



## Investigation Summary Report

### Rialto Theater El Dorado, AR



### HISTORY

The original Rialto Theater was built in the spring of 1921 by the McWilliams family. They did extensive remodeling in the fall of 1925, and in 1928, the original theater was demolished and the current theater was constructed on the same site. The new Rialto Theater opened in September of 1929. It boasted the latest in acoustical technology for its era and was one of the most modern theaters in the Southwest. The new building seated 1,400 people on the main floor and two balconies. The Rialto closed from 1983 until December of 1987 when it was reopened after extensive remodeling. The Rialto is currently owned by Richard and Vertis Mason and is, again, closed for remodeling.

## REPORTED ACTIVITY

The reports of activity at the Rialto are many. People have smelled scents of perfume, heard footsteps and strange noises and odd lights and shadows have been seen. Some say in the balcony area a man has been seen climbing the stairs to the projection booth.

## INVESTIGATION

Louisiana Spirits arrived at the Rialto on October 11, 2008 to begin our investigation. In preparation, we set up 8 IR cameras and two DVD recorders. The investigators were each equipped with their personal EMF detectors, digital cameras, audio recorders, one Sony Night Shot Camcorder and one Flir Thermal Imaging camera. Our group of six divided into groups of two and we began our investigation. There were quite a few personal experiences that night. Two investigators on the stage were trying to get a response from whatever paranormal entity may be occupying the place and they said it sounded as if someone started running up and down the catwalk overhead. The noises were caught on audio and the reaction to this was recorded on video. Another group of investigators heard what sounded to be like a loud hiss or shushing noise in the auditorium, which could not be explained. One investigator heard someone repeat "O.K." after she had said it. It came from directly behind her, but there was only her and another investigator in the room at the time and he was in front of her and had not said anything at that time. An investigator decided to tap out a little tune on the stage to see if someone or something would finish it and several seconds afterwards, he got what he asked for. There was a light "knock knock" shortly thereafter. Several investigators, while seated on the stage, saw "little green lights" flashing in the auditorium area. They were literally from the ceiling to the floor and all areas in between, resembling fireflies. We were able to capture some audio; however, due to the loud music outside of the theater, we are unable to use most of it. We do, however, look forward to returning to the Rialto in the very near future for a follow-up investigation, and hopefully it will be quieter.