

Sunset Theatre Movie Editor

User's Manual

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I. OVERVIEW

1. Welcome!

Welcome! This little program was the result of roughly two months of blood, sweat, and googling how to do things. I hope it makes updating the website a bit easier, and if you have any problems just ask!

2. How It Works

I had a lot of ideas for how this program should work (good and bad) before settling on its current method of operation. Which is, the whole system relies on a database to store information about the movies you're going to play (and have played in the past).

When you want to add a movie to the Sunset website, you enter all of the information into the program's main window (text fields, radio buttons, etc.). Then that info gets added to the database, where all the previous movies are stored as well.

The program's folder has a text file with the website's HTML code written into it--minus the movie info--which the program reads and stores in a variable. When it's time to update the website, the program figures out today's date and pulls out every movie from the database that is going to play after that date. Then it inserts those movies (the title, dates, rating, picture, youtube link, etc.) into the HTML code at the right places, complete with a horizontal divider between each movie--exactly how you've always done it. (In fact, I spent a lot of time flipping back and forth between the real Sunset website and the version my program spits out to make sure it is always identical to the real thing, down to the last pixel.)

Finally, the program grabs all the movies from this year that played *before* today's date and inserts them into the "Past Movies" list on the homepage. Again, I made sure it is the same as the real deal. (The only difference is that some of your titles in the list have a colon and others do not; I chose to use the colon every time for consistency).

So essentially, what the program does is build the webpage from scratch every time you click 'File > Create HTML Page'. It figures out what movies should be on the homepage and

what movies should be in the Past Movies section, and inserts all of that (from the database) into the 'blank' HTML template for SunsetTheatre.com.

It's also pretty smart, and I spent many, many hours thinking through every possible scenario to make sure it never makes an error or presents the wrong information anywhere. (As an example, I originally had the program add 3 to the date your movies start playing so it would know how long to leave the movie up on the site. But what if you wanted to play a movie for *five* days? Eventually I decided to count the commas in your date format. If there is only one comma—as in 'January 1, 2 & 3'--that means the movie plays for three days. More than one comma—as in 'February 26, 27, 28, March 1 & 2-- and it's five days.)

If you find any problems or think of any way I could improve the program to make it easier for you, let me know!

3. Getting Started

I designed the program to be very simple and easy to use. The way I was originally going to write the program was to basically have you type in the movie information for every movie every time you wanted to update the site, but I kept coming up with more ideas for automating things.

In its final version, all you have to do to update the website is open the program and choose **File > Create HTML File**. Then you just move the newly created **index.html** into your website's directory and upload it to the internet. You don't have to type a single line of HTML code! (In fact, you don't have to type anything at all if the movies you're playing are already in the database.)

Of course, you do need to add each movie to the database once you know what dates you're playing them. To do that, just type the information into the program and click **Add Record**. That's it! It'll be in the database forever, and will even move to the 'Past Movies' section of the homepage without you telling it to.

And that's pretty much all you'll need to do, for the most part. Add new movies to the database, and whenever the site needs to be updated, just open the program and click 'Create HTML file'.

That's not all you can do, though, and I tried to make it flexible to account for human error (misspelling words, forgetting to tell the program a movie is supposed to be 3D, etc.) so read on for more details on how to use every feature.

II. UPDATING THE WEBSITE

1. Creating the 'index.html' File

To create a new **index.html** file, all you have to do is click **File** and choose **Create New HTML File** (or press **CTRL + H** on your keyboard). You should see a message confirming that the file was created successfully, and from there you can locate it within this program's folder and upload it to SunsetTheatre.com.

As I've said before, the purpose of this program is to automate as much of your work as possible to make it faster and easier to update the site, so I've also included the ability to update your 'Past Movies' webpage as well. You don't have to tell the program to do this; it does it automatically whenever you create the main **index.html** file. You can find it as **pastmovies.html** in the same folder as before, and upload it to the Sunset website just like the index page. It will always be up to date with only the movies that have played in the past.

2. Opening the 'index.html' File

To open the most recently created **index.html** file, choose **File** and **Open Latest HTML File** from the menu (or press **CTRL + O** on your keyboard). This is useful for quickly seeing what the page looks like before you upload it to the internet. (While testing the program, I would often quickly press **CTRL-H CTRL-O** to make sure everything looked right. Super easy!)

I figured you probably wouldn't be uploading the 'Past Movies' page to the internet quite as often, and the page doesn't change much week to week. For those reasons, there's no built-in function to open the latest **pastmovies.html** file. If you want to see it before uploading it, you'll just have to find it in the folder and click on it like a normal person.

III. RECORDS

1. Add a Record to the Database

*Reminder: Each movie is stored in the database as a **record**, so when you see the word 'record' it means one movie playing on one weekend.*

Now for the fun stuff! To add a new record (movie) to the database, just open the program and type all the info in to the textboxes. Make sure you also choose a **rating**, **visual format** (2D or 3D), and **sound format** (Dolby 5.1 or 7.1). All of the appropriate images associated with those things will automatically be put in the right places in your HTML file.

For the **Image** and **YouTube** textboxes, you only need to type the last parts of their URL addresses. For example, you should type *batmanvsuperman.jpg* instead of the full *http://sunsettheatre.com/images/batmanvsuperman.jpg* and *mGHoDScUow8* instead of the full *http://youtube.com/watch?v=mGHoDScUow8*. The code formats everything correctly, so if you *do* type the whole URL address, the HTML code won't work.

As for the spinbox that displays the year (next to the **Dates** textbox), you probably won't need to mess with that very often. The program knows what the current year is and will always set that as the default. (You'll probably only need to change it when you are in December and schedule movies for the next January.)

For the rest of the textboxes, just type the info in exactly as you always have. For example, *1 hr. 35 min.* for the runtime and *May 20, 21 & 22* for the dates. The majority of the code was written with your specific formatting style in mind, and some of the code even depends on it! If you change it too much (*May 20th 21st and 22nd*, for example) then the resulting HTML file may not work properly.

And finally, just remember that everything revolves around dates. If you are playing the same movie twice (or in different formats, like 2D and 3D), then you *must make separate records* for each run. The scheduling is more important than the movie itself for everything to work properly. Don't worry about it too much, though—it's designed to work around you, so you won't really be doing anything different. And even if you do enter something in wrong, you can always edit it later.

Once all the information is entered into the various fields, just press the **Add Record** button at the bottom of the window. The data you entered will be whisked away to the database, where it will sit patiently until the HTML code needs it to make a new page.

2. Viewing a Record

If you'd like to view the most recent record in the database, you can choose **File** and **Import Latest Record** (or press **CTRL + I**). All the information will be put back into the textboxes for you to view. If you want to see a different record, just find it in the drop-down menu at the bottom and click the **Import Record** button. (**Note:** The drop-down menu only shows the last 9 records. I think that's more than enough, but if you do need to see an older record, scroll down to the Viewing the Database section of this manual for more help.)

3. Updating / Overwriting a Record

If you'd like to edit a record, just import that record and change whatever information you want in the textboxes. Then click **Add Record**. If you left the date the same, a messagebox will pop up to let you know there's already a movie scheduled on that weekend. You can then choose to overwrite the older entry with the newer information.

4. Deleting a Record

To delete a record entirely, import it and choose **File** and **Delete Current Record** from the menubar (or press **CTRL + D**). This can't be undone, so make sure you really want to delete it first. If you do delete a record by accident, it's not the end of the world--you'll just have to type it in again.

5. Viewing the Database

If you'd like to see the whole database, choose **View** and **View Database As....** Then choose **Text File** or **CSV File**. The text file should automatically open in Notepad, and the CSV file should open in Microsoft Excel. Each one presents the exact same information, just displayed in a different way.

If you need to do more with the database, like change a much earlier record (which is too early to be imported), you have a few options. You can either email the database to me and tell me what you want changed, or you can download a database manager and edit the information yourself. To send me the database, find it in the program's folder (it will be a file called **movielist.db**) and attach it to an email. To make changes yourself, there are plenty of free programs that can edit .db files. The one I use is called *DB Browser for SQLite*, which I think you can find through Google pretty easily.

IV MISCELLANEOUS

1. Backups

If anything goes wrong with the program or its database, there's a chance you may be stuck without a recent index.html or pastmovies.html file to edit. This is not very likely to happen, and even if you did it would not pose much of a problem since you could just take the pages from the actual Sunset website and edit them like you used to. However, should something happen to the database itself, that would be bad. All the movies you've entered into it could be lost forever. Luckily, there's an automatic backup system in place to prevent loss of data like that.

Every time you create a new HTML file, the program checks to see when the last backup was made. If it's been more than two months, a second copy of index.html, pastmovies.html, and the entire database are created and sent to a folder called **Backups** in the program folder. If anything happens, just grab the latest HTML file from there. If it's the database you need, just grab the most recent copy, rename it to "movieslist" and drag it into the main program folder.

2. Other Features

So far this guide has covered nearly every aspect of what the program does and how it works. There are a few other things in the menu that I haven't gone over, though. They are:

File > Clear All Fields: This deletes all the information from the main window. And don't worry, it doesn't delete anything in the database. Basically, it's a reset button for when you want to enter a new movie in.

View > Watch Trailer: This takes you to the YouTube video of whatever is in the Trailer textbox. (Useful for making sure you are using the right trailer for the right movie.) If there isn't anything in there, or it's typed in wrong, you'll get an error message.

View > Visit SunsetTheatre.com: This one's a mystery. You'll just have to try it I guess.

Help > View Manual: Oh, hello!

Help > Contact Tech Support: This should open a new message in Outlook Express (or whatever your default mail client is) with my email address filled in so you can write to me for help.

Help > About: Just a small 'About' window with the version number. It makes me feel more legit.

3. Troubleshooting

The HTML file came out wrong!

If things don't look right in the resulting index.html or pastmovies.html pages, there may be a problem with the information in the database. Import the record(s) of whatever movie is causing problems and make sure all of the information was entered correctly. Fix any mistakes and re-add it to the database (choosing **overwrite** when the messagebox pops up).

I need to change a record that's not in the import drop-down menu!

You can email the database to me or download special software to edit it. See section III - 5. for more information.

My grandson is too cute!

Yep, can't help you there.