

= Clinton Street Theater =

The Clinton Street Theater is a theater located in southeast Portland , Oregon . It is believed to be the second oldest operating movie house in the city and one of the oldest continually operating cinemas in the United States . The theater was designed by Charles A. Duke in 1913 , built in 1914 , and opened as The Clinton in 1915 . It became known as the 26th Avenue Theatre in 1945 and the Encore in 1969 , before reverting to a resemblance of its original name in 1976 . The Clinton often screens grindhouse , cult and experimental films , and has become known for hosting regular screenings of The Rocky Horror Picture Show (since 1978 , marking one of the film 's longest @-@ running showings) and Repo ! The Genetic Opera . The venue also hosts the annual Filmed by Bike festival , the Faux Film Festival and the Portland Queer Documentary Film Festival .

= = History = =

A photograph of the building that was to house the theater appeared in The Morning Oregonian newspaper in 1913 . Known as the Kleist Building after its owner , Edward Kleist , it had a pressed brick front and walls with hollow tiles . The second floor was intended for residential rooms and apartments , and the ground floor was designed for business storerooms and a movie theater . According to a February 1915 newspaper advertisement , The Exploits of Elaine , the first in a continuing series of Craig Kennedy detective stories , was to show at The Clinton on March 1 .

The 300 @-@ seat theater was designed by Charles A. Duke in 1913 and opened in 1915 as The Clinton . Its main entrance faced 26th Avenue until 1922 . The venue became known as the 26th Avenue Theatre in 1945 and the Encore in 1969 , before reverting to a variation of its original name on May 30 , 1975 . At that time , a five @-@ person collective bought the theater . The movie house had been showing X @-@ rated films , which the collective replaced with a wide variety of movies including foreign films , The Rocky Horror Picture Show , and older films like The African Queen .

In September 1999 , Anne Rozier and Dennis Nyback took over operation of the theater . Nyback had previously shown films at the Clinton beginning in 1997 . He was told about the availability of the theater when he was showing films in June 1999 . During his time operating the theater with Rozier , Clinton showed a mix of new films , revival films , and creations by Nyback using his archive . His shows included : " Defining the 1970 's Through Classic Commercials " , " Bad Bugs Bunny " , " Strange and Surreal Industrial Films " , " F & # k Mickey Mouse " , " Scopitone A Go Go " , " Jazz on Film " , " The Dark Side of Dr. Seuss " , " Forty Years of Classic Commercials " , and " The Genius of Bob Clampett " .

Seth and Nicola Sonstein purchased the business from Anne Rozier in September 2003 . The couple " fell in love with both the city and the theater " after visiting in July 2002 as coordinators of San Francisco 's Sick Puppy short film festival . The Sonsteins added heating and air conditioning , both firsts for the theater , and refurbished the bathrooms , lobby and walls , among other upgrades . Screening independent films and supporting local filmmakers remain the couple 's primary goals .

In March 2012 the business , including fixtures and projection and concession equipment , but not the building itself , were listed for sale . In April 2012 ownership of the business transferred from the Sonsteins to Roger and Lani Jo Leigh . After the sale , Seth Sonstein said in a press release : " For the last eight @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half years I have had the opportunity to run the coolest movie theater , in the coolest neighborhood , in the coolest city in America . My eternal gratitude goes out to the citizens of Portland . I can never say thank you enough times for all of the support you have given to the Clinton . " Events to mark the change included an open house " meet @-@ and @-@ greet " , which included screenings of two documentary films by Lani Jo , and an evening of rare trailers and video clips from the Prelinger Archives . Lani Jo confirmed the theater will continue to offer screenings of The Rocky Horror Picture Show and focus on documentary and independent films .

= = Events = =

Clinton Street Theater offers : " a mixture of grindhouse , music films , political documentaries and experimental films " . The theater has become known for its weekly screenings of Rocky Horror and Repo ! The Genetic Opera , and for its annual Filmed by Bike festival , which began in 2003 and features : " bike @-@ themed independent short movies from around the world . " Rocky Horror screenings began in 1978 , marking one of the longest @-@ running showings of the film . The theater also hosts the Faux Film Festival , offering cult and independent film showings , and the Portland Queer Documentary Film Festival .

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Portland Trail Blazers , in 2009 the theater screened the 1978 rare and out of circulation documentary Fast Break about the team 's 1976 ? 77 championship season . In 2010 the Clinton hosted the Three @-@ Minute Picture Show , which featured screenings of three @-@ minute films by first @-@ time filmmakers . The venue has also hosted benefit events , such as " Can 't Stop the Serenity " (presented by PDX Browncoats) , which included showings of the film Serenity among other features to benefit Equality Now and the Oregon Food Bank . Other hosted events have included the Portland Underground Film Festival , comedy shows , commemorations for holidays such as Martin Luther King , Jr . Day , and lectures on film making .

Many celebrities have appeared at the theater to promote films , including Crispin Glover in 2008 , and Bill Plympton and Tom Shadyac in 2011 . Chuck Palahniuk , Tom Potter and Gus Van Sant have also appeared at the theater .