director of Thai Community Development Center and East Hollywood's Thai Town, will share her street-wise work within that multi-cultural space and nationally-recognized, Saint Paul-based artist **Seitu Jones** will draw on theory and practice from in his work in multiple cities around the country.

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"The thing that is different about this workshop is that we are looking at human interaction on the street level," says Tom Borrup, project manager of *Plan-It Hennepin*. "We will look for different ways to talk about Hennepin as a shared cultural experience."

During the previous *Talk-It* workshop on May 12th at FAIR School Downtown, 40 participants walked up and down Hennepin Avenue, applying British urbanist and project guest Charles Landry's idea of "yes" and "no" spaces. They took pictures of a handful of "no" spaces, and explained to the group their vision of how to turn this space into a welcoming, engaging "yes" space. Led by a mixture of local artists and designers, each group generated many ideas as they reimagined Minneapolis' oldest street.

We invite you to join us for our *Talk-It* series finale. We want your fresh ideas to help re-shape the Avenue. You can also like us on Facebook and visit the Plan-It Hennepin page on our website.

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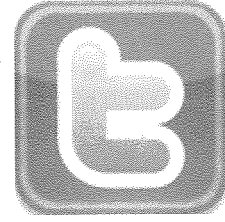
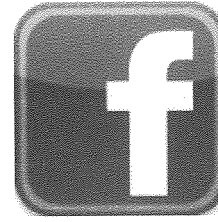
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## Raising the Curtain



Christopher Kale Jones, Shonn Wiley, Michael Cunio and Michael Ingersoll from Under the Streetlamp.

### Q&A with Christopher Kale Jones, Under the Streetlamp Tenor and Former *Jersey Boys* Star

**Under the Streetlamp**, the new male vocal quartet featuring recent star cast members from the Tony-winning Broadway musical *Jersey Boys*, will make its **Minnesota debut** at the **Pantages Theatre** at 7 p.m. on **Sunday, June 17**. Click here for a video preview of their show from their PBS special "Under the Streetlamp: Live!" that aired locally on Twin Cities Public Television in March.

**Christopher Kale Jones**, who received rave reviews as Frankie Valli when *Jersey Boys* played the Orpheum Theatre in spring 2008, hits town again for this engagement. We recently chatted with him about this hot new singing group.

#### What led you to create Under the Streetlamp?

I was in Chicago after I finished my run with *Jersey Boys* and started performing on off nights with Michael Cunio, Michael Ingersoll and Shonn Wiley, other members of the Chicago cast. Forming the group was very organic- once the four of us started performing together we really enjoyed how much the audience responded and began thinking about officially forming a singing group and taking off our full-time acting hats. I don't remember exactly when our debut performance as Under the Streetlamp was, but it was in early spring 2010 in Chicago.

### What can the audience expect to see during the show?

We sing music from what I like to call the "radio music songbook." There are songs you remember, like nostalgic hits from The Beach Boys, The Beatles and the Four Seasons- from doo-wop and Motown to old-time rock 'n' roll hits. We also tell stories, have fun and, of course, rip on each other. We hope audience members come away thinking that we're just four ordinary guys you'd like to have over to your house for dinner. We take the music very seriously, but we don't take ourselves very seriously at all!

### Do you have a favorite song in the show?

One of my favorites is "Since I Fell For You," a jazz and pop standard that was made famous by Lenny Welch in 1963. I'll admit I didn't know much about the song at first, but I found the melody so lush and almost heart-breaking. I've also found that the more you sing these songs, the more you appreciate certain aspects of all of them, depending on the show that night.

### You performed as Frankie Valli in the debut of *Jersey Boys* in Minneapolis at the Orpheum Theatre in April 2008. What are your memories of the Twin Cities?

It was spring, so the first thing I remember was how walkable the city was- great restaurants around the theatre and everyone we met was so friendly. But my favorite memory is definitely having the opportunity to perform at the Orpheum every night. I was in awe of the grandeur of that theatre and the stories it has told. It was truly an honor to be a part of the Orpheum's tradition and history.

Thanks to Christopher Kale Jones for participating in our Q&A. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit our website.

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