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News

Respecting their audience

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World-renowned magicians bringing creative, exotic show to Strand

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Since opening on Jan. 17, 2008, the Strand Theatre has hosted a multitude of events — musicals, movies, plays, rock concerts, classical concerts, lectures, meetings, dinners, luncheons, historical building tours, variety shows, church services and public celebrations. Appropriately for August, the Strand kicks off the new month with a sizzling new addition to its entertainment resume — professional magic.

At 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Roland Sarlot and Susan Eyed, world-class magicians from Arizona, will appear — and perhaps disappear — on the Strand stage. Thanks to the magic of music, imagination and theatrics, the audience will be whisked away to exotic locations such as a cabaret in old Berlin and a palace in Tibet.

Sarlot and Eyed specialize in unique, family-oriented entertainment, and they regularly appear at conventions, conferences, meetings, trade shows, banquets, holiday celebrations, private parties, performing arts theaters, fine resorts and upscale hotels in California, Mexico, Las Vegas and Arizona.

On Aug. 8, they will have the pleasure and privilege of performing for other magicians at the Abbott's Magic Shop's 72nd annual Magic Get-together in Colin, Mich., the magic capital of the world.

"It's a great honor," Eyed said during a telephone interview. "The who's who of magic has performed on that stage."

Although Sarlot and Eyed have performed for a variety of audiences in a variety of settings — from Las Vegas casinos to cruise ships — they always enjoy the intimacy of smalltown theaters.

"We're really excited about coming to Shelbyville," Eyed said. "Small towns have huge hearts. It's really important to connect with the people."

It was their desire to connect with people that made their booking at the Strand possible. The duo



Roland Sarlot and Susan Eyed are professional magicians from Arizona. (Submitted photo)

met and connected with Tommy Winterrowd, Shelbyville resident and longtime magician, at the Indianapolis Theatre Fringe Festival in Indianapolis five or six years ago. The three have become good friends, so Winterrowd invited the magicians to bring their act to the Strand — an excellent venue for a pair of excellent performers.

Winterrowd is producing the shows, which means he's in charge of all the behind-the-scene details will that make the presentations happen.

"I handle everything from tickets to stage preparation," Winterrowd said.

Infused with music, dance and energy, the duo's act is for people who love magic — and people who hate magic.

According to Sarlot, many people who say they dislike watching magic performances become so enthralled in the theatrics and the energy that they forget any negative notions that they previously had.

"Our show is very different," Sarlot said. "We really love magic and respect it. We treat it with reverence."

Eyed brings beauty and dance to the act, but she also performs illusions. When she joined Sarlot, she assumed that she would become his assistant. But that never happened.

"I never thought that magic was something that I'd do," Eyed said. "It was quite self-empowering."

Sarlot and Eyed enjoy meeting their audiences, and they always receive positive feedback after performances.

"We treat the audience with respect," Eyed said. "Come on a fun adventure. Let's have a blast!"

General admission price for the one-hour 2 p.m. show is \$7 in advance and \$9 at the door. Matinee premium seats (the first five rows) are \$15 in advance and \$17 at door. General admission price for 45-minute longer 8 p.m. show is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Evening performance premium seats are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door. Tickets are available at Smashed Productions, Blue River Printing and Mickey's T-Mart.

Winterrowd hopes to see many children and families at the shows, so he has offered to take orders via phone at (317) 392-0435. He will leave tickets at the box office, which will save \$2 off the door price.

For more information about Sarlot and Eyed, visit www.danceofillusion.com. For more information about the Strand and upcoming events, visit www.strand-theatre-shelbyville.org.

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