

# **The Show Must Go On...**

A Documentary Written by Ryan Paul James

## **WRITING SAMPLE**

***Caption: Wednesday August 24, 2005 – Six Days to Landfall***

*(footage: (a82405) – Fox 8 WVUE)*

### ***Weatherman Bob Breck***

*... and we have a new tropical storm to talk about. This is the eleventh named storm this hurricane season. Katrina has formed just east of the Bahamas and is moving to the west. We'll have to keep an eye on this one for our friends in South Florida...*

***Caption: Present Day***

*(footage: ORPHEUM1- Michelle)*

Jazz musician Larry Davis sits in the middle of a stage with three spotlights shining down on top of him. He is holding his saxophone.

***Caption: Larry Davis***

### ***Jazz Musician – Larry***

*“Michelle” and me played theaters and jazz clubs up and down the Mississippi. Memphis, St. Louis, Little Rock, but our home was always New Orleans. The Orpheum was our favorite place to play. We would play to sold out crowds, and it didn't matter what time the show was. (Laughing) We packed this place out at 7PM and 1AM. This theater was the best place for me and “Michelle”. You want to meet her?*

Larry holds up his saxophone named – “Michelle”.

*(jazz music begins to play)*

Camera pans back to show the inside of the Orpheum with scaffolding all over the place.

*(pic: front of Orpheum Theater circa 1921)*

### **Narrator – Harry Connick Jr. (V.O.)**

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1921 the Orpheum Theatre opened its doors to New Orleans citizens wanting to be entertained. It was originally built as a vaudeville house with acts that included the soon to be famous Marx Brothers.

*(pic: Marx Brothers doing vaudeville act)*

**Narrator – Harry Connick Jr. (V.O.)**

The Orpheum was the dream of designer Gustave Albert Lansburgh.

*(pic: G. Albert Lansburgh)*

**Narrator – Harry Connick Jr. (V.O.)**

The majority of Lansburgh's theaters were built in both San Francisco and Los Angeles.

*(pic: Los Angeles Orpheum circa 1930)*

*(pic: New Orleans Orpheum being built circa 1920)*

**Narrator – Harry Connick Jr. (V.O.)**

The New Orleans' Orpheum would be the one and only theater Lansburgh would build outside of California.

*(footage: ORPHEUM 2 – patron#1)*

***Caption: Gerald Smith***

Gerald Smith a former patron sits in the theater seats. Behind him, the other seats are covered with white sheets.

***Gerald Smith***

*I was ten years old when me and my friend Benny snuck in here to see Gypsy Rose Lee.*

*(pic: Gypsy Rose Lee)*

***Gerald Smith***

*She did a burlesque act that involved a little striptease act. We hid back there behind some curtains. (Laughing) Unfortunately we got caught by an usher who then proceeded to spank both of us. Those were different times for sure.*

*(pic: Orpheum Theater patrons with a Charlie Chaplin movie poster behind them)*

**Narrator – Harry Connick Jr. (V.O.)**

The late twenties brought quick changes to the Orpheum. As vaudeville acts were fading Hollywood was shinning.

*(pic: Laurel and Stan)*

*(pic: Marry Pickford)*

**Narrator – Harry Connick Jr. (V.O.)**

The Orpheum was forced to quickly become a movie house and merge with the RKO circuit.

*(footage: ORPHEUM3 – patron#2)*

***Caption: Mary Walker***

Mary Walker a former African American patron sits in a wheel chair in front of the theater.

***Mary Walker***

*I never was aloud to sit down here. I had to sit in a section of that balcony right there. My first kiss was up there too. I kissed my husband for the first time. I can't even remember what we were watching up there.*

*(pic: Mary Walker as a teenager)*

***Mary Walker***

*We got married two years later.*