



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **THE JEFFREY FAMILY TO BE HONORED WITH THE DREXEL HERO AWARD AT THE 2022 DREXEL THEATRE GALA**

On Sunday, November 6, the Friends of the Drexel will present the Drexel Hero Award to the Jeffrey Family as part of the 2022 Drexel Theatre Gala. The award acknowledges individuals who have made exceptional contributions in support of the Drexel Theatre and independent film in central Ohio.

For generations, the Jeffrey Family has been a cornerstone of arts, humanitarian, and educational organizations in and around Columbus. Without the thoughtful leadership and tireless efforts of Tad and Nancy Jeffrey serving our community organizations, the Columbus landscape would look vastly different. In particular, the Jeffrey Family recognized the Drexel Theatre's critical role in the economic vitality of Main Street, and Bexley as a whole.

"The Drexel has been a tremendous part of generations of the Jeffrey Family and an important resource for our community," expressed Sally Jeffrey O'Neil. "Main Street would be incomplete without the Drexel and our goal in supporting it year in and year out is to ensure its future. We are deeply honored to be selected as the 2022 Drexel Hero Award winners and to be in such great company of the past winners."

The 2022 Drexel Gala will be held at the Jeffrey Mansion Carriage Court at 6 pm on Sunday, November 6. In-person tickets are sold out, but donations can still be made at <https://my.cbusarts.com/donate/q/dxgala22>. Proceeds from the gala provide essential operating support for Friends of the Drexel, including programming for youth and families at the Drexel Theatre.

“The Drexel Board is thrilled to have the opportunity to honor the whole Jeffrey Family with the Drexel Hero Award this year,” said Friends of the Drexel board chair Bonnie Milenthal. “Their continued philanthropic support has been a sustaining force for the Drexel since it was saved after the recession of 2009. It is without exaggeration when I say that donations from our community mean the difference between success and failure of our non-profit theatre which serves as an important asset for the greater Columbus community.”

“For generations, both the Drexel Theatre and Jeffrey family, have been integral to the success of Bexley and Columbus overall,” stated Gala chair Kelly Casto. “I am grateful to collaborate with such a wonderful committee, to honor both at our Drexel Gala. The generous outpouring of support we have already seen, confirms what we believe, how important the Drexel is to our communities.”

### **About the Drexel Theatre**

The Drexel Theatre opened on Christmas Day 1937, as a first run, single screen theatre. A Bexley staple for decades, it fell on hard times in the late 2000’s and was saved by the formation of Friends of the Drexel in 2009. Today, the Drexel provides a first-rate neighborhood film-going experience featuring the best in independent cinema, special events, film festivals, and a Summer Kids Series to name a few.

For more information, please visit [www.drexel.net](http://www.drexel.net).

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### **About the Drexel Theatre**

For generations, the Drexel Theatre has been central Ohio’s first source for independent film and the best of Hollywood and international cinema, striving to specialize in simply the best films from around the world.

### **About Friends of the Drexel, Inc.**

Established in late 2009 by a group of committed community leaders and arts patrons, Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to a more creative and prosperous future for the Drexel Theatre. Its mission is to secure and sustain the future of the historic Drexel Theatre as a distinctive cultural asset to Bexley and the greater Columbus community. It envisions the Drexel as a sustainable provider of unique arts content as well as a

vibrant community meeting place that preserves the charm and eclectic, neighborhood film-going experience in a warm and inviting, yet technologically advanced, facility. The Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is grateful for the philanthropic support provided by individuals and corporations that make our work possible. For a full list of donors, please visit: <https://www.drexel.net/supporters/>

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