

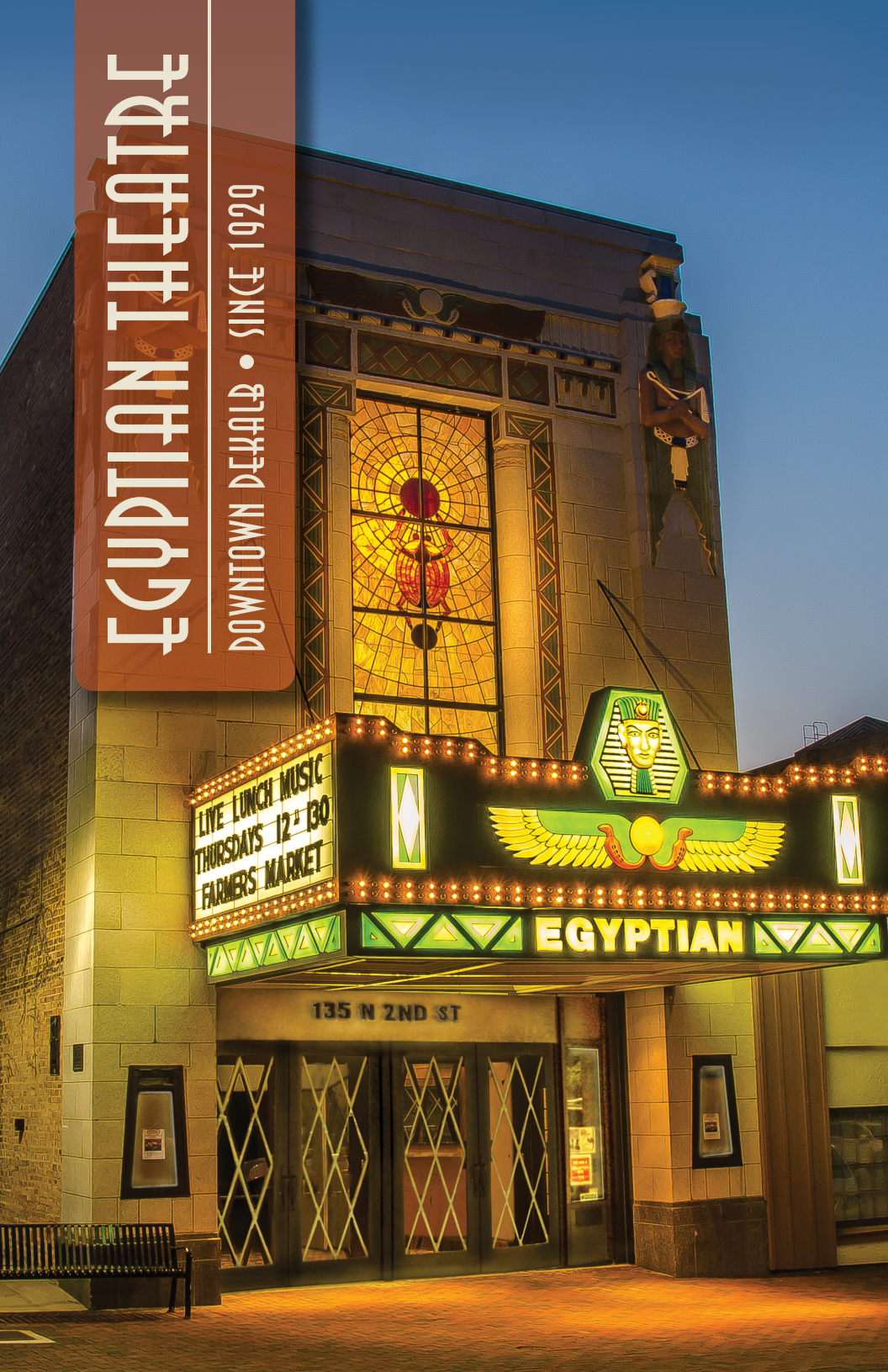
EGYPTIAN THEATRE

DOWNTOWN DETROIT • SINCE 1929

LIVE LUNCH MUSIC
THURSDAYS 12-130
FARMERS MARKET

135 N 2ND ST

EGYPTIAN



A BRIEF HISTORY...

The Egyptian Theatre has roots back to the age of the pharaohs with the discovery of the tomb of King Tut in 1922. That discovery set off a nationwide interest in everything Egyptian. The Egyptian influence reached DeKalb County in 1928, when the DeKalb Theatre Company was trying to settle on a design for a combination motion picture house and vaudeville theatre.

Needing a larger facility than its theatre at the corner of First Street and Lincoln Highway, the firm talked with Chicago theatre architect Elmer F. Behrens; construction began in 1929. It is believed that the initial construction cost roughly \$250,000.

The original design had to be scaled back dramatically due to the stock market crash in October 1929.

By the 1930's, the theatre was one of over 100 theatres across the country to decorate itself in an Egyptian style. Of all the Egyptian Theatres, the DeKalb theatre is one of only 6 remaining in the U.S. today and is the only Egyptian Theatre east of the Rocky Mountains.

The first film on the Egyptian's giant screen was "The Hottentot," an "all talking" film about horse racing. General admission was 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

OPENED
December 10, 1929

ARCHITECT
Elmer F. Behrens

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE
Egyptian Revival Art Deco

SEATING CAPACITY:
1,400 (1,600 in 1929)

OWNER/MANAGEMENT:
Preservation of Egyptian Theatre, Inc. a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

PROGRAMMING
Live Events, Films, Community Rentals, & Private Events

LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN 1978.

FOR THE HISTORY OF THE THEATRE



The live vaudeville acts generally were reserved for weekends between movie showings,

The non-profit organization Preservation of Egyptian Theatre, Inc. was formed in 1978 which took over ownership & management of the Theatre. A \$2.3 million restoration was completed in 1983 thanks to a grant from the State of Illinois. The Theatre continues to operate with a wide variety of programming attracting visitors from all around the world each year.

For more information & to donate visit:
www.egyptiantheatre.org

A photograph of a man and a woman in formal, late 19th or early 20th-century attire standing on a theater stage. The woman is wearing a dark, off-the-shoulder dress with lace detailing, and the man is in a dark suit. They are looking towards the stage. In the background, other people in period clothing are visible, some appearing to be in a scene. The lighting is warm and dramatic, with spotlights on the stage.

OUR MISSION

To share and protect the historical integrity
of the theatre as a regional arts center for
entertainment and community involvement.



WWW.EGYPTIANTHEATRE.ORG

135 N. SECOND STREET
DOWNTOWN DEKALB, ILLINOIS 60115