Arts and Entertainment Progress begins to show at State Theatre

by Pamela Monk

This time next year, the Centre Region will be the home of a new facility, unique to the area. Want to see a retrospective of classic films? Participate in community-wide theatre productions? Discover musicians before the buzz? It's not only possible; it's happening.

The State Theatre renovations have begun. Take a walk down College Avenue and peer through the chain link fence to see for yourself. If all goes according to plan, next summer will see the grand opening of a true community performance space, with all of the opportunities that such a space will make possible.

There has been much work going on behind the scenes but at last, the beginning of construction makes that progress visible to the community at large.

Construction is being funded in part by a \$1.5 million grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The rest of the money, according to the terms of the state grant, must be matched through other sources.

AEByrne

The State Theatre Inc. applied for and received a bridge loan from Omega Bank to match the funds so construction could start. It will be up to the community and individual donors to pay back the loan.

This will happen in a number of ways. The development committee of the board is soliciting major donors for contributions of \$10,000 and higher. These donations include naming opportunities for the stage and various locations. For people who don't have that kind of money to donate, there are other ways to contribute. One of them is coming up Sept. 24: the second annual College Avenue Mile.

This event, which attracted 200 runners last year, is a hybrid—part elite contest, part Mardi Gras. For serious milers, it is a chance for a bracing, uphill run on a brisk fall day.

For those who prefer walking and laughing with friends, this is one of the few opportunities around the Centre Region on days other than Halloween when you may do this dressed as your favorite fantasy, or borne on a palanquin (you need to provide

Jackson

your own bearers for that one!).

Proud owners of athletic pooches are also encouraged to join the strolling throngs. The prize money of \$2,000 will be split among the winners in various categories. Times are clocked by computer. The entry fee includes a free T-shirt and the use of a timing chip.

After the race, festivities will be held downtown, including the awarding of the prizes and a sampler of the local entertainment that will eventually find a home at the State Theatre. Organizers hope to double the number of participants this year, with an eye to making the race a yearly celebration.

More information on the College Avenue Mile is available online at www.thestatetheatre.org/events. There you will find a link to active.com for online registration. Before Sept. 17, the cost is \$15 per entry. The fee drops to \$10 per person for groups of ten or more registering at the same time. The cost for youth ages 5 to 12 is \$5 each. There is no charge for children under 5 who toddle (or are pushed in their strollers).

The building has survived. It is now up to

us, as an entire community, to make sure that the State Theatre will thrive.

Pamela Monk is a member of the board of The State College Theater Inc. and currently serves as board secretary. She answers the question "Do we really need another theater downtown?" by asking, "Do we really need oxygen to breathe?'

What you need to know

College Avenue Mile Sept. 24, 2005 Walk or run Pets invited Costumes encouraged

\$15 per entry, \$5 ages 5-12

www.thestatetheatre.org /events

Central Dennsylvania Dance Workshop

home of the Eraser Street Oancers 237-2666 101 South Eraser Street www.cpdw.org

Register Now for Fall Semester!

Jill A. Brighton, 14 Weeks, September 7 - December 18, 2005

Wed Thurs Sat Mon Tues 9:00-10:00

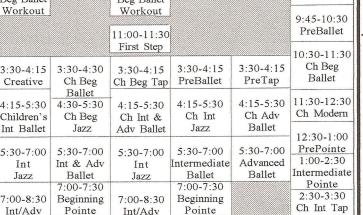
Director

OPEN

HOUSE

September

21st-27th



PLEASE STOPBY AND **CHECK OUT OUR GREAT** CLASSES!

