

The history of the Boyd Theatre in Bethlehem



PHOTO GALLERY: A look back at the Boyd Theatre in Bethlehem through the years.



By **Nicole Radzевич**
Of The Morning Call

SHARE THIS



A brief history of the Boyd Theatre in Bethlehem

JANUARY 18, 2016, 2:07 PM

Bethlehem-Boyd L.P. bought Center City Bethlehem's beloved Boyd Theatre on Dec. 31., nearly five years after it showed its last movie. A look back at its history:

- Opened in 1921 when Charles and John Kurtz, local businessmen who owned a cabinetry and furniture-making business and restaurant, under the name Kurtz Theatre. A seven-piece orchestra directed by John Hepple Sheppard performed opening night along with an Estey pipe organ.
- Renamed the Colonial in 1924, after being bought by Wilmer and Vincent Theatre Co., which owned the Colonial Theatre in Allentown. Some of those original seats are still installed in the balcony with the telltale "C" insignia.
- In 1934, A.R. Boyd Enterprises of Philadelphia bought it – along with the Globe Theater in Bethlehem and theaters in Allentown and Easton.
- On Dec. 27, 1966, a fire ripped through a building next to the Boyd in Bethlehem, damaging the theater's lobby, facade and marquee. It reopened a year later with the showing of "The Sand Pebbles" starring **Candice Bergen** and Steve McQueen.
- The Heydt family bought the theater in 1970.
- The theater closes for repairs in 2011 after a windstorm and doesn't reopen. The last movie advertised on its Facebook page is "Like Water for Elephants."
- Several businesses operating in adjoining storefronts of the theater vacate because of water damage.
- The Boyd Theatre property, 30 W. Broad St. is bought by a company owned by Charles C. Jefferson, owner of the Montage Mountain Ski Resort.

Source: Morning Call archives, former Boyd Website

Copyright © 2018, The Morning Call

This 'attr(data-c-typename)' is related to: **Candice Bergen**

Missing comments? We've turned off comments across The Morning Call while we review our commenting platform and consider ways to improve the system. If you purchased points through the Solid Opinion platform and would like a refund, please let us know at circsupport@tronc.com.