



Count Basie Theatre Foundation

“Let’s Face It” Campaign

The Count Basie Theatre Foundation

February 2011

We are delighted to again share with you some of the activities and accomplishments of the Count Basie Theatre and the Foundation. Although this newsletter does not attempt to include everything, we do hope it keeps you informed of our current projects, that it demonstrates the importance of our work and offers insight about our responsibility to preserve this historic site for generations to come. Our progress thus far is due to the support of our staff and continued generosity and support of our theatre members.

CBTF Benefit Concerts:

A component of our fundraising and “friend-raising” for the Basie is a series of benefit concerts scheduled throughout the calendar year. Aside from your generous capital gifts and pledges, this is a wonderful way to support the arts, our theatre and enjoy an evening of unparalleled entertainment!

We recently hosted Broadway sensation, Idina Menzel accompanied by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra with guest conductor Marvin Hamlisch! Aside from generating additional funding to assist with ongoing renovations, benefit shows are a unique way to bring exceptional headliners to the Basie and to expose new patrons to this local landmark. Future dates include Glen Burtnik and the “Summer of Love Experience” on March 12th for a night of nostalgia featuring classic music of the Woodstock Nation. Later this spring, Harry Connick Jr. will be taking the Basie stage on April 20th and 21st. Ticket sales for all benefit shows directly support our restoration and renovation projects on site. Learn more at our website www.countbasietheatre.org

Statistical Update:

Goal:	\$2,000,000
Raised to Date:	\$672,321
Percent of Goal:	34%
Number of Gifts:	163

The Basie, a Community Theatre:

Our benefit concerts are just another way to stay active with the Basie. The Basie produces 190+ shows each year, entertaining over 200,000 patrons. Our calendar offers something for every ticket buyer from traditional music/performance art to chart topping artists with appearances from some of our closest television reality star “acquaintances”. At the Basie, we strive to provide unparalleled entertainment while continually expanding our outreach and education efforts throughout New Jersey and most important, within our local community.

To maintain our presence in New Jersey we need your help! This is an exciting time to be involved with the theatre and we invite you to be a part of it. We are aware of the many requests made for your time and support, but please consider a gift or pledge to be allocated toward the Basie capital campaign. Your generosity will not only provide Leadership, but it will also offer continued momentum toward our \$2 million campaign goal.

Remember:

1. It costs \$6 million annually to run the Count Basie Theatre
2. The Count Basie Theatre is a non-profit, 501c3 charitable organization
3. Ticket sales account for only 50% of funds needed to operate the theatre

Another way to Give...

By “Taking Your Seat” at the Basie, you can remember an anniversary, birthday or honor a loved one by personalizing a seat in the theatre. This, like any other contribution is tax deductible and a great introduction to becoming a “part of the Basie”. Go to www.cbtfoundation.org and click on the “Donate Now” link.

Upcoming Foundation Events:

Plan on joining us in March for Glen Burtnik and the "Summer of Love Experience", VIP packages are still available with tickets starting at \$15. Special ticket offers include access to our Carlton Lounge, a pre-show reception, post show meet and greet, a variety of sponsorship opportunities along with recognition in our show program.

On April 20th and 21st the CBTF presents two evenings with Harry Connick Jr. and his Orchestra. This versatile entertainer; a three time Grammy award winner and Emmy and Tony nominee brings his unique big band sound to the Basie. He will be featuring songs from his recent release "Your Songs". Meet and greet sessions are available for both dates.

Tickets for our annual Fab Faux performance on June 25th are now on sale. This year, the Basie welcomes the group back for their 10th anniversary performance on our stage! To celebrate this milestone of the Basie's history, we have created a variety of sponsorship packages and VIP perks. Named "the greatest Beatles cover band" by Rolling Stone, this promises to be a night of #1 hits and special guests. We hope to see you there...

Our Gala, "The Count Basie Speakeasy Ball" is scheduled for Friday, May 6th—our theme this year will transport guests back to the days of whisky, poker and burlesque. All of our members are invited to be a part of this special evening held on the Basie stage.

For further ticket information or special event information (VIP ticket purchases; including a meet and greet/ performance receptions), please contact Rachel O. Warnick at rwarnick@countbasietheatre.org.

Photos: (top) Assemblywoman Caroline Gasagrande with her husband Stephen Chance; (r) Basie board members Michael Parent (l), Al Weiss and his wife Teresita at the Carlton reception on 1/29. (below) Brooke and Bradley Schaeffer guests of the Idina Menzel meet and greet.

Help us Tell Our Story ...

We are proud of the rich history that accompanies the Count Basie Theatre ... a presence in Red Bank spanning 84 years, legendary performances and our award winning performing arts program. Do you have an interesting tidbit or experience you would like to share? Know someone who does? Please visit our website www.cbtfoundation.org and click on "Get Involved" to submit your story.

For further information regarding ongoing fundraising efforts, please contact:
The Count Basie Theatre Foundation 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank, NJ
Tiffany McDermott (732) 224-8778 x 115

Façade Reveal :

The weather was on our side for our official façade reveal on Saturday, January 29th. Theatre staff, board members and some of our loyal supporters met in the Carlton Lounge for cocktails and a dedication of our plaque from the National Register of Historic Places. Met with remarks from our Foundation CEO Rusty Young, theatre CEO Numa Saisselin, and board chairmen Russ Lucas and Dave Cooner (photo below), it was an evening of celebration, gratitude and enthusiasm. The evening concluded with a fantastic show from Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings.



Support the Arts!

The Count Basie Theatre Performing Arts Academy is proud to present the Rockit! Showcase on Sunday, March 6th and the "Rock the Basie" show on Tuesday, March 29th. Both programs feature local musicians who audition for a ten week intensive program of rehearsals and lessons to perfect their craft and play in a collaborative setting. Rockit! works with students age 12-18 and the "Rock the Basie" group is designated for adult participants. Tickets are available through the Box Office.

