

AGM 2020

In the Limelight - the Imperial Theatre



Saint John was a thriving community in 1913 when the Imperial Theatre opened its doors on September 19th. The uptown area had many theatres at this time. This one was part of an entertainment chain called the Keith Albee Amusement Company based in New York. It was actually built on the site of the Lyceum Theatre that had been destroyed during the Great Fire in Saint John in 1877.

The first manager was Walter Golding, who for a time lived on the third level of the theatre. He was responsible for bringing many of the biggest names in entertainment history to the city, including Ethel Barrymore and Harry Houdini.

During the 1920's it became a movie theatre renamed the Capital Theatre and remained as a movie and live theatre until the 1950's. With the advent of the television, people looked elsewhere for their entertainment. Many movie venues closed at this time, including the Capital.



Credit: New Brunswick Museum



Credit: Wikipedia

In 1957, the Davis sisters purchased the building and created a worship site for The Full Gospel Assembly. It remained as a church until the early 1980's. At that time, the church elders realized that repairs needed to be done.

At the same time, a small local group decided that the building should become a theatre again. An agreement was signed with the church that allowed the group to fundraise for a

year in the hopes that they would raise \$1,000,000.00 to purchase the building. With amazing community support the goal was reached. It took another 11 years to complete the renovations. The Imperial Theatre reopened its doors on May 24, 1994.



Credit: Imperial Theatre

It has been described as the most beautifully restored theatre in Canada. You have to come see for yourself the newly renovated lobby, and the unbelievably beautiful main theatre with its 10,000 piece crystal chandelier and wonderful acoustics.

On May 6th, the magician and illusionist, Matt Johnson, will be on stage at the Imperial. Showtime will be 7:30pm. The AGM 2020 host hotel would extend the special conference rate if you wanted to take in the show.



Credit: Matt Johnson



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