



Board Chair Chris Cichorek and Executive Director Marisa Quijano present a plaque dedicating the new handrails at the Sunrise Theatre. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MARYANN KETCHAM

Sunrise Theatre Foundation ceremony celebrates new handrails, projector

Christopher Cichorek
Sunrise Theatre Foundation

FORT PIERCE — On Feb. 5, the Sunrise Theatre Foundation, along with the Sunrise Theatre staff and volunteers, City of Fort Pierce officials, and sponsors attended a dedication ceremony for two major projects sponsored and funded by the Sunrise Theatre Foundation.

What started as an idea from volunteer usher and unofficial Sunrise Theatre historian, Tony Lella, has become a reality, thanks to the Sunrise Theatre Foundation and its many friends and donors. The lobby staircase now has additional handrails to assist patrons' entrance into the main theater.

He presented his idea of adding additional handrails to both the Sunrise Theatre Advisory Board and the Sunrise Theatre Foundation as a safety measure that was needed. The Foundation listened and responded to the call, deciding to take this on as their first capital project to enhance the Theatre's infrastructure.

Code-named "Stairway to Heaven," The Foundation wished to honor past Executive Director of the Theatre John Wilkes.

Fundraising activities commenced quickly with the participation of many long-term theater supporters like Donna Regan and the Wilkes family, the project really took off. In the Fall of 2023, the Foundation had reached its financial goal to complete the project under the direction of the Theatre's Technical Director Holland Ryan.

"The handrails came out great," said Acting Director of the Theatre Marisa Quijano. "They look like they've been there all along."

The evolution of technology has profoundly transformed the performing arts landscape, making it cru-



Technical Director Holland Ryan with the newly installed projector.

cial for venues like the Sunrise Theatre to stay ahead of the curve. Today's performances are not just about the music or the acting; they are immersive experiences that incorporate visuals, graphics, and videos that elevate the audience's engagement. As artists seek to deliver unforgettable performances, they demand high-definition video projectors to enhance their shows.

By investing in state-of-the-art video projectors, the Theatre can attract top-tier talent, enrich the performing arts experience for our community, and ensure that every show is a memorable event while reducing operating expenses by about \$100,000 annually.

For more information about Sunrise Theatre Foundation visit sunrisetheatrefoundation.com.