



## The East Greenwich Odeum

By Griffin Clark and Reagan Coates

The Greenwich Theater was founded in 1926 as a Vaudeville House. It is still located at 59 Main Street in East Greenwich. The theater is well known as The Greenwich Theater by people who have lived in East Greenwich for a long time, but it is now called The Odeum.

The Vaudeville family performed at the Greenwich Theater, but other things were shown as well. Vaudeville entertainment included; comedians, singers, plate spinners, miming, clowns, ventriloquists, dancers, musicians, acrobats, trapeze artists, animal trainers, and costumed dogs. During that time period, Vaudeville performances were an essential part of every community. Silent movies were also a big part of the theater from 1900 to around 1925. A silent movie is a film with no recorded sound playing.

The Odeum Group bought the East Greenwich Theater in 1994. They renovated the building and renamed it the East Greenwich Odeum. Sadly, in 2007, the Odeum closed because of fire code reasons. It reopened in 2012 and Kevin Muoio is currently the Odeum's President. Classic movies and plays are shown at the Odeum today. It is a 100% volunteer run theater. A cool fact is that there are a total of 410 original seats in the East Greenwich Odeum. Backstage, there is also a wall where almost every performer has signed. Cartoonist Charlie Hall and soap opera actor Charles Keating are just two of the many performers who have signed this wall.

The East Greenwich Odeum will always be known as a historic place in East Greenwich. Hopefully you can see it for yourself.