

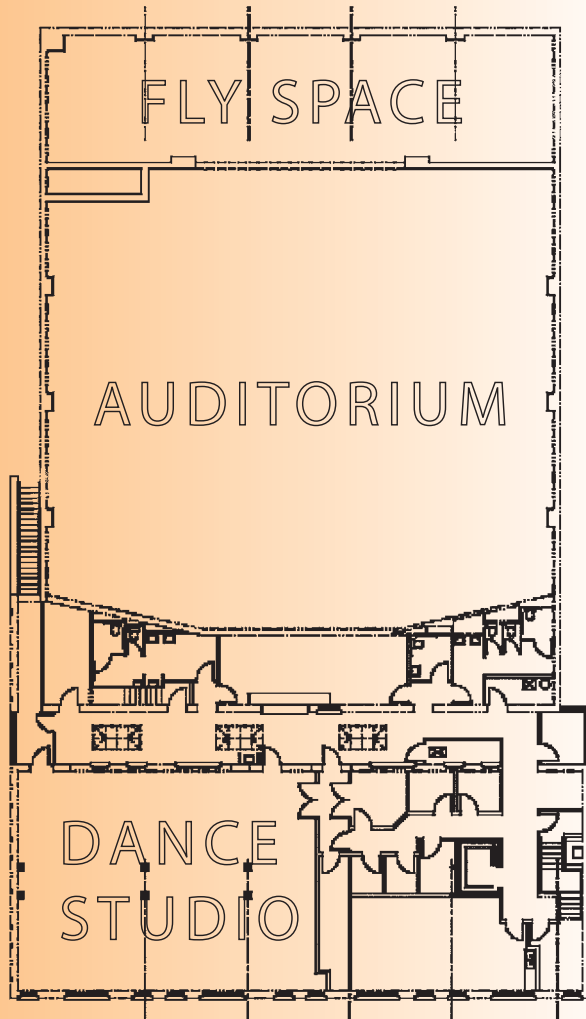


We love to dance! Please help us move the dance room upstairs where there is plenty of room for us to tap, pirouette, swing, salsa, and enjoy the freedom of artistic movement.

*Soo Theatre
1930*



Three cheers for the Soo Theatre Project!



*Draft of Legacy Fund Studios and Theatre
- by Northwoods Land Surveying*

The Soo Theatre Project means different things to different people.

"Your project will bring soul to the Sault and I am grateful to all who are making sure it is well-founded." - AnneMarie Askwith

"We deeply appreciate the wonderful resource you folks are providing for our community. Thank you very much for all you do to make our lives richer." - Jim Knight

"Thank you for everything you are doing for the town and kids!" - Duke and Katie Pepin

"To learn to play the Double Bass and read music — that's something I've always dreamed of doing. But as the years go by, you start to think that learning opportunities don't happen any more. STARS has proven that's not the case, and my dream is becoming a reality." - Paul Ignatowski

SOO THEATRE PROJECT, INC.
534 Ashmun St.
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783-1908
906-632-1930
web: www.sootheatre.org
email: sootheatre@lighthouse.net

Our mission is to sponsor, encourage, and create opportunities for participating in and appreciating the arts.



SOO THEATRE

LEGACY FUND



SOO THEATRE LEGACY FUND

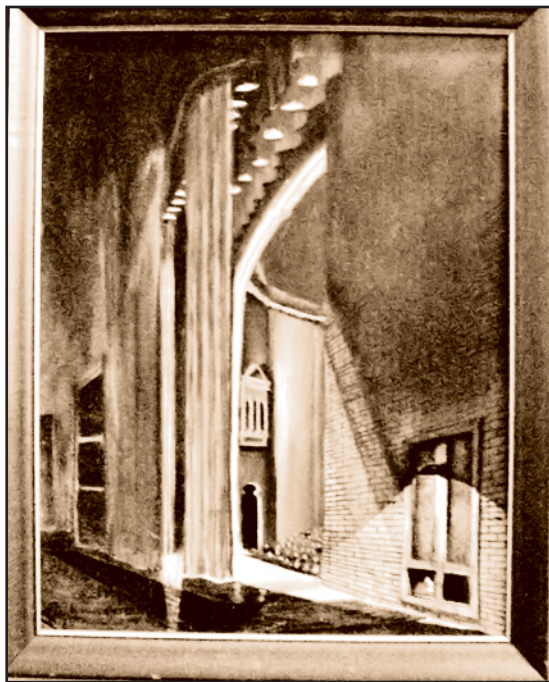


A Production in Three Acts

ACT I: THE HERITAGE

It was a proud day in March of 1930 when the Soo Theatre opened her doors for the first time. Live theatre and music now had a home in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. The generous stage allowed major productions to be produced as well as full orchestral concerts. The performing arts had established themselves right here in Sault Ste. Marie.

The theatre went dark for all practical purposes in 1974 as it was converted into a two-screen movie theater. The stage was hidden behind a concrete wall and the seating split in two. The movie theater closed in 1998 and the building sat vacant.



Backstage at the Soo Theatre. Painted by Dave Hoornstra (1965)
Donated by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Stern

In 2003 the Soo Theatre Project, Inc., through donations and pledges, was able to raise the funds necessary to purchase the old theatre. 2004 saw a state grant awarded to the organization in order to build dance and music studios. The required matching local funds again came from generous donors along with countless hours of volunteer labor.

2005 was a landmark year for the Soo Theatre. The wall splitting the theatre in two was torn down, as was the concrete wall hiding the stage. In August of 2005 the Soo Theatre, for the first time in over 30 years, once again hosted a live performance by more than 100 artists.

ACT II: THE PRESENT

What you see today actually started its formation in 2005. September of that year saw the opening of the Soo Theatre Arts Resource Studios, STARS. That very first set of sessions brought together more than 200 students of all ages and their



Photo by Dr. Kim McCullough



Photo by Meta Geyer

teachers in disciplines such as dance, music, and voice. Then, in a very fortunate turn of events for the Soo Theatre, \$400,000 in virtually new rigging, lighting, sound equipment and seats were donated to the project.

Now, in 2008 STARS has 10 degreed fine arts professionals instructing well over 400 students. We flourish in the summer with live performances on our stage that run the gamut from musicals to concerts to dance. Well-known ensembles and individuals have come here to perform. Thousands have witnessed this rebirth of the old Soo Theatre.

With the generous support of the community all this has taken place in a very short time. What was once an empty shell now lives and breathes. The Soo Theatre has grown, and this has taken us to an important and vital crossroad.



Photo by Meta Geyer

ACT III: THE LEGACY

The last few years have shown us that, whether as students, participants, or audience members, community members of all ages are hungry for the performing arts. Our part of Ashmun Street is buzzing, beyond all our expectations:

- ◆ STARS is bursting at the seams! We need to expand to meet the demand.
- ◆ We've got comfortable seats now, but the theatre still needs basics like heat and curtains! And people want to see movies!

Heating, plumbing, an elevator, carpeting, curtains, and construction of large open studio space — these are all big-ticket items that are more than our fantastic volunteers can provide. So we are launching this major capital campaign — The Legacy Fund — and we need your help! Here's what the Legacy Fund will do:

SOO THEATRE PROJECT LEGACY FUND	
STARS EXPANSION	Need
Heat & Utilities	160,000
Roof & Structure	160,000
Elevator	160,000
Dance & Music Studios	120,000
SOO THEATRE AUDITORIUM	
Heat & Utilities	300,000
Stage Fly, Lights, & Curtains	75,000
Movie Projector & Screen	15,000
Structure	10,000
TOTAL NEED	\$1,000,000

How can you help? Fill out the enclosed form and send it in with your contribution today! Help us create a living legacy that only the arts can produce.