

**Contact**

Michael Boatright

Address

404-488-6644

[f64@michaelboatright.com](mailto:f64@michaelboatright.com)*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**AUGUST 13, 2020***25 Dark Atlanta Theaters Seen in a New Light by Photographer Michael Boatright**

ATLANTA, GA, August 13, 2020 - Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, many Atlanta theatres have now been dark for several months. Local photographer Michael Boatright has been focusing on the need by bringing light to the economic challenges that theatres are facing and the impact of their closures on the culture and economy. Since early July, he has been shooting the *Dark Houses Atlanta* series of photographs of stages as they were left when theatres closed this spring—currently featuring images from twenty-five theatres and music venues around the Atlanta area included in the project to date.

“There’s approximately 14,000 seats empty, just in the twenty-five theaters that I have photographed,” Boatright told Lois Reitzes, on WABE’s “City Lights” program. “Let’s just take a theater season of five shows, at a low-ball number of \$30 a ticket. That’s a \$50 million impact on the economy, just in empty seats in the theaters of Atlanta.” Considering that only a portion of a show’s production costs come from ticket sales, the impact is actually quite a bit larger.

“A lot of people in the theater are out of work—and theater workers don’t qualify for unemployment, so they were basically subsisting on the \$600 a week they were getting from the CARES act back in March and that money ran out,” says Boatright. “While theater has 2,500 years of history, it will need community help to survive in the current crisis. I hope that these photos raise awareness that theater is a live art-form impacting neighbors and friends and a very important part of our culture as well and that it serves to point people to places where they can help.”

The gallery of *Dark Houses* images can be viewed at:

<https://www.michaelboatright.com/darkhousesatlanta>

Michael Boatright is a Certified Professional Photographer, based in Atlanta, Georgia, making portraits for commercial and private clients, and for the theater, dance and music communities. His Fine Art projects also include landscape photography on four continents and abstract impressions of real-life subjects. His studio is located in the TULA Arts Center in Buckhead, Atlanta. Contact him via his website, <https://www.michaelboatright.com> or by email at [f64@michaelboatright.com](mailto:f64@michaelboatright.com).