

# COBB LIFE Online edition

## **Hearts & Dreams Gala Third annual benefit for Humane Society of Cobb County waltzes into The Strand**

by Meredith Pruden



It's that time again Cobb County. Break out your top hats, bow ties and best black tie apparel because the third annual Hearts & Dreams Gala, benefitting the Humane Society of Cobb County, is back this February 12 at The Earl Smith Strand Theatre.

This year's event, called Puttin' on the Ritz, brings back all the elements of the variety show and black tie optional gala you've come to love, including the local talent showcase featuring Dance Stop Studios and Pebblebrook High School students. There will also be food courtesy of Carriage House Catering and a cash bar. But this year, the event's founder, Steve Imler, has upped the ante with the more formal theme, which perfectly encapsulates the up-scale 1920s,

30s and 40s.

"We like to see this event as the focus of the winter season," Imler said. "It's an interesting intersection of two things I'm involved with, so it's great to see things come together for a good cause.

Imler, who is on the board of both The Strand and the Humane Society, said the event is about awareness and bringing the two already beloved institutions into the spotlight for another year. Earl Reece, executive director of The Strand and local philanthropist, is emceeding the event again this year.

"Earl has been a great colleague," Imler said. "I hope he'll participate for years to come."

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [www.earlsmithstrand.org](http://www.earlsmithstrand.org).