



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 8, 2018

Contact:

Morgan Lasater

mlasater@BurlingtonNC.gov

(o) 336.222.5073 (c) 336.693.2964

CITY TO CELEBRATE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARAMOUNT THEATER

BURLINGTON, NC- In addition to 2018 being the 125th anniversary of the City of Burlington we have another great milestone to observe, The City will celebrate the 90th anniversary of The Paramount Theater with a gala celebration on December 19. The event marks the opening of the theater, known then as The Grand, on that date in 1928.

The centerpiece of the evening will be a musical revue entitled *The Life of a Theater: The Paramount at Ninety*. The performance, narrated by The Paramount's "ghost", Herschel, will pay homage to the two lives the facility has enjoyed: as a first-run movie house and a performing arts facility.

"Act One will be nothing but the Academy Award winners for "Best Song" from 1930s to the early 1970s," states Paramount Managing Director David Wright. "That includes everything from 'The Continental' to 'Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head.'"

Wright says Act Two will feature the greatest Broadway tunes from shows performed at the theater during its life as a performance house. "Those will run the gamut from shows as varied as *The Music Man* to *Les Miserables*" he says. "We've gathered some of the area's best singers and musicians to bring these great songs to life."

In addition to the music, Herschel will provide commentary about life in Burlington during the ninety years covered by the show. Movie posters and Broadway show cards, along with photos of the people and events important in the Paramount's history, will be projected to enhance the performance. Research on the project has turned up a brief clip of "Three Weekends", the first movie ever shown at the theater.

The show will pay special tribute to The Gallery Players, Burlington's long-time community theater, and the group that saved The Paramount from the wrecking ball in 1977.

Wright says “Without their hard work, dedication, and vision, the last of the downtown theaters would have been destroyed. So much of our town’s history would have been lost forever. We owe it to those good folks to recognize their efforts.”

In addition to the revue, there will be a reception, a champagne salute, and registration for door prizes.

Tickets, priced at \$15.00 each, will go on sale in October for the gala, which will begin at 7PM.

“We know the Holidays are a busy time for many people. But, you only get to hold your ninetieth anniversary once. We hope folks will ‘dress to impress’ in their Holiday best and come out to celebrate this milestone in the life of The Paramount and the City of Burlington,” Wright said, indicating that if demand was great enough, a second performance on December 20 might be scheduled.

For more information concerning this event please contact David Wright at dwright@BurlingtonNC.gov or 336.222.5001.

###

Our Mission:

“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

Burlington Municipal Building • 425 South Lexington Avenue, Burlington, NC 27215
www.BurlingtonNC.gov • [www.Facebook.com/BurlingtonNC](https://www.facebook.com/BurlingtonNC) • Twitter [@BurlingtonNC](https://twitter.com/BurlingtonNC)
[www.FlickR.com/BurlingtonNC](https://www.flickr.com/photos/BurlingtonNC/) • Instagram [@BurlingtonNC](https://www.instagram.com/BurlingtonNC)