

EGYPTIAN'S DYNASTY TO BE REBORN

Hollywood movie palace slated to become cinematheque

By Roy Chung, Staff Writer

It has all the makings of a Hollywood classic: two strangers – one on its final legs, the other disillusioned by life – coming together to save each other from the outrageous fortunes of a modern world.

The star in this story just happens to be the abandoned Egyptian Theater, believed to have been the first deluxe movie house in Hollywood when the legendary Sid Grauman opened the venue in 1922 with a showing of "Robin Hood," starring Douglas Fairbanks.

It now sits behind iron bars on always-busy Hollywood Boulevard, forgotten and neglected, ravaged by Mother Nature and the passage of time.

The up-and-comer in this drama is an organization of do-gooders which had long sought a home to carry out its mission to preserve and present one of this country's indigenous art forms.

The art form is called motion pictures and the non-profit group is American Cinematheque. And though they are not yet united, both sides are hopeful when the two finally do get hitched, everyone will live happily ever after.

"This is the darling of Hollywood," said Len Betz, project manager for the city of Los Angeles' Community Redevelopment Agency, which owns the theater. "To lose a resource like (the Egyptian) is to lose a connection with



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An interior view of The Egyptian Theater in Hollywood shows its sunburst ceiling and damaged movie screen.

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