

# ALLEY THEATRE

**WHAT:** The Alley Theatre's historic renovation of the Hubbard Theatre will open to the public on October 2, 2015 with **One Man, Two Guvnors**. The 2015-2016 season will continue with **The Other Place, All The Way, The Night of the Iguana, Grounded, Travesties, The Nether** and **Born Yesterday**. The first extensive renovation since the Theatre's opening in 1968 includes major improvements to the Hubbard Theatre, backstage area, and public spaces.

**WHEN:** Construction on the Alley Theatre building began in July 2014 and will continue through the summer of 2015.

**WHERE:** Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Houston, TX 77002

**WHO:** Meredith Long and Roger Plank serve as co-chairs of a three-phase \$73 million dollar Extended Engagement Capital Campaign: The first two phases have raised \$53.5 million dollars to date which includes \$46.5 million for the renovation and \$10 million for Artistic Enhancement. The third and final phase will launch later this year to raise \$16.5 million for the endowment and cash reserve. The design of the new Theatre is by Pete Ed Garrett, principal of Houston-based Studio RED Architects. Dennis Irvine, founder, president and CEO of Irvine Team DSC, is serving as the project construction manager. Alley Theatre Associate Director of Design Kevin Rigdon and Bill Connor of Connor & Associates are the theatre consultants and Mark Holden, chairman of the Jaffe Holden Acoustics, is the acoustical consultant on the renovation. The construction is done by Houston-based W.S. Bellows Construction.

## RENOVATION HIGHLIGHTS:

- Extended stage into the house with 62% of the audience in the first 11 rows.
- Installation of a fly loft containing 28 full stage automated line sets making it one of the few in the country with this technology.
- Creation of a fully trapped stage floor allowing for an orchestra pit and actor and scenery entrances/exits.
- Newly created bar with a view of the city, expanded restrooms, and upgraded elevators.
- Installation of a fiber optic network throughout the theatre to support projections and sound content.
- Renovated lower level including actor dressing rooms accommodating up to 62 actors.
- All new interior including new seats, carpeting, and LED lighting.
- New air conditioning/heating system with multi-zoned control to ensure comfort in all areas.
- New Induction Loop Hearing System to turn Telecoil-equipped hearing aid, and cochlear implants into a personalized listening device connected directly to the theatre's sound system.

## IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STAGE:

- Removed four steel columns in the middle of the stage
- Added a fly loft with computer controlled motorized rigging.
- Created a fully trapped stage floor that will allow the ability to have an orchestra pit, deliver actors and scenery through the stage floor, and placement of motors and deck winches below the stage that will make the installation and maintenance of motorized wagons easier to install and quieter to run.
- Increased off stage wing space to provide more space for scenery and storage for easier and quicker conversion during scene changes, and changes from one show to the next.

- Eliminated the center vomitorium and created two vomitoriums for better actor access to the stage, giving directors more choices in staging and stronger entrance points.
- Created a new lift, extreme stage left, to bring materials into and out of the theatre space.
- Created a pass-through from the existing loading dock directly into the lower level of the Theatre Building and onto the new off-stage lift.
- Replaced front of house ceiling with catwalk system for light and sound to speed up process of hanging and focusing lights and increased safety for the crew.
- Upgraded communication equipment to give stage crew better access to information and provide a more reliable way of running shows.
- Upgraded speakers with remote amplification ability to reduce the amount of cabling needed to be installed and struck.
- Renovated actor dressing rooms and add additional dressing rooms, actors' restroom, warm up rooms and storage rooms on the lower level of the building.

#### **ENHANCED AUDIENCE AMENITIES:**

- Extended the stage into the house to give it a more intimate feeling for the audience. The seat count was reduced from 824 to 774 and there are only 15 rows instead of 17. The last row of the center section is 22 feet closer to the front of the stage and the back row of the side sections is 14 feet closer.
- Added eight locations for ADA seating.
- Expanded women's restroom on the third floor to double the size and relocate a larger men's restroom up a new flight of stairs to the level where concessions were previously located.
- Replaced interior of the Theatre with all new seats and carpeting.
- Created a 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor city-view Skyline Lobby Bar on the Hubbard Stage level, by removing walls and reconfiguring the large closed off meeting space facing Texas Ave., adjacent to the elevators (formerly Alley offices).
- Provided hand railings on all the aisles for convenience and safety.
- Created a light and sound barrier in new theatre. Previously when patrons left in the middle of a performance, the light and sound from the lobby intruded through the open door in the rear of the theatre as the patron exits, thus disturbing the seated patrons.
- Installed brighter LED lighting in theatre so patrons can read *Playbill* before show.
- Renovated and reconfigured the two rooms on the fourth floor for education classes and meeting and reception rooms (with amenities for catering) to support theatre activities.
- Installed new LED signage system complete with video capacity throughout the lobby areas.
- Replaced flooring in Box Office lobby and installed new carpet throughout public spaces.

#### **BUILDING UPGRADES:**

- Replaced air conditioning/heating system with a significantly quieter multi-zoned system with localized control to ensure comfort in all areas.
- Cleaned and caulk the exterior of the building.
- Replaced windows with energy efficient glass throughout the building.
- Replaced the entire roof.
- Installed new sprinkler system for fire safety.
- Upgraded the lobby elevators so that both serve the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.
- Installed new plumbing throughout the building

## **ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE**

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading not-for-profit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company lead by Artistic Director Gregory Boyd and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. Home to a Resident Company of actors, the Alley creates a wide-ranging repertoire and innovative productions of classics, neglected modern plays, and premieres. Alley All New, the initiative to commission and develop new work year round, features the Alley All New Festival each season presenting workshops and readings of new plays and musicals in process. A recipient of the Special Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, the Alley has brought productions to Broadway, 40 American cities including New York's Lincoln Center and internationally to London, Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg throughout its 69 year history.

The Alley Theatre began a \$46.5 million building renovation in 2014-2015 season, the first major improvements since the building opened in 1968. With more than 500 performances in 2015-2016, the Alley will produce more shows than all other performing arts organizations in the Houston Theater District combined.

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