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Capitol Theatre Reopening to Include Celebrities, 11 Days of Events

***Gala, Cleveland Premiere of LeBron James Film on Thursday,
Public Opening with Gov. Strickland, Mayor Jackson Friday***

THURSDAY, Oct. 1: A red carpet gala to benefit the Gordon Square Arts District. The event will feature an award presentation to Cleveland-born producers, writers and Emmy award-winning directors Joe and Anthony Russo (Joe will attend the event); the Cleveland premiere of *MORE THAN A GAME*, introduced by its director, Kristopher Belman; performances by members of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra and Near West Theatre; and a special presentation by WVIZ/PBS ideastream. The \$250-per-person benefit is sold out.

Media are welcome to cover the following events:

5:30 p.m. – Mingling of celebrities and guests at a cocktail reception at the Capitol Theatre on West 65th Street, north of Detroit Avenue.

7 p.m. – Program onstage at the Capitol.

Due to the fact the benefit is sold out, no media seats are available for the film. Media are welcome to do after-film interviews at a dessert reception at approximately 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, Oct. 2: Gov. Ted Strickland, Mayor Frank G. Jackson and Ward 17 Councilman Matt Zone will rededicate the theatre at the public opening.

9 a.m. – Doors open to the public (420 free tickets have already been distributed).

9:30 a.m. – Program onstage at the Capitol, featuring a “virtual ribbon cutting” using the theatre’s state-of-the-art, digital projection system, followed by a free screening of the film classic *Casablanca*.

7 p.m. to 11 p.m. – “A Capitol Evening,” the Capitol’s opening night after-party, starting with a showing of the opening films (*MORE THAN A GAME*; *Capitalism, a Love Story*; and *Toy Story 1 & 2*, 3-D double feature) at 7 p.m., followed by an evening of live music in the adjacent Gordon Square Atrium. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at www.clevelandcinemas.com.

Through Oct. 11 – A full movie schedule, special film showings, giveaways and promotions. (The schedule is available at <http://gordonsquare.org/capitol-gala/> and at www.clevelandcinemas.com.)

THE BACKSTORY: The Capitol Theatre, once a silent film and vaudeville house, has undergone a \$7.5 million renovation and is reopening as a three-screen, state-of-the-art, all-digital cinema, with a 3-D projection system in the main auditorium. It will feature art and independent films as well as quality Hollywood movies.

Its renovation is one of five anchor projects in the Gordon Square Arts District, a new arts and entertainment destination on Detroit Avenue, W. 54th to W. 78th streets. The Gordon Square Arts District is on a roll. Last weekend (Sept. 26), city officials and others dedicated another anchor project — a \$3.5 million streetscape makeover that transforms a portion of Detroit Avenue into a hip, pedestrian-friendly district, with wider sidewalks, artist-designed benches and pavers, trees, new lighting and bike racks. Future projects of the GSAD are the building a performance center for Near West Theatre at W. 67th Street and renovation of the Cleveland Public Theatre.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Fact sheets and images are available at www.gordonsquare.org/mediakit.html

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