



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Drexel Theatre Becomes Non-Profit

Beloved, independent art cinema to be operated by Friends of the Drexel and managed by CAPA

Friends of the Drexel, Inc. has purchased the assets of Drexel Theatre, Inc., converting the 1930s Art Deco cinema from a for-profit enterprise into a non-profit organization. According to Richard A. Stoff, founding Chairman of Friends of the Drexel, the purchase strengthens the theatre and secures its future as Columbus' premier arts cinema. Friends of the Drexel has also entered into an agreement with CAPA to manage the theatre on its behalf, as well as the adjoining Radio Café.

"We have received tremendous community support since forming our organization last year," said Stoff. "The Drexel is a well-loved, cultural jewel, and with this new business model and the expertise of CAPA, we are confident it can be a sustainable provider of unique arts content and a vibrant community meeting place for many years to come."

Beginning March 18, CAPA will assume the responsibilities of management, programming, marketing, accounting, operations, and development. It will also begin evaluating potential structural and aesthetic renovations as well as technology updates.

"The preservation and renovation of historic theatres is obviously something near and dear to our hearts," said CAPA Board Chair Michael Petrecca. "To have the opportunity to help support an arts and cultural staple such as the Drexel is simply a thrill for us."

Under the direction of CAPA, former Drexel owner Jeff Frank will continue serving as Operations Manager of the theatre. "The support and stability provided by both CAPA and the Friends of the Drexel assures the continued success of the theatre as a community asset," stated Frank.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Richard Stoff, Chairman ■ Carol Zelizer Stoff, Vice Chairman and Secretary ■ Michael Canter ■ Don Casto ■ E. Gordon Gee
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“The Friends of the Drexel are working hard to assure the historic theatre will continue to positively contribute to the development of Main Street and entertain the citizens of Bexley and central Ohio. We wish them the best of luck,” stated Bexley Mayor John Brennan.

“Cooperation and consolidation are essential to sustaining and developing the arts in Columbus,” said Doug Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation. “This strategic new business plan coupled with CAPA’s knowledge and experience will make great strides in securing the future of this local icon for excellence in film.”

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About Drexel Theatre, Inc.

Since 1981, the Drexel Theatre has been central Ohio's first source for independent film and the best of Hollywood and international cinema, striving to specialize in simply the best films from around the world. Located on historic East Main Street in Bexley, the Drexel Theatre also includes the adjacent Radio Café, a quaint cinema café with sidewalk umbrella table service. For more information, visit www.drexel.net.

About Friends of the Drexel, Inc.

Established in late 2009 by a group of committed community leaders and arts patrons, Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to a more creative and prosperous future for the Drexel Theatre. Its mission is to secure and sustain the future of the historic Drexel Theatre as a distinctive cultural asset to Bexley and the greater Columbus community. It envisions the Drexel as a sustainable provider of unique arts content as well as a vibrant community meeting place that preserves the charm and eclectic, neighborhood film-going experience in a warm and inviting, yet technologically-advanced, facility. For more information, visit www.friendsofthedrexel.com.

About CAPA

Owner/operator of downtown Columbus' magnificent, historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex, Lincoln Theatre, Valentine Theatre (Toledo, OH), and Shubert Theater (New Haven, CT), the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) is a not-for-profit, award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment in operation for more than 40 years. For more information, visit www.capa.com.

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