

Letter To The Editor  
Submitted by Jason Sheckley  
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Letter To the Editor:

After 120 years, The End of movie film as we know it is almost here. Close to 70% of American movie theatres have already converted to "C-Dinema", the movie industry's digital technology. The Boothbay Moving Picture Co., Inc. dba The Harbor Theatre, an S-Corporation, founded in 2002, needs to convert to digital projection soon. Digital conversion does not increase business- it just allows a theatre to stay in business as the film labs close and 35mm projection is replaced by digital, anticipated to take place as soon as later this year.

Mike Hurley, owner of The Colonial Theatre in Belfast Maine writes an excellent overview about this situation in Indiewire (.com) Hurley sees the real possibility that nearly 20% of all theaters in North America will disappear because they can't afford digital projection.

As a break-even business, The Harbor Theatre can not afford to finance the new digital projection equipment required to stay in business- estimated cost: \$65k (\$100k with 3D). I have explored many options over the past several years, but have reached an impasse. Without donations to purchase the required digital equipment, the theatre will have to close on or after September of 2012.

Much as I hate to ask, I am requesting community support to raise the money needed to purchase the equipment required to keep the theatre open. If we are unable to raise the needed money, donations will be returned. A bank account has been set up to accept donations: "The Harbor Theatre Digital Conversion Fund" c/o The Bank of Maine (Boothbay Harbor branch). Please note, unfortunately donations are not tax deductible.

We've had a great time serving the Boothbay region over the past ten years and appreciate the friendships we've made & the generous support provided by past & present sponsors, members, the board of Friends of The Harbor Theatre dba The Boothbay Area Film Society (who provided upgraded equipment, including new sound processor, & movie screen), and Ham Meserve & Bob Devine who spent days driving to NYS to pick up donated theatre seats, the 100s of people who donated money to install the seats and commemorative plaques, Helen who along with committee members selected many of the past Wednesday night films and so many others who provided assistance, time, expertise and encouragement in so many ways to make The Harbor Theatre a better, more sophisticated, safe & comfortable place to view films. A cast of thousands behind the scenes!

The next chapter has yet to be written. Raising \$65k seems like an Impossible Dream, but we won't know unless we try.

In the meantime, thanks again for your friendship, support, help & advice.

On With The Show!

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