
UPTOWN
THEATRE
THE GEM OF UPTOWN: A BRILLIANT RETURN

RESTORE

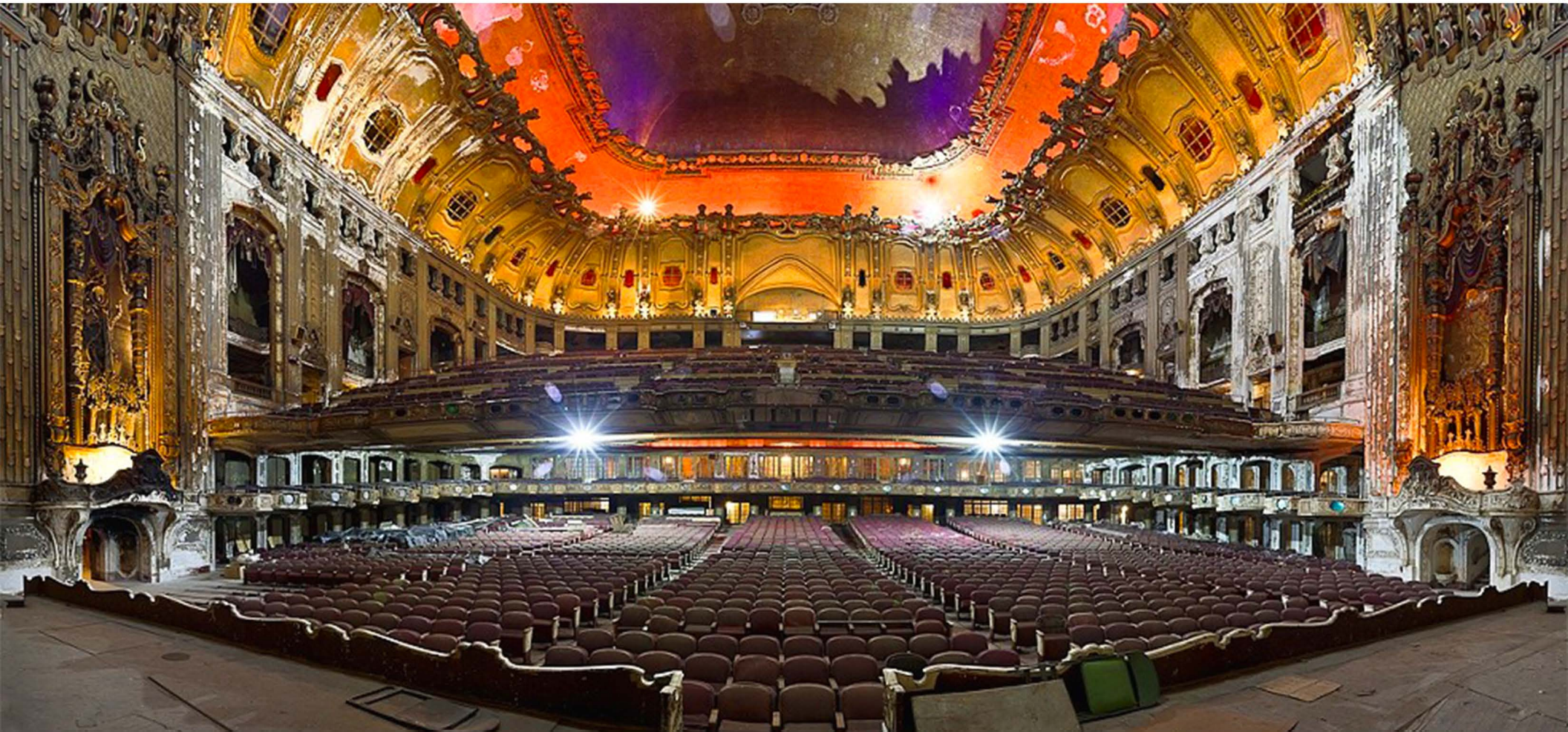
AN ICON

The Uptown Theatre was the largest and most ornate movie palace in the world when it opened in Chicago's vibrant Uptown neighborhood on August 18, 1925.

It still is.

Beneath the weathered facade sits a building beyond human dreams of loveliness. This gem of Uptown – of all Chicago – is poised for a historic return to grandeur. With it, the entire Uptown neighborhood stands to raise the curtain on its next great act as Chicago's premier Entertainment District.

Given its past, size and potential impact on the City's cultural landscape, the Uptown will be one of the most significant restoration projects in the city's history. It's reopening will introduce hundreds of thousands of people to one of Chicago's great performance spaces, as well as one of its most historic neighborhoods.



TRANSFORM

A NEIGHBORHOOD

Uptown is diverse – home to people of many races, ages, backgrounds, and occupations, who are drawn to its lakeside location and historic character.

Following a population boom in 1900, Uptown's entertainment district blossomed, drawing thousands of visitors to theatre and music venues. The neighborhood and its residents flourished through the jazz age, the silent film era, the swing and big band eras, and finally, the dawn of rock and roll. Beginning in the 1950s, however, Uptown's economic fortunes changed, taking jobs away and leaving residents' hopes diminished.







The restoration of the Uptown Theatre represents a sharp reversal of this trend. The 2000 Land Institute Report on Uptown identified restoring the Uptown Theatre as one of the top priorities in its recommendations to improve the district. "The Uptown Theatre must be restored... Future generations will not forgive those who do not attend to this obligation."

The Uptown Theater has been a staple of the Uptown neighborhood's past, and will be a strong asset for the community's future. The restored theater will be the centerpiece of the new, revitalized Uptown entertainment district, giving residents and visitors another way to experience world-class culture and entertainment in one of the City's most storied neighborhoods.





In addition to the redevelopment project, a comprehensive streetscape plan was created to help identify the urban entertainment district around the Uptown and Riviera theatres and the Aragon Ballroom. The $6 million project included improvements to portions of Broadway, Lawrence, Wilson and Argyle, with a new pedestrian plaza, sculpture and public stage on the 4700 block of North Racine.

RESTORE

THE MAGIC

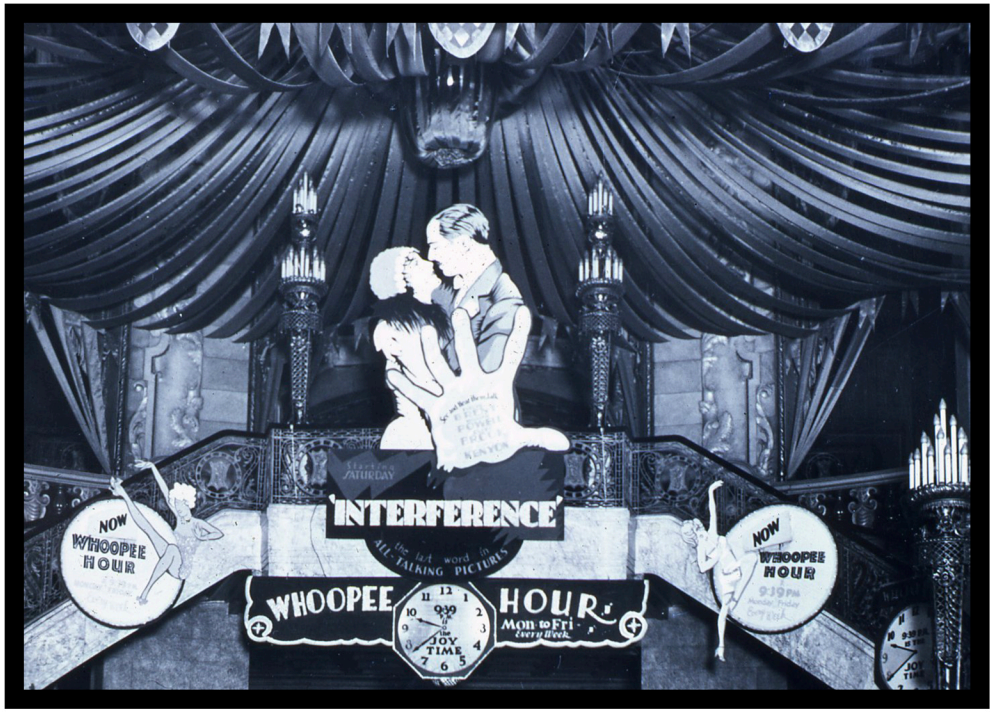
Designed by architects C.W. and George L. Rapp, the Uptown surpassed all its predecessors in size and grandeur with a seating capacity of nearly 4,400 and interior decorations in Spanish Renaissance style. Everything about the theater was on a grand scale. The terra-cotta facade of the theater's main entrance, for example, towered nearly eight stories above Broadway. Specially designed bronze chandeliers lit the main lobby. A state-of-the-art Wurlitzer organ with 10,000 pipes entertained patrons with music and a range of sound effects. And one of the world's largest air-conditioning systems kept the theater cool during the summer months.

Dozens of talented artists and craftsmen--many of them European immigrants--helped make the Rapp brothers' plans a reality. Utilizing skills they or their fathers had learned before arriving in the United States, they produced the custom-made lighting fixtures, hand-carved marble staircases, ornamental iron grillework, and individually sculpted sprites, gargoyles, and griffins that gave the Uptown its splendid appearance.





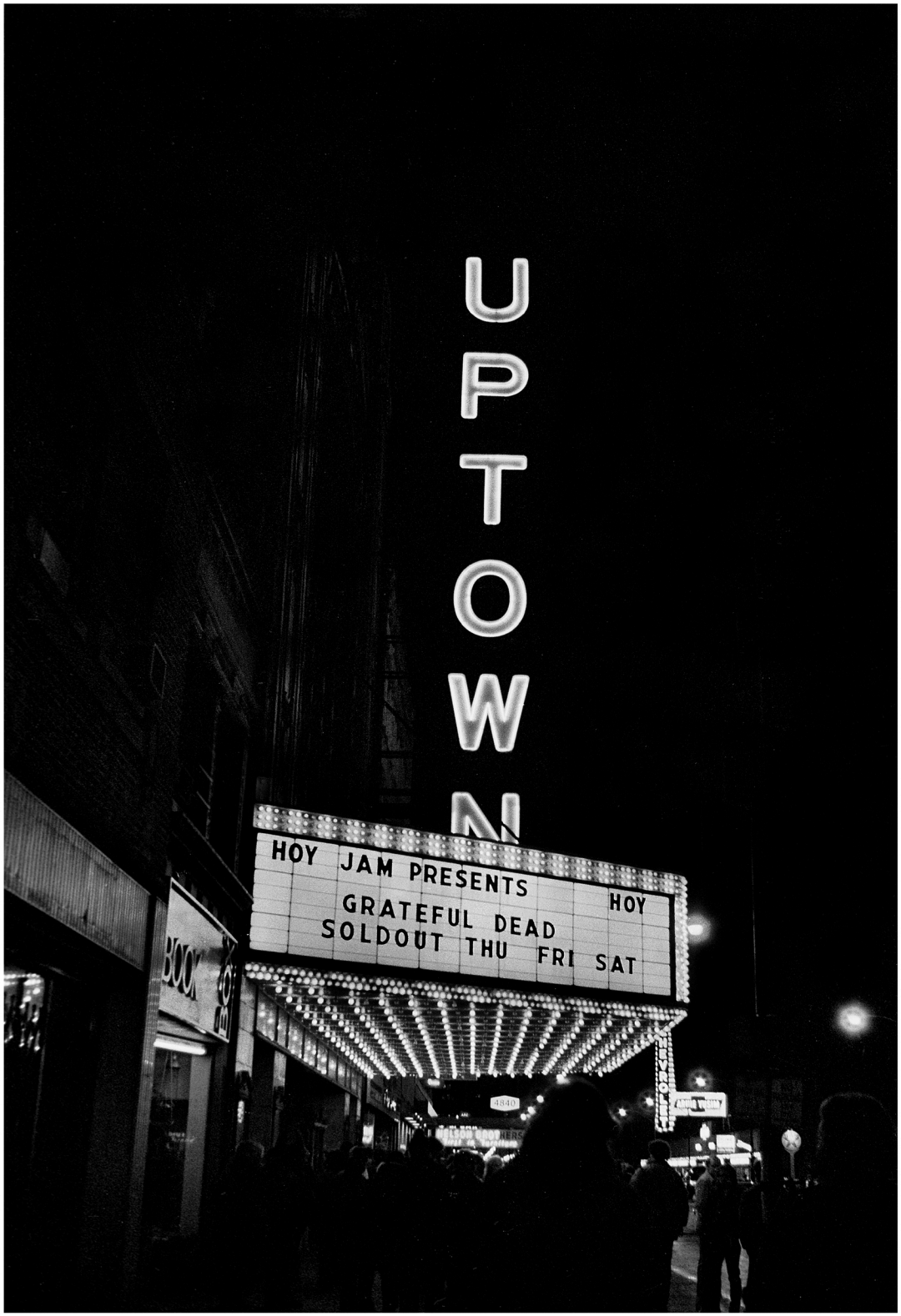
The Uptown Theatre is beyond human dreams of loveliness, rising in mountainous splendor, achieving that overpowering sense of tremendous size and exquisite beauty – a thing that comes miraculously seldom.
It is more imaginative and dream-like than anybody's Spanish castles and yet it is one of the most practical, common sense structures, one of the most downright comfortable places in the world.



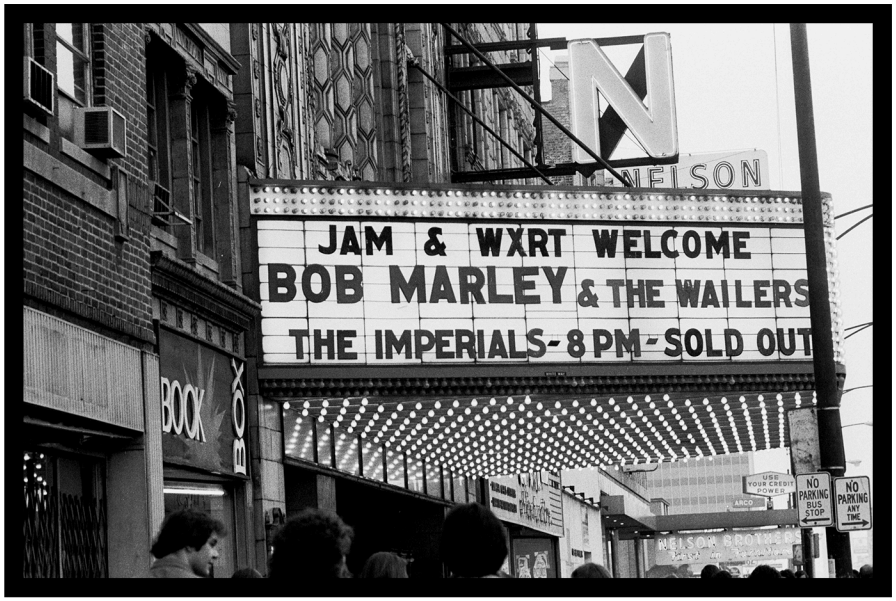
Entering into the theatre you pass into another world. The streets, the clangor of iron on cement, the harsh outlines of the steel thickets we call the city, all disappear. Your spirt rises and soars along the climbing pillars that ascend six stories to the dome ceiling of the colossal lobby. It becomes gay and light under the spell of the warm coloring that plays across heavily carved and ornamented walls as myriads of unseen lights steal out from mysteriously hidden coves to illumine the interior with romantic sundown colors.

RESTORE

THE MUSIC

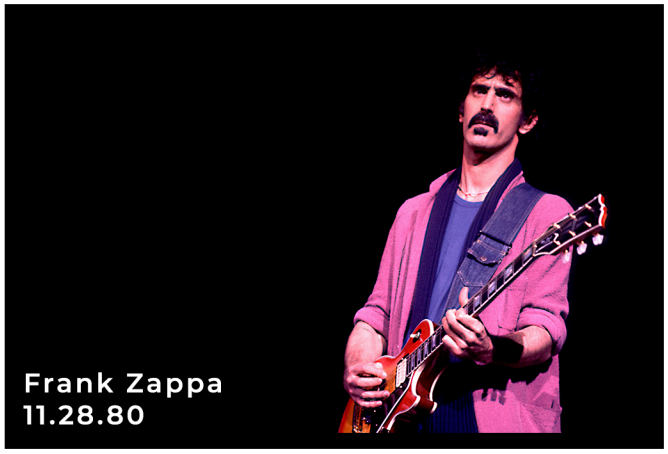

UPTOWN
HOY JAM PRESENTS
HOY
GRATEFUL DEAD
SOLDOUT THU FRI SAT
BOOK


TONIGHT AT 8
JAM PRESENTS
ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA
PLUS STEVE HILLAGE


NELSON
JAM & WXRT WELCOME
BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS
THE IMPERIALS-8 PM-SOLD OUT
BOOK
NO PARKING BUS STOP
NO PARKING ANY TIME


Bruce & Clarence
9.6.78


Bob Marley
5.27.78


Frank Zappa
11.28.80

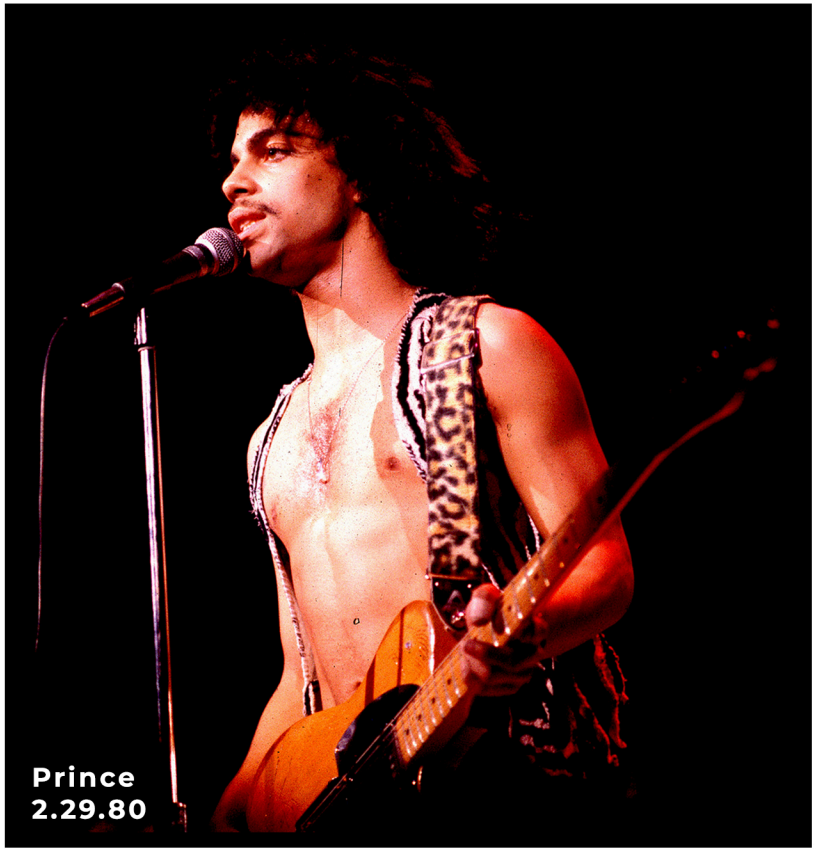

Rick James
2.28.80


Jerry Garcia
11.16.78

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Carlos Santana
11.22.79



Prince
2.29.80



Rod Stewart
5.2.79

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Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band · Grateful Dead · Dire Straits · Frank Zappa · Rod Stewart

Bob Marley & the Wailers · Genesis · Rick James · Elvis Costello · Prince · Peter Gabriel

Roxy Music · Leon Russell · Boston · Hall & Oates · Lou Reed · Electric Light Orchestra · Santana

Supertramp · Bryan Ferry · Foreigner · Kinks · Allman Brothers Band · Styx · Alice Cooper

Robert Palmer · Boomtown Rats · J. Geils Band · Billy Joel · John Cougar · Cheap Trick


UPTOWN