



Lights, Camera, Action

A Campaign to Bring the Silver Screen Back to Albion



Our historic places and buildings help tell the story of our communities, who we are and how we lived.

They are the tangible links to our past and the physical representation of the people and events that shaped our unique history.

- National Trust for Historic Preservation

In the Superior Street National Historic District, residing alongside Albion's red brick street, the Bohm Theatre has stood as an entertainment center for nearly eight decades. Opened in 1929 by musician and theater aficionado George Bohm, the Bohm Play-House, as it was once called, retains much of its original character and architectural elements.

Once a venue for movies as well as stage-plays, lectures and musical reviews, the Bohm eventually became a multi-plex with three screens, before closing in 2008 due to absentee ownership that led to disrepair.

Today, with the enthusiastic support of the local community, *The Friends of the Bohm Theatre*, in partnership with the Albion Community Foundation, is engaging in a campaign to restore the Bohm. **Lights, Camera, Action: A Campaign to Bring the Silver Screen Back to Albion** seeks support to return the theatre to its single screen origins, and update the main auditorium and projection equipment. This campaign will also **Set the Stage** for future efforts to create a dynamic venue to support performing arts and arts education activities.

To date significant strides have been made to achieve our vision. We were able to secure funding to develop plans for the exterior stabilization of the structure in addition to the rehabilitation master plan for the interior renovation. These planning documents helped us secure over \$350,000 from several individuals, private foundations and corporations to begin exterior restoration efforts in 2011.

Albion, Michigan



A Case for Restoring the Bohm

Preserving Architectural Heritage

Of the many theaters designed by Detroit native Christian Brandt, the Senate in Detroit and the Bohm in Albion are the only ones remaining today. In spite of deterioration over the years the Bohm has retained many of its original elements from the paneled wood and glass partitions to the chandeliers and sconces. Restoring the Bohm will not only save a local historic landmark, but provide a source of pride for the greater Albion area.

Renewed Downtown Vitality

Returning the Bohm Theatre to its role as a primary entertainment venue will promote economic development in Albion which is central to the vitality of the community. This will also impact the community's perception of the downtown as a whole. It is envisioned as a central part of broader redevelopment projects in the downtown to bring people in, and thus influence the addition of shops and restaurants.

Reopening the movie theater will benefit all income levels and provide entertainment in a central, walkable location. In addition to new jobs being created for the Bohm, the resulting increase in traffic-flow in the downtown will support existing businesses, as well as help provide the critical mass desired by entrepreneurs.

Entertainment and Cultural Value

While this campaign is targeted at bringing the "silver screen" back to Albion, the opportunities for bringing movies and other forms of digital entertainment are endless. From blockbuster hits, to The Metropolitan Opera or World Cup, a newly renovated Bohm with digital projection and satellite capability will offer programming which appeals to everyone in our diverse community.

"Historic preservation has proven to be an effective tool for a wide range of public goals including small business incubation, affordable housing, sustainable development, neighborhood stabilization, center city revitalization, job creation, promotion of the arts and culture, small town renewal, heritage tourism, economic development, and others."

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation



"The Bohm Theatre is one of the most intact of Michigan's grand movie theaters of the pre-Great Depression days... It is particularly notable for maintaining not only the auditorium but also the lobby with its ticket booth with their original 1920's finishes. The Bohm Theatre is clearly eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places... (it) possess a state level of historic significance."

Robert Christensen,
National Register Coordinator
State Historical Preservation Office



Artist's renderings of proposed theatre restoration



We Need Your Support Now

The Bohm Theatre Lights, Camera, Action campaign seeks to raise restoration funding to bring the Bohm Theatre back from decline and relight its screen.

Initial Bohm Theatre renovation efforts are geared towards bringing motion pictures back to Albion. Eventually, live performances and other events will share the stage.

Through your support of *Lights, Camera, Action: A Campaign to Bring the Silver Screen Back to Albion* we will be able to accomplish:

- Restoration of main auditorium
- Renovations to entrance, lobby, concession and box office areas
- Demolition of balcony separators (full balcony restoration in phase II)
- Addition of accessible bathrooms on 1st floor
- Renovation of bathrooms on 2nd floor
- Complete replacement of mechanical, plumbing, and electrical equipment
- Upgrading decorative lighting
- Decorative lighting restoration in main house and lobby
- Replacement of carpeting
- Purchase of digital projection equipment and sound equipment
- Purchase of ticketing and concessions equipment
- Refurbishment and/or replacement of main auditorium seating

*“By joining us in this capital campaign
you can help our community grow!
Thank you for your support!”*



Setting the Stage for the Future

Upon completion of *Lights, Camera, Action: A Campaign to Bring the Silver Screen Back to Albion* we will continue our efforts to restore the Bohm for use as a performing arts facility. Future renovations include:

- The addition of office space, separate concessions, and ticket booth
- Renovation of the balcony
- Decorative painting
- Restoration of the stage and fly loft
- Theatrical workspaces and changing rooms
- Acoustic and sound improvements for theatrical use
- Decorative lighting restoration in balcony
- Restoration of the Barton organ

Preserving the Past While Investing in the Future

How You Can Help

Thanks to the support of the Albion Community Foundation we are able to accept many types of gifts, including stocks, marketable securities, CDs and cash. Contributions should be made payable to the Albion Community Foundation with Bohm in the memo line.

Leave A Legacy

You can show your support of the Bohm by participating in a naming opportunity, a chance to attach your name or the name of a loved one to a piece of the Bohm Theatre in support of its future. From naming the ticket booth to a plaque on the stage itself, the *Friends of The Bohm Theatre* have identified a variety of naming opportunities with which to become part of the magnificent history of the Bohm Theatre while contributing to its grand future. By making a gift to the *Lights, Camera, Action* campaign in the form of a naming opportunity, you are providing needed financial support for renovations, equipment, and operations. You are also creating a tangible legacy of your passion for the Bohm.

A Final Challenge

The Albion Community Foundation, in partnership with the *Friends of the Bohm Theatre*, has received a \$350,000, 2:1 last in challenge grant from the Jeffris Family Foundation to support *Lights, Camera, Action: A Campaign to Bring the Silver Screen Back to Albion*. Your immediate support is needed in order for us to access these funds. Additionally, some gifts may be pledged over a three year period and still qualify towards our match requirements.

This brochure is made possible by funding from the Greater Calhoun County Capacity Building Fund.
Brochure by Maggie LaNoue, AlbionDesign.com



Friends of the Bohm Theatre
c/o The Albion Community Foundation
P.O. Box 156 • Albion, MI 49224
www.BohmTheatre.org • 517-629-8027