

Fundraiser will aid Blue Barn

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Performing in places such as train stations, the theater endured.

The Blue Barn faced yet another obstacle when all of its technical equipment was stolen from the train station storage location.

Kevin Lawler then took over as the theater's artistic director and opened a new theater in the Old Market. The Blue Barn transformed the Bemis Bag Warehouse into another artistic home.

This time, the theater housed the Abbott/Pinkoff Art Gallery and a theater for foreign film series as well as regular theatrical performances.

In May, another tragedy occurred when a fire destroyed the theater.

Currently, the theater is being rebuilt, and the Blue Barn is working on a show-by-show basis.

Several benefits for the rebuilding of the Blue Barn will run throughout the end of September and early October.

A garage sale will be held in the Old Market Sept. 25-26. Donations will be accepted at the Howard Street drop off, 1207 Howard St., Wednesday-Friday.

Oct. 2, the Blue Barn will hold "Fire: A Blue Barn Benefit," featuring the Dark Townhouse Band at Dazy Maze's, 521 S. 13th St. in Omaha. The show will start at 9:30 p.m. For a \$5 donation, you get in the door for a night of music supporting the rebuilding of Nebraskan theatrical culture.

Castro will play the blues at Lincoln's Zoo Bar

When speaking of blues artist Tim Castro, Carlos Santana said, "The blues is in good hands. This is the person who has the voice, the sound and the right intentions to touch everybody's heart."

Tonight, Castro brings his soulful style of blues to the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Castro is touring in support of his new release, "Right As Rain."

Castro was born and raised in San Jose, Calif., and learned to play the guitar at 10.

Initially inspired by musicians such as Eric Clapton, Mike Bloomfield and Elvin Bishop, Castro eventually discovered the guitar playing of B.B. King, Buddy Guy and

Muddy Waters.

His vocal style was influenced by Ray Charles, Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett and James Brown.

In 1996, Blind Pig Records released Castro's first major compact disc, "Exception to the Rule." His second CD, "Can't Keep A Good Man Down," was produced by Jim Gaines, who is known for producing albums by Stevie Ray Vaughan and Santana.

One of the highlights of Castro's career was performing before Ray Charles at the 1998 Ottawa Blues Festival. This summer, Castro and his band headlined one of Europe's major blues festivals, Bishopstock, in England.

Tonight's show at the Zoo Bar starts between 9 and 9:30 p.m. The cover is \$8.

Slur results in boycott

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Viewers taking part in this week's Hispanic boycott of major broadcast networks, dubbed a "brownout," are protesting the new season's lack of minority characters.

That means they'll miss tonight's premiere of "Will & Grace" on NBC, for which they might be grateful.

In a scene that plays with startling

insensitivity, tart-tongued character Karen Walker notices that her Salvadoran maid has paused for a conversation.

"Hey, you're on the clock, tamale. Get to work," snaps Karen (Megan Mullally).

"Oh, no," Federico Subervi, a University of Texas media professor, said after hearing the sitcom exchange. "It's an ethnic slur. ... I don't know what it is with these scriptwriters. What's in their heads?"

Asked about the use of the word "tamale," which was included in a preview tape of the episode distributed by NBC, series executive producer David Kohan said a longer version of the scene called Karen to task for her ignorance. It was edited for time.

Although no offense was intended, he was not minimizing anyone's objections to the scene, Kohan said.

The inclusion of such a slur when television is under scrutiny for excluding minorities is revealing, said Lisa Navarrete of the National Council of La Raza, the group coordinating the two-week boycott of ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC that continues through Saturday.

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