



The Mayflower: take two

Mayflower Arts Center channels building's history with new film screenings

By CHELSEA DAVIS

Over the past 80-plus years, the Mayflower Arts Center in Troy, Ohio, has undergone many changes. From the introduction of the "talkies" to the big summer blockbusters, to its renewed life as a privately owned, multi-purpose arts center and occasional movie house, the MAC has seen it all.

The Mayflower Arts Center was established in 1928 as a single movie house, complete with a stage in front of the screen and organ accompaniment. As the era of silent film gave way to the talkies, the theater continued to serve the community with only one screen – that is, until Mr. Teicher, of Teicher Theaters, purchased the Mayflower Theater at the height of the '70s blockbuster craze – think "Jaws." Teicher converted the single theater into two, and eventually settled on three screens. For over 40 years, Teicher made it a point to bring many different films to the Troy community.

The Mayflower's life as a movie house ended in 2009 when Teicher stopped running films. The property was on the market for four years before Lisa Bauer, a Springfield resident, saw the venue's potential during a walk in 2011.

"It wasn't even on my radar to own a business," Bauer said. "I did freelance graphic design and was a stay-at-home mom. I was having lunch with a friend and I saw this building – and it was for sale and so cute."

Teicher, the "movie man," who had by that time retired to Florida, was skeptical of Bauer taking over his theater. But Bauer saw a

great potential in the space that few others had recognized.

"It's a little historic gem in downtown Troy," Bauer said. "I just couldn't imagine it a pile of rubble, a parking lot."

The MAC officially became Bauer's in the summer of 2012. Her plan was for the building to have various classrooms and gallery spaces, where the artists could work while interacting with the community.

Bauer converted the bottom level into one big art studio where the MAC holds classes for children and adults of all ages,

"I just couldn't imagine it a pile of rubble."

- Lisa Bauer

including summer art camps, after-school programming and adult Wine and Paint nights.

"Adults seem to be really hesitant and put up their guard when being creative, but this is more social," Bauer said, when discussing the Wine and Paint event. "We guide them through creating this subject and it gives them the feeling of 'I can do this' and hopefully that instills a bit of inspiration in them."

In the future, Bauer hopes to bring on instructors with more specific backgrounds, such as watercolor, oil, sculpting and textiles.

Bauer also wants to use the space to bring back the original intention of the theater – movies.



Children enjoy one of Mayflower Arts Centers' potions classes; photo: Lisa Bauer

"The movies are something we've wanted to do," Bauer said. "I never wanted to let go of the theater ... the fact there's a theater here is amazing. We want to add to our current programming and serve the community by offering this opportunity."

However, the MAC probably won't be showing the next Captain America film. Instead, Bauer wants to focus on independent films, as well as films from emerging artists and art documentaries. She has even expressed interest in putting on a small "Troy Academy of Art." "We could do short films, and maybe be a satellite for FilmDay-ton," Bauer said. "We could be another way for people to present their work."

Bauer emphasized while film is back at the Mayflower, the venue is still a multi-purpose art center. She plans to level the two smaller theaters in front of the old stage and open that space for larger exhibits and concerts.

"We're not in the theater/movie business," Bauer said. "We're there every weekend and we'll show one or two movies, and do two showings."

One of the Center's first screenings was the Oscar-nominated film, "The Book Thief" about oppression, trust and friendship set during the horrors of World War II Germany.

"The film was about journey, and especially for young adults," Bauer said. "Everyone is on a journey, and we're kind of on this journey ourselves ... doing it all with no funding except for loans."

Bauer has 10 or 12 films lined up to screen at the MAC. She mentioned a Penn and Teller film, as well as a documentary

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Jazz at the plaza

Downtown Troy gets a new beat

By JUSTIN KREITZER

Spring has finally

arrived after an unusually frigid and exceptionally long winter. What better way to celebrate than to enjoy some great music and food outdoors in the sunshine? Better yet, what if you could enjoy the sunshine during your lunch break along with some great music, for a nice mid-day reprieve? As part of the city of Troy's Summer Concert Series – a collaborative effort between the Troy Foundation, Troy Main Street, the City of Troy, Troy City Schools and the Troy Hayner Cultural Center – you can eat your lunch outside on the Prouty Plaza in Downtown Troy and enjoy musical performances by members of the Troy middle and high school bands.

Kicking it off will be the Troy High School Jazz Band, set to perform on Monday, May 19, followed by the eighth grade band on Tuesday, May 20, and to cap off the concert series, is the seventh grade band who are set to perform on Thursday, May 22. Each performance is scheduled to begin at 11:45 a.m. and will last approximately forty-five minutes.

Additionally, concertgoers are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets and can bring their own lunch. Alternatively, downtown Troy is home to more than a dozen tasty independent restaurants including La Piazza, Leaf & Vine, Le Doux, The Caroline and K's Hamburger Shop, all of whom will be open and ready to serve the concertgoers during the performances. A number of the businesses will even be offering lunch specials.

The Troy High School Jazz Band has been rehearsing a list of older, well-known jazz standards, as well as some popular contemporary jazz compositions in anticipation of their upcoming performance on the plaza.



The Picnic in the Plaza concert series begins May 19 at Prouty Plaza in downtown Troy; photo: Troy Main Street

With the assistance of the Troy High School Jazz Band director Katherine McIntosh, the *Dayton City Paper* interviewed several of the students to learn more about what inspired them to join the Jazz Band, their musical influences and favorite compositions to play as well as their plans for after high school.

"[I] joined jazz band in order to explore and create new music that provided a challenge to conventional musical methods."

– William Metzger,
saxophone player

"[I] joined jazz band in order to explore and create new music that provided a challenge to conventional musical methods." She is looking forward to playing two of her favorite compositions, the romantic "Beyond The Sea" and lively "Kick In The Brass" for the crowd on the plaza.

Another trombonist, Senior Madelyn Bollinger is excited to play "Bone Busters" because of the featured trombone; echoing that sentiment, Brian Pennington – a senior and first chair trombonist – likes to play "Area 51," "because it's very brass-intensive and very loud." Some of the other songs included on their set list are well-loved classics like "Hey



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Jude," "Watermelon Man" and "All Blues," a favorite of senior trumpet player Anthony DeVault, "because it has an eleven-minute trumpet solo by Miles Davis."

It was encouraging to discover that many of the students have plans to pursue music after high school; with hopes of playing in their universities' bands or some, even as a career. Senior trombonist Darien Gudim who "grew up listening to Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra and Duke Ellington" is eager to pursue a career in music librarianship. Senior drummer Jack Alexander plans to attend Full Sail University in recording arts to continue his love of music. Other music-related goals include studies in music education, performance, and music therapy.

It is so exciting to see the passion these local high school students have for music and the arts. So, please be sure to come out give

the students some encouragement and while you're at it, relax and have a picnic on the plaza in beautiful downtown Troy.

The Picnic on the Plaza concert series is scheduled for Monday, May 19, Tuesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 22 beginning at 11:45 a.m. at Prouty Plaza, 1 W. Main St. in Troy. For more information, please call 937.339.5455 or visit troymainstreet.org.



Reach DCP freelance writer
Justin Kreitzer at
JustinKreitzer@DaytonCityPaper.com.

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about the devastating Oklahoma tornados.

The next screening, for the weekend of April 25, is documentary "Sign Painters" by Faythe

supported organization. Bauer hopes the camps, events and film screenings help take the center to the next level, as well as bring more opportunities to the community.

"We rely on the community's support by coming to the movies, camps and buying art in the galleries," Bauer said. "Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and pack the movie house!"

The Mayflower Arts Center screenings of "Sign Painters" are Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 26, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$8, and \$6.50 for seniors 65+, college students and children 12 and under. The film runs approximately 80 minutes. The MAC is located at 9 W. Main St. in Troy and is open Wednesday-Friday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information, please call 937.552.5848 or email mayflowerartscenter@gmail.com.



A student participates in an Intro to Drawing class at Mayflower Arts Center; photo: Lisa Bauer

Levine and Sam Macon, about the lost art of hand-painting and lettering on storefronts, murals, banners and billboards.

"I wanted to show this as the first movie because I loved it so much," Bauer said. "To see these artists are so passionate about what they do and how it is still around ... I wanted this one."

The Mayflower Arts Center is a privately owned, community



Reach DCP freelance writer
Chelsea Davis at
ChelseaDavis@DaytonCityPaper.com.

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