

# Ghost Light



A theater is never truly empty.

## *ghost light*

An illuminated light bulb on a stand that is left on the stage of a darkened theater when it is unoccupied. Though it provides a practical function, superstitious theater folk believe it also has a more mysterious purpose.

## *Pitch*

*Ghost Light* is the first-person docuseries taking audiences backstage in the country's most historical and haunted theaters.

Over the course of each episode, we research, interview, investigate, and experience the full scope of each theater. We follow traditions and superstitions to their roots and uncover the true birthplace of our most beloved rituals. We take a filmic and sensorially evocative exploration of the town, building, history, and paranormal aspects which are unique to each theater and little known to today's audiences.

*Ghost Light* is a unique paranormal television event: this is a scary story dedicated to our theatrical ancestors. Evocative, eerie, and cinematic, we open the stage door and invite viewers into the lights to uncover the darkest secrets. The theater is full of ghostly energy and we honor the spirits who remain.







# Host

To drive this unique program, we need a unique host. Hope Shangle brings first-hand paranormal experience, a lifelong passion for the theater, and a nerd-core affinity for history.

Hope carries her years of improvisation training and script writing to each of her interviews. Her "yes, and..." mentality allows her to direct conversations into deeper territories while mining potential story editing routes and plot lines. Hope's heart-on-her-sleeve disposition allows for candid discussions which translate beautifully to the screen.

Combining pop-culture dynamics with ruthlessly researched facts and a tangible affinity for all things spooky, Hope is the ideal host for this standout program.







Dock Street Theatre  
Charleston, South Carolina  
est. 1736

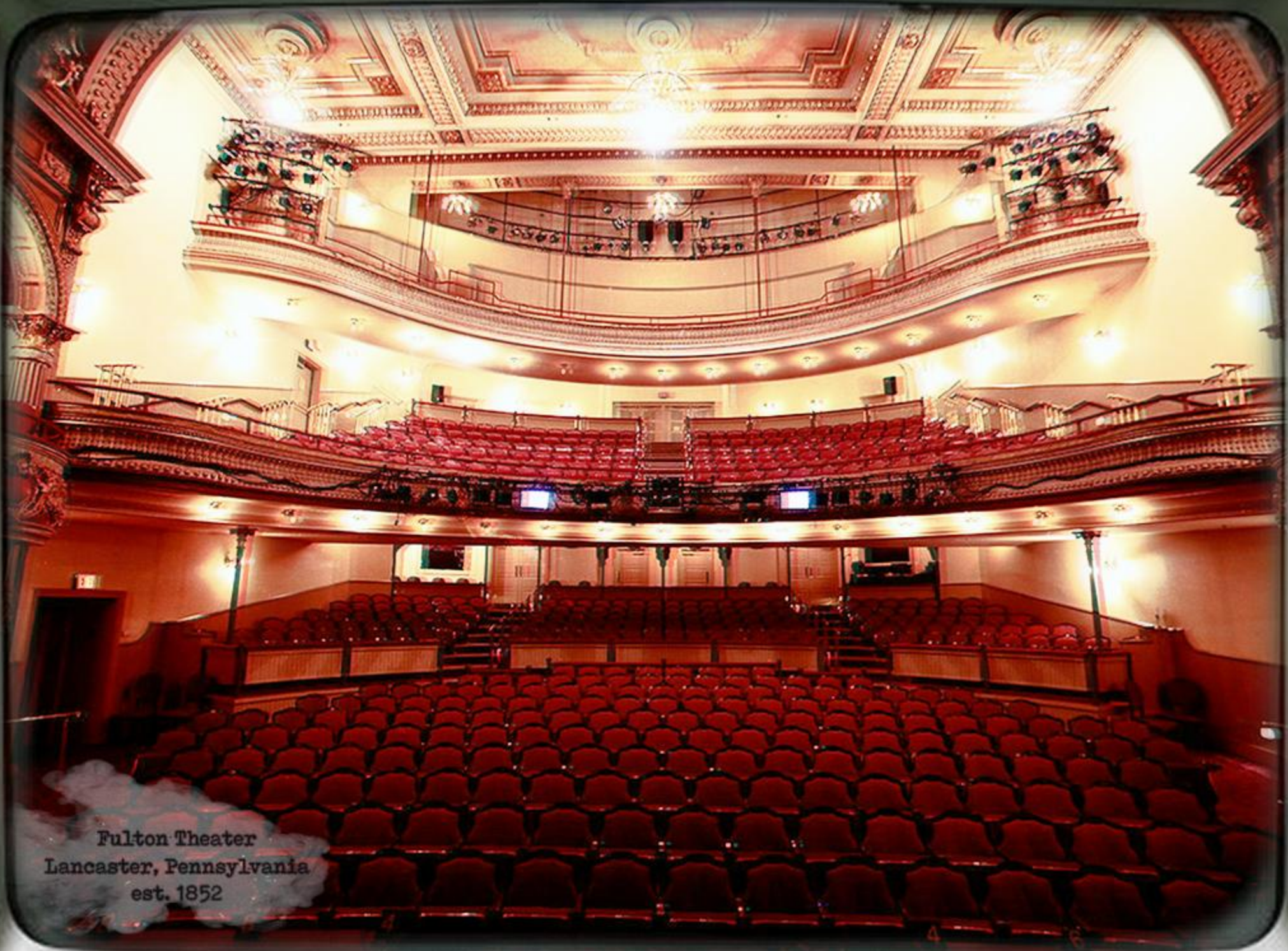


# Paranormal Expert

Every episode of *Ghost Light* includes a new paranormal expert to help shed light on the unseen. As experienced in similar paranormal series, these professionals add a layer of information and mystery which fortifies the viewing experience. Experts are chosen based on their area of expertise and local experience to ensure a perfect fit for the episode. For example, our adventure to Le Petit Théâtre Du Vieux Carré in New Orleans might be best aided by someone who is experienced with mediumship and Voodoo whereas The Cape Playhouse in Cape Cod might be best served by a paranormal adventurer who has experience in capturing scientific evidence to document the famous spirits still walking the halls. This diversity of knowledge sets *Ghost Light* apart from its contemporaries while also providing tie-in opportunities.







Fulton Theater  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
est. 1852



# Tone

*Ghost Light* offers an exclusive opportunity to meld cinematic, historical documentary with cult favorite ghost hunting television. Episodes intercut between theatrical framing and hand-held night-vision footage. Swift editing is partnered with a soaring soundtrack. High energy hosting adds dimension to sit down interviews and walk-and-talks alike. The result is a textured, fast-paced, unparalleled look inside the secrets of theater.

Influences for *Ghost Light* can be found throughout mainstream entertainment:

- Paranormal Investigation: *Dead Files*, *Ghost Adventures*, *Ghost Hunters*
- First Person Narrative: *The Blair Witch Project*, *Paranormal Activity*, *Cloverfield*
- Theater Based: *Smash*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Fame*, *Birdman*







Le Petit Théâtre Du Vieux Carré  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
est. 1916



## *Episode 1* **The Dock Street Theater - Charleston, SC**

The Dock Street Theater was the first building in The Colonies devoted to the performing arts. The theater's first premier occurred on February 8, 1735 with a performance of "Flora", which was the first opera to be performed in America.

Since its founding, the building has maintained the same location through a transition into the first hotel in Charleston and conversion back into a theater. Two hundred and forty three years of history and stories are housed in these walls.

The two most commonly seen spirits are Nettie Dickerson, a prostitute during the Dock Street's time as a hotel, and Junius Brutus Booth, famed actor and father of John Wilkes Booth. Patrons and performers alike have seen the pair walking the halls.

## *Episode 2* **Fulton Theater - Lancaster, PA**

Before the theater was built, the current site was a pre-Revolutionary jail. On December 28, 1763 a group of vigilantes stormed the jail and massacred Native Americans being held there for protection; fourteen people died including woman and children. The original wall of the prison yard still stands and is now the rear wall of the theater. The same prison would later earn the official recognition as a stop on the Underground Railroad after a police chief helped slaves escape to freedom.

In 1852, the Fulton Theater was built and was briefly used as a hospital during the Civil War. The theater would have years of success, even playing host to the Barrymores, until the 1950's when it eventually became a second-rate movie theater. The community saved it from a wrecking ball in the 1960's and has been an Actors' Equity Association regional theater since 1983.

There are many spirits in the theater but the three most frequently experienced are The Woman in White (reported to be the silent movie star Marie Cahall), The Whistler, and The Ghost in the Gallery. These spirits talk with technicians, whistle and clap audibly. They have also been seen in full apparition form.







The Nederlander Theatre  
Chicago, Illinois  
est. 1903



### Episode 3 Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre - New Orleans, LA

La Petit's original structure was built around the year 1789, but was destroyed in New Orleans' Second Great Fire in 1794. It was rebuilt a few years later in 1797 and was used as a barracks during the Civil War when taken over by Benjamin Butler, a Union General. After falling into disrepair, the theater was reopened in 1922 and is now considered New Orleans' most historic theater.

The theater is haunted by no fewer than eight spirits. From the actress who fell to her death from the catwalk, to the manager who committed suicide, tales include disembodied piano music, smelling pipe tobacco, seeing apparitions, and even being struck across the face. Le Petit Theatre is regarded, by some, as the most haunted theater in America.

### Episode 4 The Nederlander Theatre - Chicago, IL

Chicago, otherwise known as The Second City, is infamous for its fires. The Iroquois Theater (now The Nederlander) achieved its notoriety thirty-seven days after it celebrated its first opening night with the musical *Mr. Blue Beard* on November 23, 1903. After an overhead stage light caught fire, the theater was completely destroyed by flames in under thirty minutes. However, it took more than five hours to retrieve all of the victim's bodies. All told, more than six hundred people died in the fire and two hundred and twelve of those victims were children. Due to the sheer number of casualties, the alley behind the theater was used as an impromptu mortuary and has since garnered the name "The Alley of Death". After the theater was rebuilt in 1926, it retained the facade of the Iroquois which still stands to this day.

Theater goers have heard sobs and their names called, have seen apparitions and felt cold breezes, touches and shoves from the spirits.







The Cape Playhouse  
Dennis, Massachusetts  
est. 1927



## *Episode* 5 **Cape Playhouse – Cape Cod, MA**

Known as the oldest continuously running professional theater in America, the Cape Playhouse was constructed in 1836 as the Nobscussett meetinghouse. The entire building was moved to its current location in 1927 and has created its own fame over its history. Humphrey Bogart, Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters, Bette Davis, Henry Fonda, Betty White, Gregory Peck, and Ginger Rogers have all performed on the Playhouse's stage and some believe their stardom still lingers in the halls.

In fact, some say Gertrude Lawrence still walks the halls. Her husband was the theater's producer and she was the star of many their shows. Even after her death in 1952, she will still cause havoc on stage if her favorite flowers are not left in her dressing room. There are even tales of her dropping signed headshots from the balcony.



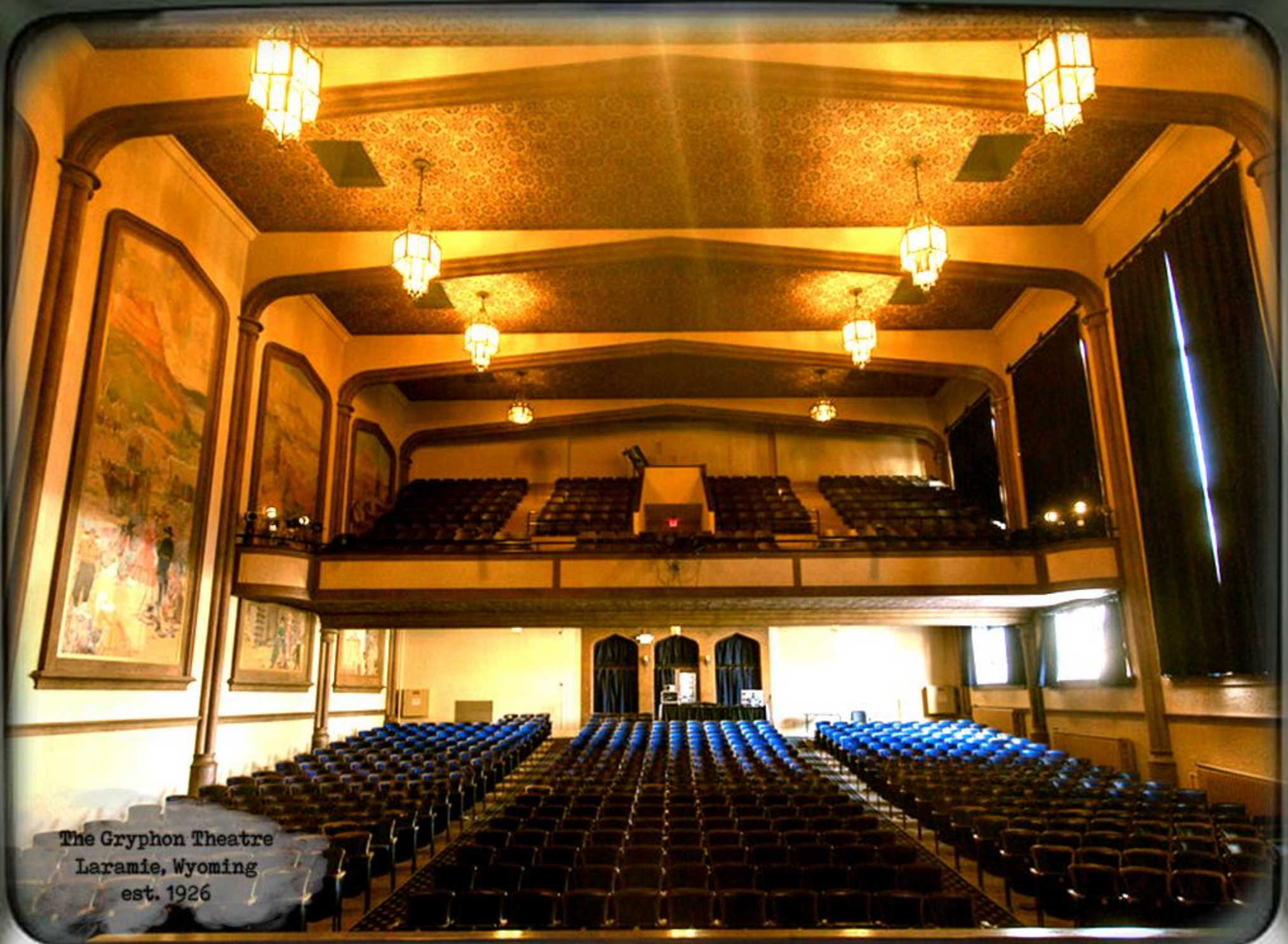
## *Episode* 6 **Gryphon Theater in the Laramie Plains Civic Center - Laramie, WY**

Originally built as the East Side School in 1878, the Laramie Plains Civic Center is the oldest school building in the state and the first stone school building in the Wyoming territory. The ground it sits on, however, has a treacherous history. As a lawless frontier town, Laramie suffered under the thumb of three notorious outlaw vigilantes and in four short months, thirteen men were killed by the outlaws for not signing over their land. In fact, before ground could be officially broken for construction of the school, bodies had to be exhumed from the land and laid to rest elsewhere. The Gryphon Theater was constructed as a part of a major addition to the building in 1926.

As for the spirits in the Gryphon Theater, people have reported seeing full bodied apparitions, smelling perfume, and hearing Native American drumming.







The Gryphon Theatre  
Laramie, Wyoming  
est. 1926



The ghost light is believed by some to simply protect the living souls from a painful accident while others know it is a sign of welcoming or warning for the departed spirits who have never left the theater.

You see, the light is placed center stage by the last person in the theater and, when it is lit, it will be the only source of light in the empty theater. As the lighter leaves, the spirits are addressed, by name if known, and wished a...

*Goodnight.*



Hope Shangle 616.401.0870 hope@atomic-focus.com

Jenn Dumas Wiggin 917.592.2326 jenn@atomic-focus.com