

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON PARANORMAL RESEARCH

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Columbia Theatre
212 South First Street
Saint Helens, Oregon
April 23 and 24, 2005

Investigators: Kim, Dezi, Kristie, Stacie, Fred and Angela

Southwest Washington Paranormal Research conducted an investigation of paranormal activity at the Columbia Theatre located at 212 South First Street in Saint Helens, Oregon on April 23 and 24, 2005.

The staff and guests of the theatre have been witness to unexplainable occurrences in the past. Many of the guests claim that there has been a cat in the rear of the theatre while they were watching a movie; however, there is no cat in the theatre. The manager and staff of the theatre claimed that there is paranormal activity involving many spirits. They believe there is a small girl that crawls into the theatre between the seats during scary movies. She likes to scare the patrons of the movie. The staff believe there is a small boy upstairs in the balcony, an old man upstairs in the store room who likes to keep the employees from shutting the door, and a woman upstairs in the balcony.

Other activity that the staff and patrons of the theatre have witness include: the curtain being moved during a showing of a film (there are no vents near or around the curtain); electronic equipment being unplugged from the wall while in use; orb formation in digital photos taken at the theatre; and in one instance, an apparition of an older man with a white beard.

The Columbia Theatre is located in a historical district in St. Helens, Oregon. Originally built in 1898 and rebuilt in 1929, the theatre was burned during the big fire in St. Helens.

The investigation included six members of the Southwest Washington Paranormal Research group. Various equipment used in the investigation include: motion detectors, digital recordings, temperature readings, EMF detectors, and various digital cameras.

The researchers started the investigation by setting up the equipment and taking temperature and EMF readings throughout the theatre. Starting in the downstairs store rooms in both the concession areas, the lobby, and box office the temperature readings were a consistent 68* to 72* F while the EMF readings were zero. EMF began to fluctuate on the way up to the balcony on the right stairway from .5 up to 10 (EMF went crazy) while the temperature remained 72* F. The stairway to the ladies' restroom had an EMF reading of .8 up to 10 and the temperature reading fluctuated from 56* F up to 71* F with one very hot spot of 175* F. The EMF reading in the hallway behind the seats in the balcony fluctuated from zero up to 10 while the temperature remained 69* F. The temperature in the remainder of the rooms upstairs remained consistent from 67*F up to 75* F in the office area where a large amount of electronic equipment was stored. The EMF in the stairwell to the men's restroom went from .4 down to .2 then up to .5. A quick spike of EMF readings occurred in the upstairs storage area that went up to 5. The stairwell left of the balcony had a temperature of 70*F with no EMF readings. The main auditorium had temperature readings from 66*F that went down to 63*F along the left wall with no EMF readings. The exit down left of the auditorium had a temperature reading of 66*F while the exit down right had a temperature reading of 63*F with an EMF reading that went up to .5. Behind the screen on the stage the temperature was 66*F and also had EMF of up to .2.

Equipment was placed strategically throughout the theatre in accordance with the activity that was felt and recorded through EMF readings and by where the staff members of the theatre had felt the most activity. Digital recording cameras were placed in the auditorium and upstairs in the balcony. Motion sensors and chimes were placed upstairs in the balcony. A number of small toys were placed in the main auditorium: a truck behind the door going into the main auditorium, an etch-a-

sketch and plastic shark in the second row of the right side of the auditorium, and a stuffed bunny in the second row of the center aisle.

Throughout the night the radios kept clicking on and off.

The following is a time-line of events that occurred and that investigators witnessed during the investigation:

11:20 pm Arrive at theatre

11:25 pm Kim says she heard someone say "is that one of them?" in the main auditorium.

11:29 pm Dez feels as though she is being watched while setting up equipment on the stage.

11:50 pm Kristie saw something walk in front of her upstairs while she was putting the cameras in place.

12:10 am Fred saw a dark shaped figure in the balcony

12:33 am Start of first EVP session in upstairs balcony

12:39 am End of first EVP session in upstairs balcony

12:45 am Dez starts to video tape upstairs

1:45 am Second EVP session starts in main auditorium

3 minutes into the second EVP session Kim's new batteries die in her recorder.

1:52 am End of EVP session

Dez heard children and counting game during session. She asked everyone to stop taking pictures during the session.

2:05 am third EVP session started in the balcony

2:15 am Man's cough is heard during EVP session in back of auditorium

2:30 am End of third EVP session

During the third EVP session, Dez heard singing and heard noises in main auditorium. Noises were also heard downstairs and there was a cold chill in the balcony

2:31 am Fred felt a pull on the back of his pant pocket upstairs in the balcony as we were leaving

2:40 am The investigation ended.

The evidence gathered from the above mentioned equipment will be analyzed and posted on the web site. As of now, more research into the history of the theatre may reveal some evidence as to who and why this theatre is being haunted. Preliminary investigation shows that the Columbia Theatre does have paranormal activity.