

## Seattle theaters showcase their union support

Seattle theaters joined in the "We Are One" national day of action April 4 by putting up signs honoring their relationship with unions (see photos of marquees, reader boards, and window signs from all the major Seattle theaters).

"This says loud and clear that Seattle is still a union town," said Andrew Willhelm, president of the Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 15. "Just as in Wisconsin, the public supports labor. We're doing all we can to make sure that corporate interests don't hijack our government, the way they have in Wisconsin."

More than 1,000 cities nationwide held rallies and marches April 4 in a show of solidarity with workers under attack across the nation. In Portland, some 750 people rallied at Director Park downtown.

In addition to the signage, the 24 theatrical, sound and stagecraft employers who have contracts with IATSE Local 15 issued a statement that read in part: "We are proud to be a union employer. We are committed to bargain fairly and in good faith with our employees, and to maintaining our history of respect for, and cooperation with, the labor community."

Participating theaters with signage included 5th Avenue; A Contemporary Theatre/ACT; Intiman Theatre; Seattle Children's Theatre; Seattle Repertory Theatre; and the Paramount Theatre.



## ...ULPs filed against Dosh

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bargaining.

Dosha held a mandatory meeting April 18 for workers at all four of its locations, at the Aveda Institute. Owner Ray Motameni spoke briefly and then introduced Tiernan as Dosha's newly hired "business consultant." A Dosha employee made a recording of the meeting, a copy of which was provided to the Labor Press.

"We want you to know that we are going to run this company as if there's no union here," Tiernan says in the recording. "We're going to deal with the union and we're going to negotiate in good faith, as the law requires us to do, but we're going to pretend like they're not here."

"As long as all of you continue to do your jobs, that's what's good for you," Tiernan said. "Try to ignore the distraction of the union, because it is a distraction. You've just got to stick to your business."

During the half-hour-long presentation, Tiernan largely stuck to standard anti-union boilerplate: legalistic half-truths, insinuations, and fear-mongering about hefty initiation fees and union demands that workers be fired for not paying dues. With the floor to himself, Tiernan mocked and derided CWA, and dampened expectations.

"[Owners Ray and Melissa Motameni] want the freedom to run their

business," Tiernan said, "and they're not to give it up to the union. The union's going to want to run this business, and I've got news for you: Ray is not going to allow that."

Tiernan told Dosha workers that negotiations take a long time, that an agreement will not be reached in the next several months, that a "union security" clause will be a huge item of contention, and that Motameni will not agree to anything that will hurt his business. To explain what bargaining will look like, Tiernan hypothesized a scenario in which the union proposes that all stylists be given a company-owned Maserati to drive, to which he responds that the company does not agree.

"The union does not understand this business," Tiernan told Dosha workers. "This is the Communication Workers of America. These are the folks who are plugging in cable TV sets, stringing wire."

Through all this, union supporters sat and bit their tongues. When question time arrived, several spoke up in rebuttal. Tiernan said CWA doesn't know the business? Well, what does Tiernan know about the beauty industry, one worker asked. At Dosha, the union isn't someone else, said a union supporter. The workers *are* the union. And nine of them, elected by their peers and representing every location and occupation, will be at the bargaining table.



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