

A Visit from The Majestic and Charline McCombs Empire Theatres

Adapted by Las Casas Foundation Staff

'Twas the year 2020, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a Nutcracker mouse;
The curtains were hung on the stage with care,
In hopes that performers soon would be there;
The peacocks were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of star light danced in their heads.
The lonesome ghost light still stood aglow,
Patiently awaiting patrons below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But news of Broadway shows returning with cheer!
Surrounded by murals, the memories they came,
And I whistled, and shouted, and called my favorite characters by name:
"Now, Simba! now, Annie! now Evita and Pan!
On, Miss Adelaide! on, Phantom! on, Glinda and Hamilton!

To the Empire then, through the wings so small,
Now jeté! Jeté! Jeté away, y'all!
Actors take center stage and singers strike a chord,
Young talent astounds at the Joci Awards
As leaves that flood damaged and once painted white,
Restored to golden glory, My! What a sight!

The box office eagerly awaits passersby,
The marquee all lit up, illuminating the Houston Street sky.
So into the lobby with excitement galore,
I make my way to the bar to see what's in store;
Newly renovated, what a pleasure to behold,
With plenty of space to share refreshments hot and cold.
And nearby the new bathrooms planned with precision,
More stalls and sinks at the ready for intermission,
Then a twinkling came up through the atmosphere,
From the wood-like rotunda with a regal chandelier,
As I drew my eyes up, what I saw was a crown,
With gemstones a'gleaming like the lights of downtown.
Up the grand staircase, adorned with treasures just so,
Past Ambassador Alcoves to the secret grotto;
Into the Starlight Lounge in search of a snack,
But off go the chimes; it's time to head back.
In through the mezzanine, my breath caught from the view;
It's been 90 years since this "Majestic" debut.
In saving these theatres, the endeavor amazes;
Two hard-working women deserve all of our praises;
I hold them so dear, you should know them by name:
To Joci and Charline, what incredible dames!
Performances return with no celebration forgone,
From these houses to yours, the show will go on!
Soon we will gather under stars so bright,
Happy Holidays to all, and to all a goodnight!