

Turlock Community Theatre

Editor's Note: This issue, we are proud to introduce a new series, Theatre Profiles, that will showcase the many performing arts venues throughout the region.

BY KIMBERLY HORG-WEBB ♦ PHOTOS PROVIDED BY TURLOCK COMMUNITY THEATRE

In 1925 the Turlock High School Auditorium opened its' doors to serve as a home for entertainment for not only the students but the entire community. Over 50 years marched by during which the theatre became known as the hub for performing arts in the Stanislaus area. But in 1979, the theatre was struck by a fire which caused it to close its' doors for 20 years.

Fundraising efforts led by locals in the community for the multi-million dollar restoration project were completed in 1999, and it then was renamed the Turlock Community Theatre. Today, it is a non-profit theatre that is supported solely by the people of Turlock and the surrounding cities. The money collected from fundraisers and donations goes towards their endowment fund that essentially keeps the theatre open.



ballet, ethnic, modern and jazz all perform drawing large crowds.

Many of the shows performed at the theatre are also performed by local venues. It is rented out 30 to 40 times a year for a week at a time by community theatre groups including the Turlock Youth Performing Arts and West Side Ministries. "People need outlets for

creativity to express themselves," Turlock Community Theatre Managing Director, Kit Casey, said. "Art is always important. If you don't have art, it is not a well-rounded society."

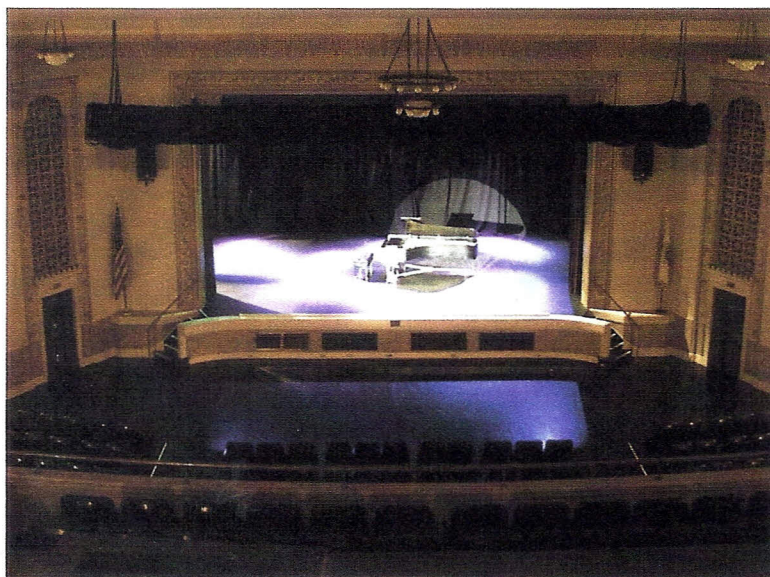
Bigger and Better

Located in the heart of Turlock, the 1000-seat theatre is the only performing arts theatre in Turlock other than the theatre at the CSU - Stanislaus campus. With comfortable seating, excellent acoustics and good sightlines, the theatre also happens to be on the National Register of Historic Buildings and is considered a historic landmark.

According to Casey there has been three sell out shows in 2008 and the majority of the other shows were 75% full. Casey says it is great entertainment without hurting the pocket book. "In these hard economic times it is important to have things to do without having to travel and spend a lot of money," he said.

The high production values, excellent amenities, helpful staff and affordable rental rates make the Turlock Community Theatre a perfect venue for live performances and large assemblies. The community has responded with open arms. To appeal to a diverse audience, the theatre works hard to provide a wide variety of entertainment. Various popular entertainers, country groups, rock n' roll, comedy shows, live theatre, children's productions, choral performances, acrobats, cultural groups, symphony, chamber and big band music, as well as dance shows including

2009 promises some top-flight entertainers. In March pop and country star Jewel will perform. April presents legend BB King. In May, worldwide Portuguese fado singer Mariza will be performing. And look for country singer Vince Gill in October.



Season tickets are also available throughout the year. Patrons receive discounted prices on tickets and get the best available seating with the option of keeping the same seats the following season or upgrading to new seats whenever possible.

For more info visit turlocktheatre.org

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