

The Theatre Museum is Lighting the Future

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New York City is the cultural capital of the world. It's the center for fashion, photography advertising, music, theater and more. New York City has everything except a Theatre Museum. But that is about to change!

Before we look forward, let's take a look back. The Broadway Theatre Institute was established in 1986 and has developed programming that fosters the perpetuation and appreciation of theatre through initiatives in cultural preservation and theatre arts education. Since its inception, the Broadway Theatre Institute has collaborated with the New York State Department of Education, Parochial & private school. More than 2,000 Children have been enlightened by more than 40 programs kindergarten through high school Through the workshops, musical Mondays, lectures, walking tours 10,000 adults have benefited from the variety of programs from Broadway Theatre Institute.

The Broadway Theatre Institute grew so much in its 18 years that it morphed into The Theatre Museum. The Theatre Museum incorporates the existing programs that the Broadway Theatre Institute became famous for and is adding spaces housed in New York to preserve artifacts such as costumes, set pieces, props with interactive displays and behind the scenes exhibits like the backstage tour.

In today's world you don't have to leave your home to be entertained. You can have movies, music and reality tv delivered through your tv, computer and your phone. The entertainment industry is making it easier to bring entertainment to your home, so, why go to the theater?

In short, the answer is you cannot download live theater. The audience is a crucial part of the experience and with each new audience comes a new performance. Every performance is unique much like a fingerprint or a snowflake. New technologies have changed the way live theater is enhanced but theater is still served up the old fashioned way and you still have to go to the theater and be a part of the show.

We have museums to preserve the other art forms and now we will have a museum dedicated to the preservation of theater; a museum that will educate and encourage new audiences to support this unique art form. The Theatre Museum is lighting the future.

The theatre is a collaborative art form so it is no coincidence that The Theatre Museum would collaborate with other organizations in New York to produce amazing exhibits. Currently on display is the Brooklyn Sees Stars Exhibit at The Brooklyn Public Library, the Showboat Round the Bend exhibit at The Waterfront Museum in Brooklyn, and the meet the author series being held around the city.

If you would like to help us build a place that will preserve all things theater or for more information about exhibits or The Theatre Museum in general go to www.thetheatremuseum.org or call 212-764-4112



Stewart Lane, Joe Franklin and Helen Guditis



Aaron Gandy



Barbara Cook