



**Investigation Findings
&
Analysis**

**Redford Theater Investigation
October 18th 2008**



Redford Theater Investigation
Final Report
Submitted by: Chris Forsythe

Location:

Redford Theater, Detroit MI

Date:

October 18th 2008

Source:

MCTOS / Redford Theater Volunteers

Investigation Duration:

6.5 Hours (00:00-06:30)

Investigators Present:

Chris F. (*Lead investigator*)
Wendy F.
Wayne M. (*Lead investigator*)
Deana M.
Kevin J.
Kristie J.
Chris C.
Erin C.
Jo G.

Research Staff:

Sandy
Matt
Sam

Notes: Several members of the MCTOS staff participated in the investigation at different

intervals during the investigation shifting.

Case History – Consultation Notes

Consultation / Investigation Date: 10/17/08 – 10/18/08

MPI Representative: Chris Forsythe / Wayne Miracle

Note: All permission and investigation request documentation reviewed and signed by client at the date of consultation / investigation.

We arrived at the theater on Friday night to set up a presentation in the lobby for the public. This gave us the opportunity to be able to talk to the theater volunteers and staff, as well as to try and pinpoint exactly what kind of activity had been experienced. After touring the location and taking our initial baseline readings we were able to gather a good map of the locations to place our equipment for the following night's investigation.

Several of the theater volunteers also were interviewed and were able to describe their experiences that were noted for reference in the case logs. We were able to notice several things at this location that would make an investigation difficult, such as its vast open areas as well as high acoustic values, and its use of wireless transmitted audio from the production booth. During our walkthroughs we were also able to note that dust was prevalent in our pictures and video throughout several areas of the theater.

Supposed Activity:

Regular electronic device malfunctions; apparition of a woman in white seen in several areas; random noises from the theater when unoccupied; feelings of being watched; audible voices when the organ is played for practice; cold spots.

Location Condition:

Original 3 story "movie house" with a current seating capacity of 1571 including upper balcony seating, full venue stage, minor orchestra pit, as well as dressing and show prep facilities. The theater which broke ground in early 1927 was opened to the public on January 27th 1928. The theater built in the time of the silent movie was outfitted with a Barton Theater Organ which is currently in use today with restored original parts and pipes. (One of only two originally installed theater organs in Detroit, the other is in the Fox Theater).

The building's exterior / interior with its heavy iron marquee was designed after a Japanese garden theme, which lasted until the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1941 when most of the ornamental displays, paintings and sconces were taken down or painted over, with the marquee iron going towards wartime supply. The theater continued operation and underwent several renovations under several different management firms and companies until 1974 when the owners (Community Theaters) extended a lease to the MCTOS (Motor City Theatre Organ Society). Shortly thereafter the MCTOS had an option to purchase the theater and for the next several years funding was raised independently and the theater was in the ownership of the MCTOS and its membership.

Location Condition Cont. :

Over the next two decades the MCTOS and its all volunteer staff took the theater under major renovation; this would include bringing the theater to its original Japanese garden theme as well as bringing the theater up to current building code and standard. To date renovations are almost complete, however new projects are in the works to continue restoring the theater to its former state.

Location Weather:

We arrived at the theater and the temperature was starting to fall. We had clear skies that carried on throughout the night. The temperature over night was close to 47 F and the winds had picked up considerably during the investigation duration.

Moon Phase: Waning Gibbous

Solar X-Rays: Normal

Geomagnetic Field: Quiet

Temperature: 61 F

Feels Like: 59 F

Visibility: 13.00 Miles

Pressure: 27.66 Steady

Dew Point: 51 F

Humidity: 17%

UV Index: 0 Low

Wind: NW 7 MPH

Equipment on Hand:

Digital Cameras

Digital Voice Recorders

Micro Cassette Recorders

External Microphones

Laptops

CCTV DVR System (6 Cameras) IR Capability

Flashlights

2 Way Radios

EMF Gauges

Thermal Gauges

Mobile Video Units

Team Rally Point & Monitoring Station

Notes: See floor plan for placement location

Main Lobby / Entrance Way

Operations / Technician – Chris C.

Team Assignments:

Notes: All teams were broken down and divided amongst five sections of the theater; all teams spent an hour in each location with a 15 minute break in between each round for refit and reload of equipment.

Location Key:

- 1 – Projection Room
- 2 – Theater (Area Coverage)
- 3 – Basement
- 4 – Dressing Rooms 3rd and 4th Floors (Area Coverage)
- 5 – Dressing Rooms 1st and 2nd Floors (Area Coverage)

Alpha – Chris F. Wayne (5, 4, 3, 2, 1)

Bravo – Jo, Sandy, Sam (4, 3, 2, 1, 5)

Charlie – Deana, Wendy (3, 2, 1, 5, 4)

Delta – Kristie, Erin (2, 1, 5, 4, 3)

Echo – Kevin, Matt (1, 5, 4, 3, 2)

Team Rotation:

11:30 – 00:30 – Setup / Briefing

00:30 – 01:30 – Rotation #1

01:45 – 02:45 – Rotation #2

03:00 – 04:00 – Rotation #3

04:15 – 05:00 – Rotation #4

05:00 – 05:45 – Rotation #5

05:45 – 06:30 – Equipment Breakdown & Recovery

Equipment Placement - Video:

Notes: See floor plan for placement location

DVR Camera #1 – Main Lobby / Concessions Area

DVR Camera #2 – Upper Balcony Hallway

DVR Camera #3 – Upper Balcony 1st Row Seating – Facing Stage

DVR Camera #4 – Main Stage - Center

DVR Camera #5 – Main Floor Seating Area – Facing Right Secondary Exit

DVR Camera #6 – Basement – Main Room

Equipment Placement - Audio:

Mobile Audio Units – Each investigative team had at least one mobile recording unit on hand during each investigation rotation and area.

Note: All mobile units were outfitted with external microphones to limit possible contamination of audio evidence.

Stationary Audio Units – Two stationary units were used during the investigation period, #1 was located on the stage area, and #2 was located in the main lobby / concession area.

DVR “Camera” Audio - Each DVR camera is equipped with direct feed audio to the DVR hard drive and will act as a stationary device for each camera position.

Equipment Notes / Checks:

All recording equipment was loaded with both fresh batteries and recording media as is MPI investigation protocol, and voice checks were performed for recognition and recording quality. All media transferred to digital file for review upon completion of the investigation.

Evidence Review & Findings:

EMF:

At several different times during the baseline mapping as well as the investigation high areas of EMF were noted in the theater and projection area, we believe that this can be attributed to old wiring that may still be active as well as many of the devices that are used during the productions held in this location.

Notes: All units were set stationary when readings were taken; this was practice as to avoid any false readings for this report.

Photographs (Digital / Film):

As is MPI protocol several hundred photographs were taken during the duration of the investigation period, upon review of all submitted photographic material no anomalous activity was captured on film at this location to report.

EVP / Audio Analysis (All):

Camera #1A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Camera #2A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Camera #3A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Camera #4A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Camera #5A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Camera #6A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Mobile Units (All):

Notes: All analog devices were outfitted with external microphones to avoid internal machine noise and stands were used during the recording sessions to avoid handling noise.

As per our investigation protocol the audio data collected was reviewed and screened to see if we had indeed collected any anomalous activity on our recording devices, we took special care in this case due to the high acoustic qualities of this location. After the review of the submitted data we were able to collect several whispers and a section with a distinct human sounding “female humming”. See below for audio section designation and description.

Segment #1 “Whisper” – This section was taken in the basement area main room; the investigators present were Wayne, Chris F., and Kathy. Within this section Wayne makes a comment and laughs. Then, at 0:04:99 through 0:05:94, a distinct whisper can be heard. Following that there is a section of silence and another short whisper can be heard at 0:07:68 through 0:08:12.

Segment #2 “Whisper” – This section was taken in the basement furnace area; the investigators present were Jo, Sandy, and Sam. At the very start of this segment two questions being asked by investigators Jo and Sam can be heard, followed by silence. Then at 0:05:46 through 0:06:50 what sounds like a muted whisper appears on the recording.

Segment #3 “Whisper” – This section was taken in the dressing room area, the

investigators present were Wayne and Chris C. This was a stationary unit; at the start of the segment a “chirp” of one of the staff’s radios is audible, then from 0:03:92 through 0:05:36 what sounds like a five word whisper can be heard on the recording.

Segment #4 “Whisper / Oh Yeah” – This section was taken in the basement main room area; a female investigator asks a question, then shortly after this at 0:03:50 through 0:04:49 a very distinct whisper is heard. We believe that this whisper is saying “oh yeah.” We are unsure that this is an answer to the investigators question at this time.

Segment #5 “Humming” – This section was taken in dressing room 2A, during this recording session investigators Jo, Sam, and Sandy were sitting in this room and heard what sounded like a female humming a tune. Starting at 0:14:92 through 0:21:82 the hum was heard and recorded, immediately after this Jo reacts and asks if everyone present had heard this as well and all verified yes. No outside noise was present during this time and no other investigation staff was in this area. This audio was collected on a stationary device.

See attached client disc for all available audio segments.

Video:

Note: All cameras were hard mounted to tripods and checked prior to the start of the investigation; all cord lines were taped and marked to eliminate false camera movement.

DVR Camera #1 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #2 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #3 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #4 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #5 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #6 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Investigator Feeling / Personal Experiences:

(Note: Personal experiences cannot in itself determine paranormal activity in a location, unless documented by video or audio equipment)

Chris F. – During the last rotation I was up in the balcony in the middle section sitting stationary, several times I noticed what seemed to be a “cold spot” that would come and go.

Wendy – No personal experiences to report.

Deana – While in the basement “middle room” I felt a cold spot and had a cobweb feeling on my arms and hand that went away after a few seconds but returned multiple times in the same area. This same feeling was noted by all team members present.

Wayne – No personal experiences to report.

Jo – 1st shift 1st floor storage area (curtain room) I saw a small blue light, there were no lights on at the time and I could not find a light source. 2nd shift basement area, both myself and Sandy had a significant drain in our cameras both units were full at the start of the shift. While in the same area we felt a ‘cold spot’ that affected the area temperature by more than 15 degrees, the initial baseline at start was 80 and it read at passing at 63 degrees. Also during the same rotation all three members of the team thought that we heard a male voice say “hello” from the back area. While in dressing room 2A I heard what sounded like a female humming, I asked everyone who was there and they had also heard it.

Chris C. - No personal experiences to report.

Erin – While on the third shift in dressing room 3A I was sitting in a chair and the chair moved forward slightly, it felt like it was pushed from behind.

Matt – No personal experiences to report.

Sandy – I had battery drain in several areas of the location. We kept hearing different sounds while investigating, at one point I heard a man’s voice say hello while in the basement; this was also heard by the team that was with me. Noticed cold spots throughout the location and had a significant drop in temperature while in the dressing room area of about 20 degrees. While in room 2A I heard what sounded like a female humming, this was also heard by everyone present.

Sam – No personal experiences to report.

Kristie – No personal experiences to report.

Conclusion:

On many levels this investigation presented many challenges from the very start, the sheer size and open venue of this location put us on guard from the beginning to make sure that each and every step of this investigation was documented. This location with its many rooms and acoustics gave us an opportunity to test new ideas as well as try to develop new procedures for this type of location. The theater itself has a long and colorful history and the sheer backdrop of that history would make it ideal for paranormal activity to take place. Many of the staff have had experiences while working at the theater and we were excited to be granted the opportunity to investigate and try to document and prove or disprove these claims.

The night prior to the investigation we were able to map the theater out and make precise plans in order to make sure that we had every supposed “hot spot” covered with both audio and video devices. The night of the investigation we made sure that strict protocols and movement plans were followed to make sure that our data would have little to no contamination due to the acoustic value within the theater. The investigation lasting upwards of six hours gave us the ability to be able to cover almost every area of the theater itself and try to identify anything that could be caused by natural or manmade occurrence.

During the duration of the investigation several members of the team did have some personal experiences that do correspond with some of the claims made by the theater staff. After a thorough review of all submitted data, we were able to capture several anomalous segments of audio that indeed are interesting and could not be explained. (See mobile audio review section pages 7-8 and client supplemental disc.) No anomalous video or photographic evidence was captured at this location and the obtained evidence within itself is not enough for us to call this location haunted at this time. We hope to return to be able to further try and document any activity that may be present within this location and further work with the staff to be able to substantiate their claims.

On behalf of the entire MPI team we would also like to thank each and every member of the MCTOS for the opportunity to investigate this historic location. We would also like to recognize here all of their hard work and dedication to making sure that this gem of the city will remain intact for future generations to enjoy. Each and every one of you deserves a heartfelt thanks - your hard work will not be forgotten.

Submitted:

Christopher Forsythe
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Metro Paranormal Investigation