

ELI Weekly

A Theatre With History

You have probably seen the Gillioz Theatre, as it is one street down from the ELI. If you walk out the ELI's front door and look to the left, you will see its marquee advertising the latest production or event to be held there. It's location on St. Louis Street is also along Historic Route 66, which you might remember from last week's newsletter. While this theatre looks nice now, just a few years ago it was undergoing a major renovation. The years had left the theatre in not-so-lovely conditions, but a local organization put their efforts into reviving the historic building.



The theatre officially opened on October 11, 1926. The opening was so anticipated that 4 to 5 times the seating capacity was jammed into the building! (Apparently there were no fire codes back then.) The theatre has a very interesting history. When it opened, the Gillioz had a pipe organ so the space could be used for live performances as well as silent movies. In its early years, the Gillioz was Springfield's best and most popular entertainment venue, and it even hosted a number of movie premiers.



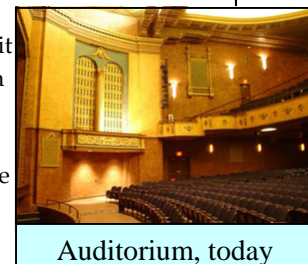
Upper Hall, many years ago

In 1928, the theatre began showing "talking pictures," or movies with audible dialogue. In 1952, actor and newly married Ronald Reagan (who would later become the 40th President of the United States), came to Springfield for the premier of his movie, "The Winning Team." Even Elvis came to the Gillioz, as he was spotted there in 1956 between his performances at the Shrine Mosque!



Even though the Gillioz enjoyed prosperity for many years, it began to decline in the 1970's as many people began to leave downtown for suburbs and malls. On July 22, 1980, the Gillioz closed its doors for good after its final performance of La Traviata by the Springfield Regional Opera. The building then faced abandonment and destitution. In 1986, many homeless people began to inhabit the old building, which actually ended up being a good thing (for the theatre, anyway), as their presence kept the Gillioz from being destroyed by vandals.

Then, in 1990, Jim D. Morris (does that name sound familiar?) purchased the theatre to prevent it from being turned into a nightclub. The following year, the Springfield Landmarks Preservation Trust formed to plan the historic restoration of the Gillioz. The theatre was then even listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1996, a replica of the original marquee was added to the building with the help of the Springfield community. In August of 2005 the restoration of the lobby began, and on October 13, 2006, the Gillioz finally reopened!



Auditorium, today

If you want to check out the Gillioz soon, then you are in luck. The Moxie Cinema will be hosting special screenings of the classic movie, "The Wizard of Oz" next week, Thursday and Friday (4/24 & 4/25), at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM on both days. Student tickets are \$6.50. The Gillioz also offers group tours. Maybe you can talk your teacher into it! For more information, including pictures, visit: www.gillioz.org.

Activities This Week

Wed. April 23 & Sun. April 27

Movie on Campus: "National Treasure 2"

9:00 PM at PSU Theater; FREE with ZipCard



Wed. April 23 & Thurs. April 24

Henna Nights

To celebrate Asian Pacific American month, get a FREE Henna tattoo.

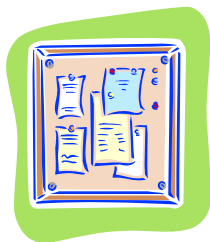
Both nights, 7:00-9:00 PM; Wed. in PSU room 308C, Thurs. in PSU room 317A



For more events and activities, visit: <http://calendar.missouristate.edu/>

Also, ALWAYS check the Student Activities Board across from the 2nd floor Computer Lab

Announcements



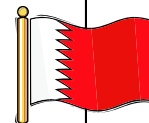
• **Academic Lectures THIS week:**

Tues. (4/22): Levels 3, 4 & 5; room 401
Counseling and Testing--Adjusting to American Culture

Wed. (4/22): Level 5; room 401
Biology--Cancer Cells

- ELI Picture time! We will take our semester photo this Wed., 4/23, at 10:30 a.m. at Founders Park. You will walk there with your W/G class.
- ELI field trip to Six Flags May 2! Information coming soon...

Did You Know....



A few interesting facts about Bahrain:

The Kingdom of Bahrain consists of 33 islands in the Persian Gulf.



The Dilmun civilization developed in Bahrain around 3000 B.C. Qal`at al-Bahrain is an archeological site that was once the capital of the Dilmuns.

Bahrain was one of the first countries in the Gulf to benefit from oil drilling, which began in the 1930's.



Bahrain is connected to Saudia Arabia by a causeway, which opened in 1986.

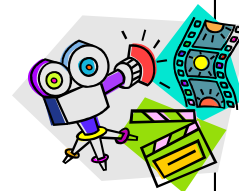


What's Showing at The Moxie?

The Moxie is downtown's independent cinema located near the corner of Walnut and Campbell.

This week:

- George A. Romero's *Diary of the Dead*
- *Snow Angels*
- *The Counterfeiters*
- *4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days*
- *SATO48 Film Challenge*



See Schedule on the Student Activities Board

Weather Forecast

Degrees: High/Low

Forecast for April 21-27

	<u>Fahrenheit</u>	<u>Celsius</u>
Monday:	76/59	24/15
Tuesday:	74/55	23/13—chance of rain
Wednesday:	77/60	25/16
Thursday:	74/59	23/15—chance of rain
Friday:	62/41	17/05—chance of rain
Saturday:	65/45	18/07
Sunday:	69/50	21/10



Weather forecasts are *always* changing, so for the most up-to-date forecast, go to: www.weather.com, or watch the local news or weather channel.