

= Lincoln Theatre (Washington , D.C.) =

Lincoln Theatre is a theater in Washington , D.C. , located at 1215 U Street , next to Ben 's Chili Bowl . The theater , located on " Washington 's Black Broadway " , served the city 's African American community when segregation kept them out of other venues . The Lincoln Theatre included a movie house and ballroom , and hosted jazz and big band performers such as Duke Ellington . The theater closed after the 1968 race @-@ related riots . It was restored and reopened in 1994 , and hosts a variety of performances and events . The U Street Metro station , which opened in 1991 , is located across the street from Lincoln Theater .

American recording artist Adam Lambert performed at this venue on 5 March 2016 as part of his The Original High Tour .

= = History = =

Construction of the Lincoln Theatre began in the summer of 1921 , and it opened in 1922 . The Lincoln Theatre , which showed silent film and vaudeville , served the city 's black community . The theatre was designed by Reginald Geare , in collaboration with Harry Crandall , a local theater operator .

In 1927 , the Lincoln Theatre was sold to A.E. Lichtman , who decided to turn it into a luxurious movie house , and added a ballroom . The theatre was wired for sound in 1928 . The ballroom , known as Lincoln Colonnade , and the theater were known as the center of " Washington 's Black Broadway " . Performers at Lincoln Theatre have included Duke Ellington , Pearl Bailey , Louis Armstrong , Lionel Hampton , Ella Fitzgerald , Cab Calloway , Billie Holiday , and Sarah Vaughan . A television projection system was installed at Lincoln Theatre in 1952 . The movie house televised boxing fights on many occasions , such as the Sugar Ray Robinson @-@ Joey Maxim bout on June 25 , 1952 .

The Lincoln Theatre struggled financially after desegregation opened other movie theaters to blacks beginning in 1953 . In the late 1950s , the Colonnade was demolished . The theater fell into disrepair after the 1968 Washington , D.C. riots . In 1978 , the Lincoln Theatre was divided into two theaters , and was known as the Lincoln " Twins " . In the late 1970s and early 1980s , the Lincoln Theater featured " All @-@ Night Movie " shows on the weekend , attracting hundreds each weekend . The Lincoln Theatre was sold to developer Jeffrey Cohen in 1983 , who closed it for renovations . The theater remained boarded up for many years .

= = Restoration = =

The Lincoln Theatre was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 . In 1993 , the theatre was restored by the U Street Theatre Foundation , with \$ 9 million of aid from the District of Columbia government . The restoration started in 1989 by developer Jeffrey N. Cohen , who was working on a controversial \$ 250 million redevelopment plan , " Jackson Plaza " , for the Shaw / U @-@ Street area . In 1990 , Cohen ran into financial difficulties and filed for bankruptcy in 1991 . Restoration of the theater was taken over by the District government and the foundation . The restoration work was done by the design firm , Leo A. Daly . The building has a brick exterior , and the interior features Victorian trim .

A " sneak preview " of the renovated theater was held on September 16 , 1993 for D.C. Councilmember Frank Smith , Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly , and 1 @,@ 000 attendees . The theatre officially reopened on February 4 , 1994 with a performance of Barry Scott 's Ain 't Got Long to Stay Here , which was about the life of Martin Luther King , Jr . In March 1995 , Lincoln Theatre hosted a play , Where Eagles Fly , written by local playwright Carole Mumin . The play told the story of a local elderly woman who fought the Shaw Urban Redevelopment Project that targeted the Shaw neighborhood for demolition , and sought to preserve the neighborhood and its history .

The 1 @,@ 250 @-@ seat theater has hosted theatrical and musical shows , leased space to community groups and for events , and hosted political events such as the mayor 's State of the

District address . Jazz performances in recent years have included Cassandra Wilson , Quincy Jones , Chuck Brown , and Wynton Marsalis . In 2005 , the annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival was inaugurated and hosted performances . Others that have performed at the Lincoln Theatre include Damien Rice , singer Brian Stokes Mitchell , and comedian Dick Gregory . Lincoln Theatre has also been a venue for Filmfest DC . The theater was the primary venue for the annual LGBT film festival Reel Affirmations from 1998 to 2008 .

The theater has struggled financially , and has received \$ 500 @, @ 000 of aid annually for the past five years from the District government . The theater director , Janice Hill , has expressed concerns that the theater may have to shut down due to lack of funds . On January 11 , 2007 , the District government provided \$ 200 @, @ 000 to the theatre . Councilmember Jim Graham also suggested adding an annual line item to the city 's budget to provide the theatre with \$ 500 @, @ 000 each year .

In 2011 , the theatre was threatened with closure after the city cut funding . The D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities took over management and began searching for new management .

= = Current Operation by I.M.P. = =

In January 2012 , the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities began searching for a new entertainment booking group to operate Lincoln Theatre . The process included evaluating business plans from various groups . In April 2013 , I.M.P. , the company that owns the 9 : 30 Club and operates Merriweather Post Pavilion , was selected over other competitors to operate the theatre . In June 2013 , DC Mayor Vincent Gray , the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development , the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities , and the Deputy of General Services made the official announcement of the selection .

Prior to obtaining sole operation of the theatre , I.M.P. had booked a few shows at Lincoln Theatre , including sold @-@ out performances by Jeff Tweedy in 2010 and Jeff Mangum in 2012 . I.M.P. began sole operation of the theatre in the fall of 2013 .

Since gaining sole operation , I.M.P. has booked nearly 100 shows at Lincoln Theatre , including :

Laura Marling on September 4 , 2013

Janelle Mon  e on October 14 , 2013

Colin Meloy on November 5 , 2013

Corey Holcomb on January 25 , 2014

Lauryn Hill on February 9 , 2014

Sharon Jones and the Dap @-@ Kings on February 10 and 11 , 2014

Bob Weir & RatDog on February 17 , 2014

Emmylou Harris on April 11 , 2014

Stephen Marley on April 17 , 2014

Johnny Hallyday on May 8 , 2014

Morcheeba on May 14 , 2014

Ingrid Michaelson on May 23 , 2014

Natalie Merchant on July 12 , 2014

Spoon on September 2 , 3 , and 4 , 2014

Nas on October 4 , 2014

Flying Lotus on October 13 , 2014

Hannibal Buress on October 17 , 2014

Dwight Yoakam on October 19 , 2014